

M.C.C.A.

Amy Fowler, President
Waldo County

Michael Cote, Vice President
York County

William Blodgett, Secretary-Treasurer
Lincoln County



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Charles Pray
Executive Director

Lauren Haven
Office Manager

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes

Senator Inn & Spa, January 8, 2020

I. Call to Order, Introductions, Attendance and Pledge of Allegiance

MCCA President Thomas Coward called the meeting to order at approximately 10:02 a.m. following the MCCA Risk Pool meeting. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and all present introduced themselves.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Larry Post proxy for Comm. Noel Madore; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Tom Coward; *Hancock* – Comm. William Clark; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar; *Knox* – Admin. Andy Hart proxy for Comm. Sharyn Pohlman; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Comm. Wayne Erkinen; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Brian Hobart; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; *Washington* – Comm. Chris Gardner and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gorden; *Hancock* – Admin. Scott Adkins; *Kennebec* – Comm. Nancy Rines and Admin. Bob Devlin; *Lincoln* – Admin. Carrie Kipfer; *Sagadahoc* – Admin. Pamela Hile; *Somerset* – Comm. Robert Sezak and Admin. Dawn DiBlasi; *Washington* – Comm. Vinton Cassidy; *York* – Comm. Al Sicard and Comm. Richard Clark; *MACCAM* - Admin. Bill Collins; and *MSA* – Sheriff Ken Mason.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Noel Madore; *Knox* – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman;

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Charles Pray, Risk Pool Manager Malcolm Ulmer and Office Manager Lauren Haven.

II. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

President Tom Coward inquired if there were any additions to the agenda. As there were no additions, Comm. Fowler made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Comm. Baldacci seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. Approval of December 11th Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Hobart moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on December 11th, 2019. Comm. Baldacci seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. President's Report

President Tom Coward reported on the activities, progress and accomplishments of 2019. He highlighted some of the many differences between counties, their features and interesting statistics, and progress over the years, going on to explain MCCA's vision and mission statement. He encouraged commissioners to work together to present a united force in advocating for counties during this legislative session and continue the success achieved in recent years. The group thanked him for his leadership and dedication to the organization.

V. Approval of 2020 MCCA Directors

The group reviewed the list of nominations. President Coward asked if anyone would like to make changes to the list provided. Comm. Gardner requested Washington County read, "proxy Comm. Vin Cassidy or Manager Betsy Fitzgerald". Comm. Cote requested York County read, "proxy Richard Dutremble". Comm. Gardner moved to approve the list of directors with the revised proxies. Comm. Fowler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

VI. Nomination and Election of MCCA Officers

The Nominating Committee comprised of Comm. Norman Fournier, Comm. Bill Blodgett and Comm. Baldacci deliberated about the 2020 slate of officers. Comm. Fournier, representing the Committee, made a motion to nominate Comm. Amy Fowler as President, Comm. Mike Cote as Vice President and Comm. William Blodgett as Secretary-Treasurer. Comm. Baldacci seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote. Comm. Fowler stepped into her new position as President in the next few minutes and the meeting continued.

VII. Nomination of Two NACo Representatives

Commissioner Peter Baldacci explained MCCA currently has one representative on the NACo Board of Directors and another representative who is eligible to attend NACo meetings and lectures during conferences. He summarized some of the main features and benefit of the nationwide organization, touching on Stepping Up, the Discount Prescription Card Program, and the NACo sponsored Leadership Academy. Commissioner Fournier moved and Comm. Jabar seconded re-nominating Comm. Baldacci and Comm. Fowler as MCCA's two NACo representatives. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. Approval of MCCA 2019 Budget Line Item Transfers

Office Manager Lauren Haven gave a brief overview of the recommended line item transfers to close out the 2019 budget. She explained this practice was strictly for record keeping purposes to show which line items went over budget and no money would be moved. The group reviewed the list of proposed transfers. Commissioner Fournier moved and Comm. Hobart seconded approving the list with no changes. The motion was approved without opposition.

IX. Approval of the MCCA 2020 Budget

Comm. Fournier, representing the Budget and Finance Committee consisting of Comm. Amy Fowler, Comm. Tom Coward, Comm. Norm Fournier and Admin. Pamela Hile, presented the proposed budget. Comm. Fournier explained the reasoning behind all significant changes from the

2019 budget. Income lines for the “MainePERS Surplus Funds” and the “Transfer in from Fund Balance” had been eliminated. The approved membership dues formula had been implemented at a rate which would cover the reduction of income from the two eliminated line items and rebuild a reserve. Expenses were largely reduced by factoring in a minimum of three months without a second employee or contractor after the contract for the current executive director expires. For this reason, salary, MainePERS contributions, FICA, cell phone, and NACo conferences reflected a cost savings.

The group reviewed the budget draft. Admin. Scott Adkins stated it’s a better practice to have the income match the expenses even if the full amount is not expected to be spent. Comm. Baldacci moved to amend the budget by adding the difference of \$8,641 to 5060-00 Salary-Executive Director. Comm. Jabar seconded the motion. The discussion continued with some members for and some against the implications of reducing the overall budget. Eventually, Admin. Larry Post moved to move the question seconded by Comm. Baldacci. Two members voted in opposition and the motion was passed. Comm. Hobart moved and Comm. Graf seconded approving the revised budget with no further changes. A roll call vote was requested. Twelve members voted in favor and three were opposed, therefore the budget was passed.

X. Reports

A. Executive Director and Legislative Report

Executive Director Charles Pray presented his report highlighting a meeting in December between MCCA and Maine Municipal Association representatives regarding legislative and organization priorities. Going forward the hope is to collaborate on legislation benefiting both organizations. Periodic meetings will be scheduled to encourage communication and build a working relationship.

The Dean of U-Maine Cooperative Extension, Dr. Hannah Carter, reached out to offer to make a presentation to the MCCA Board. Comm. Fournier moved and Comm. Cote seconded inviting Dr. Carter to speak after the February Board meeting. The motion passed.

Comm. Cote requested the Board of Directors consider changing the by-laws to allow two votes for counties paying higher amounts in membership dues. The group decided to add this topic to the next meeting agenda as directors must be given a notice of twenty days prior to voting on a change to the adopted by-laws. The group agreed the discussion at this meeting sufficed as notice. All member counties were represented at this meeting.

Comm. Gorden moved to charge the Executive Committee with the task of developing recommendations for the future operation of MCCA to be reviewed at the March meeting. Comm. Clark seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

B. Financial Reports

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the December financial reports. Debits and credits were associated with normal operating expenses. She noted a few items. There was one more payment made for NACo trip reimbursements and income included the Risk Pool assessment and a quarterly check for NACo endorsements. As there were no questions about the reports, Comm. Baldacci moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Comm. Erkinen and it passed unanimously.

C. Association Reports

MACCAM: Administrator Bill Collins said the group met on December 6th with ten counties represented. The group, particularly Admin. Bob Devlin, is working with Marc Cyr, Principal Analyst for the Office of Fiscal and Program Review to help define the term, “unfunded mandate”. The goal is to develop a method by which to estimate costs for fiscal notes to make it clear how much the passing of a bill would cost those impacted. Currently there is no standardized method. This is particularly important as it pertains to new probate laws. Also, members are working with MSA to keep an eye on where the county jail funds are being allocated, the concern being the percentage of money going to programs versus the percentage going to operations.

D. Annual Convention Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported the Convention Planning Committee met on December 20th and plan to meet again on January 24th to begin outlining the activities, food and educational sessions for the 2020 convention taking place on September at Sunday River.

E. NACo Report

Comm. Baldacci reported he plans to attend the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference taking place in Washington DC on February 29th through March 4th. He expects to

VI. Other Business

Office Manager Lauren Haven reminded the group about the training after the meeting on fiber optics by ConnectME’s Executive Director Peggy Schaffer.

VII. Adjournment

*MCCA’s new President Comm. Amy Fowler invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:35 p.m. Comm. Cote made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Erkinen, and the **motion** was unanimously **approved**.* The group adjourned to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Comm. William Blodgett