

New England States Government Finance Officers Association  
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2021  
Zoom Call

Approved: April 8, 2021

Present: Lisa Hancock, Diane Waldron, Ruth Porter, Scott Gesualdi, Ellen Sanborn, Ari Sky, Ed Spellman, Mary Thompson, Mark Milne, Tammy St. Gelais, Mark Fleischer, Kathy Raposa, Randy Rossi and Cheryl Lindberg.

Regrets: Jim Finch, David Delano, Justin Campo, John Ward, William Kriewald and Abbie Sherman.

Executive Director Bill Fazioli was in attendance.

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by President Mark Milne after establishing a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Minutes.

- a. November 12, 2020 Minutes. A motion to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes was made by Lisa Hancock and second by Ari Sky. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report December 31, 2020. Treasurer, Ed Spellman, gave a brief overview of the December Treasurer's Report and responded to questions. Ed Spellman sent out dues reminders to the six states asked Board members to follow up with their states. Only Rhode Island and New Hampshire's dues have been received. Cheryl Lindberg verified that Vermont's dues had not been received and she would follow up. Massachusetts has a new state treasurer and so their dues are delayed. Each state's dues are based on the prior year's membership and that is what is billed to each state. Refer to page 1 of the Treasurer's report to see what each State is billed. On a motion by Mary Thompson and second by Lisa Hancock. The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

4. President's Report. President Milne did not have too much to report at this time. Mark Milne thanked everyone for their participation in the NESGFOA especially in light of the pandemic considering all the other work we have to do. The vaccinations have begun, and he is still hoping that we will be able to hold the conference at Seacrest, however we are still in holding pattern. With most of us beginning to work on our budgets, travel budgets may be impacted and may affect our fall conference. His community is not allowing any out of state travel. We may have to hold the conference virtually but will have to see. This could significantly affect our attendance. We may have to go virtual. William Fazioli said that TD Bank is willing to sponsor the fall conference at the same amount as they have in

the past if we are able to hold the conference at Seacrest. Unsure of how other sponsors will feel with the threat of virus spread if we hold an in-person conference. We will probably have to decide by mid-June.

5. Executive Director's Report. William Fazioli said we will still have the spring conference and perhaps just a one-day seminar with 4 or 5 sessions sometime during the first week of April. Some potential topics include: What to expect for Stimulus funds for cities and towns, unemployment fraud and what to do, economic update and how to be productive in a remote session. Please send other topics. What platform do we want to use? Bill F. has a zoom platform that could include about 300 people. Folks would have to pre-register. The RI cities and town will be holding a conference and they will be using Accelevents and this is another platform for holding a virtual conference. They manage an online training, do all the setup and technical support, they have a landing page, chat rooms, sponsorship opportunities, where the sponsor could put their logo, etc. Bill F. has also shared the info with Tammy St. Gelais since she does coordinate conferences in NH. Ellen Sanborn asked what price they might charge. They charged RI 20% of our revenues. Not sure how we would price a virtual conference or what we should charge for a virtual conference. What do we think would be a good price to charge for the training?

Ellen Sanborn said the MEGFOA purchased a Zoom license and they used it for the first time yesterday. It is quite difficult to manage a zoom meeting. Ellen feels it would be great for someone to manage a training session for us. There are so many pieces to oversee, setting folks up, allowing folks in or out, conference materials, allowing folks to talk, etc.

Mary Thompson mentioned that her group signed a contract with UMass at Amherst and thought this might be another option. They will let folks into the conference, providing services such as managing the technical aspects of the zoom sessions, providing a listing of attendees, set up the CPEs and the like. They have been doing this for nine months and she feels they will do it for other organizations. Mary Thompson will forward the information to the board. This program will be run over three weeks instead of two or three days. It is difficult to stay in front of a zoom meeting for multiple days. The cost would have to be decided. The UMass Amherst premium package cost was around \$30 per person with a small additional fee. Mary Thompson said their group charged \$75 for their registration fee and they hope to make a little money.

MEGFOA also discussed pricing for their February training session and they decided to charge \$25. They had some discussion on a cancellation policy. They decided that folks would pay their registration fee and then would be given the link and it would be up to the person registering to attend or not. MEGFOA has also started inviting members to their board meeting and members are starting to attend the board meetings. They may continue to have a zoom component with their board meetings and trainings. That way folks can re-watch the training and may allow folks to attend the meeting via the zoom feature since many have to travel hours for a one-day training. Many things to consider, cancellation, do we run it ourselves or let someone else run it.

VTGFOA also had a webinar training and they ran it themselves and had about 25 or so attendees/speakers. They ran the Zoom themselves and felt it was successful training session. They provided a phone number to call with issues. To make things easier, all attendees were muted. Questions came through the chat feature. Cheryl Lindberg felt the session went well with good speakers and good feedback from the attendees. The VTGFOA charged \$20 for their training. They kept the training brief to avoid Zoom fatigue. Mark Milne asked how folks felt about a full Zoom training day considering Zoom fatigue?

Ed Spellman recently attended an all-day Zoom training and said the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the day made for a long day. Ed suggested perhaps two half days and others thought this was a good idea too. He also will be attending an MMA annual conference and they will split it into a couple of days. They may be charging \$80 or so for the registration fee.

William Fazioli said he would tentatively set the date for April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> for the spring conference.

#### 6. Conference Updates.

- a. Massachusetts – September 12-15, 2021. Location, The Sea Crest Beach Hotel, North Falmouth. Still in a holding pattern but will provide an update at the next Board meeting.
- b. New Hampshire – September 11-14, 2022. Location, The Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods. Tammy St. Gelais said there is not much going on at this point. They are waiting to see what happens with Massachusetts. Will start conference planning this spring. They are hoping their conference committee will be able to meet in person.
- c. Maine – September 10-13, 2023. Location Samoset Resort, Rockport. Ellen Sanborn gave an update but not much too report. Bill has received the revised contract regarding the room commitment pricing and the security deposit is \$2,000.
- d. Connecticut – September 15-18, 2024. Location Mystic Hilton. Lisa Hancock said that the hotel is keeping the same rates as last time. Beverage minimum about \$35,000. Connecticut is working with the Hilton and the contract has been signed. Not much else going on.

#### 7. Other Business.

No new business was brought forward.

8. Next Meeting Date. Normally the Board meeting is held at the spring conference. The thought is to have the meeting at the April spring conference perhaps in the afternoon of the first day. William Fazioli asked the Board to come up with some topics for the Spring seminar. Lisa suggested a session on grants; how to create grant applications, research grant opportunities, etc. Ellen said the MEGFOA will be doing a session on cybersecurity. With so much data being sent through email and other electronic media,

the potential for cyber threats is increased. This might be a good topic for the spring conference too. Mark Milne asked that anyone with other topics to please let Bill know.

9. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Randi Rossi and seconded by Tammy St. Gelais to adjourn. The vote passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Ruth D. Porter, Secretary