

1 **VALA BI - MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**

2 **Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.**

3 **Welcome-Proof of Quorum-Delegate Count** – Approximately 30 Attendees.

4 **Secretary's Report - Approve minutes from Jan 14, 2026** – Justin Mason stated the meeting
5 minutes were previously distributed and are on the website. Bob Quaderer provided the
6 meeting minutes link. Justin Mason noted that the members requested legislative committee
7 meeting minutes and asked if those were being taken. It was stated and agreed that the
8 committees will submit reports, and the meetings will be recorded and posted on the website.

9 Motion made by Bob Quaderer, to approve the meeting minutes. seconded by Todd Leblanc.

10 Motion passed unanimously.

11 **Committee & Misc Reports:**

12 **VALA Newsletter/Website: Bob Quaderer** - Newsletter updates can be submitted to Bob
13 Quaderer.

14
15 **Treasurer Report FY 2026 - Lisa Truchon** – Lisa Truchon presented the Treasurer's Report, of
16 which included all the expenses through the end of February. Lisa Truchon noted it's balanced,
17 though education spending is high, but reimbursement will be coming in. A detailed Treasurer's
18 Report and VALA Financials were submitted and summarized for the agenda and are listed
19 below. A detailed report being posted on the website was requested, along with outstanding
20 receivable vs payables.

21 *"Reporting Period: Through March 1, 2026*

22 *1. Summary*

23 *As of March 1, the association is maintaining a near-balanced budget,*

24 *with a slight temporary deficit primarily due to timing in revenue*

25 *booking for the first two months of the calendar year.*

26 *● Total Revenues: \$60,538.23*

27 *● Total Expenses: \$61,234.53*

- 1 • *Net Position: (\$696.30)*
- 2 *2. Revenue Breakdown*
- 3 *The State Education Grant remains our largest funding source, followed by*
- 4 *Education registration fees.*
- 5 *Revenue Category Amount % of Total*
- 6 *State Education Grant \$24,535.00 40.5%*
- 7 *Education Fees \$18,977.44 31.3%*
- 8 *Conference Income \$12,725.00 21.0%*
- 9 *Membership Dues, 4,300.79 7.1%*
- 10 *Total \$60,538.23 100%”*
- 11 Motion made by Michelle to accept the Treasurer Report, seconded by Todd Leblanc. Motion
- 12 passed unanimously.
- 13 **Membership/Education: Mimi Burstein** – Mimi Burstein provided an update regarding
- 14 education, stating she can help find and track IAAO transcripts. District Advisors should be
- 15 contacted regarding other transcripts. VALA cannot register people for PVR classes. HUBs,
- 16 central physical gathering locations for online courses, are recommended and have had good
- 17 results in other municipalities and regions. Locations are needed and are requested to be free,
- 18 have internet, have a screen/projector, and have opening/closing agreements available. People
- 19 are encouraged to contact Mimi Burstein with any physical gathering space recommendations.
- 20 IAAO is proposing additional fees for changes made after a certain date. 6 weeks' notice for
- 21 cancellation is needed for IAAO 101, and online courses will have specific dates given for
- 22 cancellation deadlines.
- 23 **Sub-Topics**
- 24 *1. Reminder, We sign up for PVR courses through PVR.*
- 25 *2. VALA Code of Ethics: Do we have any? Would we want to adopt some*
- 26 *at our Annual meeting? I received three phone calls and an email last*
- 27 *week with some inquiries on this!*

1 3. *Call for Education Meeting Hubs: We're on the lookout for spaces that*
2 *can accommodate 6-12 students for online courses. Ideally, these spots*
3 *would have internet access, a conference table, and a large TV for*
4 *sharing content. We have three, looking for more around the state.*
5 4. *Refund Policy for Non-Attendance and Failing IAAO Course: Just a*
6 *heads-up that starting March 1, IAAO will impose fees for changes to*
7 *the attendance roster.*
8 5. *Pricing Schedule: Calendar is set for 2027 and 2028 for IAAO Courses.*
9 *We should discuss what our pricing should be."*

10 **VLCT: Josh Hanford, Samantha Sheehan** – Samantha Sheehan discussed Regional Assessment
11 Districts and Ways and Means. The most recent draft is available on the VLCT website. RADs
12 would be effective in 2029, and the School Districts are currently unknown but will be the same
13 as the RADs. How municipalities are reimbursed for reappraisals are proposed to be changed.
14 The CLA reimbursement would end, and reappraisal funding would be based on \$66.00 per
15 parcel or 2/3 of the cost of the reappraisal, whichever is lower. Inflation was not included,
16 though comments and proposals can be made. Once the RADs are formed, intermunicipal
17 contracting would be optional for the first reappraisal, and the second and beyond
18 intermunicipal contracting would be required. Samantha Sheehan further explained
19 intermunicipal contracting and the municipal authority. The Towns will still be able to choose
20 their own contractors. The per parcel and reappraisal costs will be figured out through the
21 annual appropriations bills. The new aid amount will be effective in 2029. PVR shall set the
22 6-year reappraisal schedule. The annual cost of grand list maintenance was discussed for
23 assistance from the State of Vermont, and further testimony will be provided. The \$8.50 per
24 parcel payment was discussed. It was noted that the ACT depends on the education committee
25 for the districts. Smaller and or less advantageous towns will be helped more. Samantha
26 Sheehan can be contacted via email: Ssheehan@vlct.org or comments and recommendations
27 can be submitted to advocacy@vlct.org

28 Samantha Sheehan also stated the regional Board of Civil Authorities would be created for the
29 RAD. The draft is to have 1 municipal member per 1,000 parcels, and 500 is being
30 recommended. Appeals would be heard from a 3-member panel, and the panel would not

1 consist of a member from their own town. Small town members may need to serve more than
2 large towns, and that is being addressed. Towns will still be deciding their representative's
3 compensation.

4 **PVR: Jill Remick** – Jill Remick stated the RAD update was best provided by Samantha Sheehan.
5 Homestead classification discussions may be decided in the coming week, and comments are
6 recommended. Robert Vickery stated that VALA is against adding additional tax rates and
7 classifications. A formula for the homestead tax rate was recommended to always be lower than
8 the non-homestead rate. The telecommunications properties are also on their radar and
9 receiving inventory from providers. Business Personal Property needs to be separated, and
10 towns should review their BPP closely if applicable. Jill Remick has been discussing and
11 mitigating current use discussions and enrollment requirements, etc.

12 During discussion regarding education and property taxes, a 1% tax was discussed at a municipal
13 level. Chris Miele recommended going from 6% State Tax to 7% State Tax, providing 1% of which
14 for education.

15 Legislative Representatives can be found here: [Home | Vermont General Assembly | Legislature](#)
16 [of the State of Vermont](#)

17 **NEMRC: Chris Miele** – Chris Miele stated that NEMRC has been receiving calls regarding
18 certification, etc., and has let them know that they need to contact VALA and PVR. A central
19 place for questions regarding classes and certifications was recommended. Chris Miele stated
20 there are Grand List seminars at the end of the month in Fairlee, Castleton, and Colchester.
21 NEMRC will be launching 2 Live Updates, which will be available this week for CAMA and Grand
22 List.

23 **VT PIE: (TBD)**

24 **Other Stakeholders: Lisa Wright**

25 **Old Business:**

26 **New Business/Action Items:** Christie Wright stated there are a lot of classes coming up, and
27 registration is required.

28 The Lister Calendar: <https://tax.vermont.gov/lister-assessor/2026-lister-calendar>.

29 Training & Certification: <https://tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials/education>.

- 1 **Adjourn** – Motion made by Robert Vickery to adjourn, seconded by Justin Mason. Motion
- 2 passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.
- 3 **Submitted by:** Justin Mason, VALA Secretary, Municipal Assessor, Vermont