

New Hampshire City and Town Clerk's Association
Executive Board Minutes
March 16, 2011

PRESENT: Sue McKinnon, Tricia Piecuch, Diane Trippett, Patricia Waterman, Debra Cornett, Sandra Allard, Kimberly Johnson, Jeanette Vinton, Phyllis Thompson, Jean Oleson, Rita Eigenbrode, Lori Holmes, Wendy Drouin, and Debra Clark.

ABSENT: Kathleen Valliere, Linda Hardy, Stephanie Glidden, Marjorie Roy

GUESTS: Sheryl Eisenberg - Rochester, Denise Gonyer – Gilford, and Nancy K. Johnson, Association lobbyist

President McKinnon called the meeting to order at 9:39 AM.

Secretary's Report: The changes to the February minutes were: addition of Sandra Allard as being present; 1st page 9th paragraph – On February 14, 2011, an RFP was released for the replacement of NHVRIN. ; Page 2, paragraph 6: Dates announced for Regional meetings are as follows:

- May 4 - Monadnock Region @ Mile-A-Way
- May 11 – Merrimack Region @ Puritan Back Room
- May 18 – Dartmouth/Lake Sunapee Region @ Eastman Country Club
- May 25 – Seacoast Region @ Brookstones
- June 17 – Lakes Region/White Mountain Regions @ Red Jacket

A motion was made by Kim Johnson and seconded by Tricia Piecuch to accept the February 16, 2011 minutes as amended. The motion passed. 2 abstained.

At this time David Scanlon, Secretary of the State's Office, and Steve Wurtz, Director of Vital Records made a presentation regarding budget issues and the process for the new NHVRIN system.

David Scanlon talked about the states budget. He indicated that severe cuts are being made. Due to Constitutional requirements the Secretary of State's office is not receiving as many cuts as other departments. However, the Finance Committee asked that \$500,000 out of the Vital Records Improvement Fund be given to the general fund for fiscal year 2011. They originally wanted more, but it was pointed out that the RFP for the new NHVRIN system was out and funds are needed for the completion of this new system. The house division of the Governor's office asked for one-half of the revenues in the vital records fund for the next 2 years, which is about \$400,000 per year. The grant program and grant manager position has been discontinued and the funds remaining in those line items will go into the general fund. Mr. Scanlon indicated that the equipment line item has been cut from \$120,000 to \$20,000. This would be, hopefully, enough for emergencies. OIT shares these costs, and are cutting 2 positions (Database Administrator and Business Analyst). The Finance Committee is open to putting these position back in.

Tricia Piecuch asked where the money from the Vital Records Fund will go. Mr. Scanlon indicated that it will go to the general fund. Tricia commented that according to state legislation those funds are designated for a specific purpose and this may be in direct conflict with the state law.

Steve Wurtz indicated that it will cost \$2 to \$3 million to replace NHVRIN with a new system. He indicated that on the 18th of April there is a VRIF meeting and this will be discussed.

Steve asked for a clerk to volunteer on committee for the selection of the vendor as a voting member. Tricia Piecuch was selected to be that member. Once the vendor has been selected, all clerks will be invited to participate in the process of getting the program up and running. All input will be welcomed.

Steve mentioned that all bills out there regarding vitals have been ITL'd. However, SB176 is being supported which is a housekeeping bill to clean up language in the marriage license law.

Pat Waterman brought up a situation where she had a couple married in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts. She asked if there was any way vitals could check driver licenses to make sure this does not happen. Steve indicated that this would be a good project in the future, but currently there is no way to prevent multiple marriages from occurring.

Steve noted that birth certificates back to 1985 have been entered into NHVRIN. They are not working on marriage or death at this time as they believe births are more important.

Treasurer's Report: It was moved by Kim Johnson, with several seconds, to accept the Treasurer's Report dated 2/15/2011 – 3/15/2011. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to Tricia Piecuch and seconded by Diane Trippett to extend the audit of the treasurer's books for thirty days. The audit will be done after the April 20th Executive Board Meeting and the report will be submitted at the June Executive Board Meeting. The audit committee consists of Kim Johnson, Jean Oleson, and Judy White. Motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Report:

Nancy apologized for missing the hearing date for the Non-resident bill HB399. The calendar and schedules posted have not been kept up to date.

Nancy indicated that she was not there for the public hearing on HB399. She did speak to Senator Rausch of the Transportation Committee and he assumed that since we weren't in attendance that we were in favor of the bill. She indicated that if the Executive Board can submit written testimony she will make sure it gets to the Transportation Committee for the hearing tomorrow. Sue has testimony to submit and will attend.

Nancy said SB156 is going to be on the Senate floor today. If passed (which we later learned it did) it will go to the Finance Committee. She stressed that we should contact the Senators on the Finance Committee with our concerns regarding the financial aspects of the bill. This is about money not policy.

Also present for the presentation: Karen Patterson, Denise Bodwell, Dennis Roffman,

Registrations and Titles:

Discussion was suspended while Karen Patterson from Motor Vehicles and Denise Bodwell from Titles did their presentation.

Karen indicated that they were getting back to doing the monthly updates. Wendy Drouin asked if it was possible to group the updates by subject. Karen indicated that would be difficult to do. However, she indicated that she was willing to put a group listing together for the Regionals and the Conference.

Karen indicated that all town clerks should be putting driver's license numbers at the top of the CTA. This should be the person who is doing the registration and title work that is in front of you. The reason for this is that there was a problem where a title was stolen and re-titled and registered. Then the real person indicated that it was stolen. The matter is now under investigation.

Karen indicated they pushed back the date on the release of the New Hampshire State Park Plates due to some glitches. The new release is set for June 1st.

Sue asked about the long wait time for the answering of calls to the MA Desk. Karen said that there has been a problem. There is an issue with licenses for the phone. If there is an inordinate amount of calls coming in, we or other departments borrow a license, leaving less. We are working on getting more licenses. Karen suggested we use email for these instances.

Karen was asked if we can stop calling about plate releases. She said they were working on this with Chris; however, there are still some clerks out there that do not understand the plate release process and this could cause a lot of issues.

Denise Bodwell had only a few issues regarding titles. She indicated that Trust titles are still being deleted in the system unless they are sure they are trusts. She suggested that if you do not want a trust title to be deleted from the system within 60 days, you should contact them with the CTA number. Otherwise, she indicated you will have to continue to dummy on a title for trusts.

Deb Clark asked about the voided title list that we used to get. Denise indicated that they were not doing this anymore, however, if you really wanted one, you should email them.

Denise also mentioned that some clerks are using the control number for the title number on title applications. She asked that we be careful about this. Any questions regarding these, please call their office.

Jeanette Vinton indicated that on some previous titles coming back from the state, it was indicating different states. For example, had a New Hampshire title, and came back with OH for the state. Denise would love for us to call when this happens.

Denise then indicated that some lien holders are not being put on titles or the wrong one is. Please make sure that the lien holder name matches what you have. They are not concerned about the addresses. Please refer to the list we have previously sent to all the clerks.

Jeanette Vinton asked if titles can be given for antique motorcycles and Denise said yes.

The conversation regarding legislation resumed.

Denise Gonyer from Gilford returned from the SB156 hearing. She indicated that it passed and will now go onto the Finance Committee. She gave a synopsis of what was said and indicated only one Senator voted against, Jeannie Forrester. Denise indicated that Judy Silva said the Finance Committee was not going to be allowing verbal testimony and that we should submit something in writing. If this is the case the next time to speak would be in the House. Nancy suggested we put together a letter regarding all the financial concerns we have.

Tricia Piecuch indicated that the financial notes on SB156 stress that the CVR Company is **expected** to cover the costs as well as responsible for the **bulk** of the cost for the equipment. It

also stated that there will be financial responsibilities for the towns. Nancy said it was hard to justify the fiscal impact on both the state and the towns when the State is trying to cut jobs as well as money from other programs in the current Budget. Nancy said there would be an opportunity to speak at the Finance Committee meeting hearing next week regarding this and the unknown cost to the State and towns. Nancy indicated the following people were on the Finance Committee: Chuck Morse, who is co-sponsor; Bob O'Dell, is vice chair; Jack Barnes, co-sponsor; Peter Bragdon co-sponsor; Lou D'Allesandro; John Gallus and Forrester, who has voted against this bill.

Nancy stressed that our letter should focus on the financials and not the policy. Nancy again indicated this is very political and some of the unspoken rules have been broken. President McKinnon asked if it was appropriate to meet with the Governor regarding SB156. This was agreed by the Board and Nancy will arrange for a meeting in the coming weeks.

President McKinnon asked the Board if we should get out a Press Release in response to all the articles and misinformation that is out there. It was discussed that we should take a rational position on this and state the facts.

Discussion was suspended while Dennis Roffman gave his presentation to the Board.

Dennis said he was sorry for being late, but he had just come from a meeting. He indicated that they pushed back the release of the State Park plates to May 1st for the State and June 1st to the clerks. He also indicated that they are replacing the IBM validation machines and will have the T640 do the validations. He also said that title applications will go that way too. So instead of printing one on a carbon, you will have to print three separate ones. The State indicated they would be sending the Towns the new stock for all of these forms to be printed on. He expects this to happen after June 1st or by July depending on how the budget goes.

With Dennis being done with his presentation we continued our legislative discussion.

Issues regarding the Fiscal Note on SB156– It is mentioned that the dealerships will not be giving inventory and the state would handle sending the plates and registrations to the customers. This is a huge financial cost to the state. The Town Audits are also an issue. Most town auditors will not go to another private business to conduct their audit, therefore, leaving the town with an incomplete audit. This will result in higher bond rates when they go to borrow money.

The Board selected President McKinnon, Becky Benvenuti, Diane Trippett, Patty Little and Tricia Piecuch to meet with the Governor.

A motion to oppose the Fiscal Note impact of SB156 was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

President McKinnon indicated we should email the Association and let them know to send letters to the Senate Finance Committee or have a meeting with their Senators regarding the financial impact of this bill.

Denise Gonyer agreed to attend the hearing on HB399 on the non-residency issue.

Old Business:

President McKinnon indicated Ben Wilson, Director Durham Building Sites, and Amy Basset, Public Relations for the Department of Parks and Recreation would like to come to our Regional meetings to discuss the NH State Park plates.

Other: Evelyn Connor of Weare was recently admitted to the hospital and we wish her a speedy recovery. You're in our thoughts and prayers Evelyn.

Regional Co-Chairs are to send out an email asking about any new clerks and if they are going to attend the New Clerks Workshop.

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Sue McKinnon, seconded by Deb Clark, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Vinton, Acting Secretary