

# 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

Lauren Haven  
Administrator



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## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

### Board of Directors Meeting

May 10th, 2023 at 10:00 am

MCCA Offices, 4 Gabriel Drive, Augusta

#### 1. Call to Order

MCCA President Richard Dutremble called the meeting to order at approximately 10:20 am.

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT:

- Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier
- Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden
- Franklin – Admin Amy Bernard proxy for Comm. Bob Carlton
- Knox – Sharyn Pohlman
- Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett
- Penobscot – Comm. Peter Baldacci
- Piscataquis – Comm. Paul Davis
- Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak
- Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson

#### DIRECTORS ABSENT:

- Androscoggin – Comm. Garrett Mason
- Franklin – Comm. Bob Carlton
- Hancock – Comm. John Wombacher
- Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar
- Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill
- Sagadahoc – Comm. Carol Grose
- Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

- Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
- MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer
- MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven
- Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams

## 2. Consent Agenda:

- 3.1. Approval of the Agenda
- 3.2. Approval of the Minutes
- 3.3. Finance Reports – Lauren Haven

Comm. Baldacci **moved** to approve the consent agenda **seconded** by Comm. Fournier, and the motion **passed** with no opposition.

## 3. Officer Reports:

- 3.1. Secretary/Treasurer, George Jabar
- 3.2. Vice President, Norm Fournier
- 3.3. President Report, Richard Dutremble

No reports were given at this juncture of the meeting.

## 4. Standing Committee Reports:

### 4.1. NACo Update: Peter Baldacci & Sharyn Pohlman

Comm. Peter Baldacci reported on the NACo meeting held in Portland with the NACo Financial Services Corporations and Nationwide Retirement Services May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. MCCA generates supplemental revenue through a partnership with Nationwide Insurance. He said he had an opportunity to speak to the NACo group about the diversity of Maine counties, including having counties with various sizes, populations, and unique challenges. He explained the situation with jail overcrowding, the status Medicaid coverage, and rural patrol coverage. In the future, he would like to see NACo spend time growing their membership in New England.

### 4.2. Convention Planning Committee – Lauren Haven

Administrator Lauren Haven reported that the convention planning was underway. The group met on April 21<sup>st</sup> to brainstorm for the event including the educational sessions. She invited the Board of Directors to make suggestions about the programming content. Some ideas included the following: The Process of Getting Bills Passed, Commissioner Roles and Responsibilities, Risk Pool Training, Probate Changes and Planning Ahead, First Amendment Audit Protocols, Updates from the Maine State Economist. Lauren said she would bring these topics back to the Committee. The group planned to visit Poland Spring Resort on May 19<sup>th</sup> to meet with the staff and get an idea of the space available for our conference activities.

### 4.2. Legislative Policy Committee – Steve Gorden, Chair

Comm. Gorden reported on the status of Legislative matters referencing the Legislative Policy

Committee meeting that had occurred on Monday. In response to the letter sent about jail funding, the Governor was not in favor of the increase in funding. Subsequently there was still work to be done to secure additional funding for jails. There would always be an issue as long as the jails continue to be flat funded. Commissioners would need to let legislators know a standard percentage increase would need to be added annually or jails would continue to experience short falls.

Steve reported that there were bills that have not even been published yet. They would need to be out of committee by the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month.

The progress on rural patrol funding had been impeded by the lack of available data. A request had been made to MSA, but the numbers that were needed to prove the need for funding had not yet been provided. Admin Amy Bernard said her sheriff did not support the bill. He was worried about strings that might be attached or mandates that might be put in place that would make using the funds difficult. Steve said we need to justify the need for the new officers. Admin Carrie Kipfer said Sheriff Morton had provided testimony which elaborated on the reasons why more officers were needed. Comm. Baldacci talked about exploring other sources of funding. It looked like the bill would be carried over, but we would need to continue to fight for funding. Paul Davis commented that this was an uphill battle. He said we might get traction if we go to the local people for support. Legislators would listen to their constituents, so we needed to get them involved.

The Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services has been reestablished as was the recommendation of the Commission in their final report. Comm. Fournier made a motion to reappoint Admin. Carrie Kipfer to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Comm. Baldacci, and the motion passed unanimously. President Dutremble thanked Ms. Kipfer for being willing to serve again on the Blue Ribbon Commission.

#### 4.2.1. James Cohen, Verrill Dana

##### 4.2.1.1. Legislative Update

##### 4.2.1.2. Jail Funding Legislation

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

Admin. Carrie Kipfer said that MACCAM had nothing to report. Comm. Gorden said the Board of Directors would like to stay apprised of the Association's activities. Ms. Kipfer responded that their association was struggling with an unusually high turnover rate of administrators and managers. The newer association members were getting up to speed with the support of the group.

6. Adjournment

President Dutremble requested further comments. Hearing none, Comm. Dutremble invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:15 a.m. Comm. Bill Blodgett made the **motion**, **seconded** by Comm. Gorden, and the motion to adjourn was **approved**.

Respectfully submitted,



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MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

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MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, George Jabar