

M.C.C.A.

Richard Dutremble, President
York County

Norm Fournier, Vice President
Aroostook County

George Jabar, Secretary-Treasurer
Kennebec County

Stephen Gorden, Past President
Cumberland County

William Blodgett, Emeritus
Lincoln County



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Lauren Haven
Administrator

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 12th, 2023, 10:00 am via Zoom

1. Call to Order

MCCA Vice President Norm Fournier called the meeting to order at approximately 10:02 am.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Admin. Clarice Proctor proxy for Comm. Garrett Mason
Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden
Franklin – Comm. Bob Carlton
Hancock – Admin. Mike Crooker proxy for Comm. John Wombacher
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar
Knox – Admin. Andy Hart proxy for Comm. Sharyn Pohlman
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett
Oxford – Admin. Don Durrah proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill
Penobscot – Comm. Peter Baldacci
Piscataquis – Comm. Paul Davis
Sagadahoc – Comm. Carol Grose
Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak
Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Garrett Mason
Hancock – Comm. John Wombacher
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

OTHERS PRESENT:

Franklin – Admin. Amy Bernard
Hancock – HR Director Mary-Anne Saxl
Knox – Admin. Andy Hart
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven
MSA – Sheriff Ken Mason
Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams
Sagadahoc – Admin. Amber Jones
Verrill Dana – Lobbyists Jim Cohen, Clara McConnell, and Brody Haverly-Johndro

2. Consent Agenda:

- 2.1. Approval of the Agenda
- 2.2. Approval of the Minutes
- 2.3. Finance Reports – Lauren Haven

Comm. Steve Gorden asked Comm Fournier to explain how the consent agenda works. Following Comm. Fournier's explanation, Comm. Baldacci **moved** to approve the agenda **seconded** by Comm. Gorden, and the motion **passed** with no opposition.

3. Officer Reports:

3.1. Secretary/Treasurer, George Jabar

Comm. Norm Fournier asked Secretary/Treasurer George Jabar if there were any items in the MCCA finances the Board needed to discuss. Comm. Jabar said there was nothing to report.

3.2. Vice President, Norm Fournier

3.2.1. Ratification of the Convention

Comm. Fournier reported that Admin. Lauren Haven had tried to get alternative mid-week dates from the Samoset. However, there were no dates available in the time frame we requested. She researched other venues that would be suitable for our conference and discovered the Poland Spring Resort as a possible convention location. The Executive Committee reviewed the details about the property as well as the prices for lodging, meals, etc. The Executive Committee ascertained that the Poland Spring Resort had the features we needed for our event, and it would be within our budget. Therefore, the Executive Committee voted to book tentative dates for September 12th-14th at the resort. Comm. asked for opinions from the group. After some discussion about the venue, Comm. Baldacci **moved** to ratify the decision made by the Executive Committee to move forward with the Poland Spring Resort as the convention venue for 2023. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Gorden, and the motion **passed**.

Admin. Lauren Haven reported that the Convention Planning Committee had lost some standing members over time. The host county would be invited to have employees join the committee for the event, but there was room for additional members. Comm. Steve Gorden and Comm. Robert Sezak agreed to serve on the committee.

3.3. President Report, Richard Dutremble

No report was given.

4. Standing Committee Reports:

4.1. NACo Update: Peter Baldacci & Sharyn Pohlman

Comm. Baldacci reported that the NACo Financial Services Division were planning a

meeting in Portland for May 3rd through May 5th. He said that he and Comm. Pohlman expected to attend the event with some of the MCCA Executive Committee members. They would highlight issues that Maine counties face. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session with the attendees.

Admin. Lauren Haven mentioned that the budget line item for NACo conferences was unexpectedly depleted due to rise in travel costs. Ordinarily MCCA budgets for three trips annually. The first two trips were completed with the Legislative Conference. She suggested the Board consider moving \$1,000 to the NACo conferences line item so there would be enough for one more trip. The NACo Annual Conference was scheduled in July in Travis County Texas. Comm. Baldacci said we had been saving money from COVID when we didn't attend those conferences. Lauren said she thought we had enough in the budget to cover the expense. Comm. Fournier asked Lauren to propose an adjustment to the Budget and Finance Committee.

4.2. Legislative Policy Committee (LPC)– Comm. Steve Gorden, Chair

4.2.1. James Cohen, Verrill Dana

4.2.1.1. Legislative Update

4.2.1.2. Jail Funding Legislation

LPC Chair Steve Gorden asked Mr. Cohen to lead the group through the updates and any new legislation. Jim reported on the two hot topics, jail funding and rural patrol. Data regarding jail expenditures provided by counties has been supplied to the Appropriations Committee and the Governor's office. The bottom line was that the county jails needed three million more for 2024. The State then stated counties should have ARPA money. However, counties have demonstrated that all the ARPA money has been spent or is allocated to be spent through a robust community process. Comm. Baldacci said that any unspent ARPA money goes back to the Federal government. He pointed out that these funds could not be used for budgeted items anyway. Counties shouldn't have to justify their planned projects to utilize the funds.

Jim said LD 630 *"An Act to Ensure Rural Law Enforcement Services in Maine"* sponsored by Representative Anne Graham had not been heard yet. One idea MCCA could propose to raise funding for rural patrol was to allocate a portion of existing alcohol taxes since alcohol related incidences contribute to many rural calls. However, the Governor has made it clear that she did not want to raise taxes and the current taxes are already spoken for. It would be very difficult to get enough votes to redistribute the taxes already funding other projects. Our best chance at funding would be to provide data that clearly showed the need for more officers. Sheriff Ken Mason said that MSA discusses this topic at almost every meeting looking at options for how to provide adequate coverage and how much it will cost to do so. Rural patrol is proving to be an ongoing issue. Comm. Fournier said the data is crucial. Unless we can prove the need, the bill will not move forward. Mr. Cohen said the first special session was in progress and we would need to move quickly.

Jim reported on LD 1204, *"An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Closing Coverage Gaps in the MaineCare Program for Incarcerated Persons"* which was being sponsored by Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross. The bill would ensure a person receiving federally approved Medicaid services prior to incarceration in a correctional facility, county jail or regional jail would **not** lose Medicaid eligibility as a result of that incarceration. This is a positive change MCCA had been working toward for a long time. The Maine Sheriff's

Association and the Maine Municipal Association were both expected to support the bill. In an effort to reinforce MCCA's position on the bill, Comm. Baldacci **moved** to support LD 1204 **seconded** by Comm. Gorden, and the motion **passed** with a unanimous vote.

5. Association Reports - MACCAM, MARP, MRODA, MSA, others.

Admin. Carrie Kipfer reported that MACCAM voted to elect Mike Crooker and Andy Hart as presidential co-chairs of the association for 2023.

Sheriff Ken Mason reported that MSA was focused on legislative issues particularly with Criminal Justice. They are also moving the Kennebec office from the Hill House right now and their team was looking forward to completing the move.

6. Adjournment

Comm. Norm Fournier asked if there were other comments. Hearing none, Comm. Fournier invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:50 a.m. Comm. Bill Blodgett made the **motion, seconded** by Comm. Gorden, and the motion to adjourn was **approved**.

Respectfully submitted,



MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, George Jabar