

M.C.C.A.

Stephen Gorden, President
Cumberland County

Brian Hobart, Vice President
Sagadahoc County

Norm Fournier, Secretary-Treasurer
Aroostook County

Peter Baldacci, Past President
Penobscot County

William Blodgett, Emeritus
Lincoln County



Lauren Haven
Administrator

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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 9th, 2022, 10:00 am via Zoom

1. Call to Order: Roll Call - Phone attendees will be requested to introduce themselves.

MCCA President Steve Gorden called the meeting to order at approximately 10:06 am. Roll call was taken.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar
Knox –Comm. Sharyn Pohlman
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett
Oxford – Admin. Donald Durrah proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill
Penobscot – Comm. Peter Baldacci
Piscataquis – Comm. Wayne Erkkinen
Somerset – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi proxy for Comm. Newell Graf
Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. John Michael
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill
Sagadahoc – Comm. Brian Hobart
Somerset – Comm. Newell Graf
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kennebec – Admin. Scott Ferguson
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven
MSA – Sheriff Ken Mason
Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams
Verrill Dana – Lobbyists Clara McConnell and Jim Cohen

2. Any additions, changes or deletions to the agenda?

President Steve Gorden asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Seeing none, Comm. Fournier **moved** to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Pohlman, and the motion **passed** with no objections.

3. **Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approval of the Minutes
- B. Administrative Reports:
 - 1. Financial Report - Lauren Haven

President Steve Gorden requested a motion to move the consent agenda. Comm. Johnson **moved** to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes, the financial report and the Treasurer's report. Comm. Baldacci **seconded** the motion, and it was **passed** with no further comments.

4. Reports & Presentations:

- A. Legislative Policy Report - James Cohen, Verrill Dana
 - 1. Potential Legislation: Rural Patrol, 911 Fees, Mental Health Diversion, MSAⁱ, Registry of Deeds feeⁱⁱ

Lobbyists Jim Cohen and Clara McConnell gave the group a full recap of the election results.

Comm. Gorden mentioned moving forward with legislation to increase funding for rural patrol. Jim said depending on what the price tag is, this could potentially be a heavy lift. We need to bring up the conversation and discuss a strategy. We can expect push back, so it may not happen the first year, but the second, we'll need to get everyone behind it.

Comm. Gorden suggested restructuring the Register of Deeds fees. It would be great if we could get a list of the legislation MSA intends to put forward. Comm. Blodgett said we should work with MSA and the State. We should know what's coming before they announce it. Steve stated that Sheriff Dale Lancaster is amenable to discussing legislation and working together with MCCA. He has been developing a relationship with the MSA President. Their association has the same challenge as MCCA in that the sheriff's have diverse opinions. They constantly work to find common ground to find points they can agree upon.

Comm. Gorden asked Mr. Cohen if he would try to arrange to have the legislative leadership attend our annual meeting in January. We had good representation and participation at the last meeting at the Senator.

B. Administrative Report – Lauren

Ms. Haven reported that business operations were running smoothly, and she had been working on the first draft of the 2023 budget.

C. Budget and Finance Committee - Norm Fournier, Treasurer

Comm. Fournier reported the Budget and Finance Committee which included Comm. Johnson, Comm. Gorden, Comm. Dutremble and Admin. Scott Adkins was scheduled to meet to discuss the draft budget and the membership dues for 2023. He expected to present the committee's recommendations at the December meeting.

5. Governmental Committee Reports:

A. Blue Ribbon Commission for EMS Services - Carrie Kipfer

Admin. Carrie Kipfer reported the Blue Ribbon Commission for EMS Services met on October 25th to discuss the current situation. There were significant EMS funding and staffing issues. The group viewed a presentation by Sellers Dorsey about the proposed Maine Ambulance Medicaid Supplemental Payment Program which would bring millions in federal Medicaid matching funds to Maine ambulance service providers. They also saw a presentation from the Maine Ambulance Association. They discussed the need to make up for the 60 to 70 million shortfall. The proposal was for 70 million each year for five years. They would distribute these funds using a formula to determine the amounts. It was an interesting conversation. The bulk of the funds would go to big companies such as United Northeast, Delta, and Northern Transport. In Ms. Kipfer's opinion, the plan was destined to fail due to the size of the price tag. The group was scheduled to meet again the following Monday. MMA had not been invited.

Steve asked if there were any alternatives proposed. She said there was no recommendation to consolidate. Due to the upcoming elections, opinions had been held back in the last meeting. Monday's meeting should be interesting. She believed the funds should go to towns based on population and promote competition of ambulance services. Presque Isle fire started their own service which ultimately forced the hospital service to close as there was not enough business for both services to stay afloat. Comm. Blodgett agreed with Carrie's assessment.

B. County Corrections Professional Standards Council, LD 1654 – Steve Gorden

1. Next meeting Sheriff Brackett will report on the automated Jail reporting system

Comm. Gorden said Ryan Anderson from the DOC was not available, but he would try to get more information on how incarcerates are handled. The DOC has utilized their IT system to track county jails and state prison numbers.

- C. Sheriffs have completed a Rural Patrol survey: *predicted* number of additional deputies to provide complete coverage for each county.

Comm. Gorden said the Sheriffs estimated the cost to employ one deputy exceeds \$194,000. Comm. Baldacci clarified this amount would be amortized over four or five years in congruence with the system they pay for law enforcement vehicles. Counties might want to pursue the Cops FAST Program in which the Federal Government would share in the cost. Sheriffs were moving to fill positions and the state police are not expected to resume rural patrols, therefore the FAST program could be an option.

- D. Right to Know Advisory Committee – Betsy Fitzgerald

Admin. Lauren Haven reported Ms. Fitzgerald told her the Right to Know Advisory Committee scheduled a meeting for November 17th. She would keep the board informed of their activity.

- E. Access to Disciplinary Records of Public Employees Subcommittee – Greg Zinser

Manager Greg Zinser was unable to attend and had sent his notes from the last meeting. The group discussed a grievance case in which there was a dispute over the definition of “purge”. Did it mean to remove from the file or did it mean to completely destroy the documents? (Mr. Zinser’s notes will be attached to these minutes.)

6. President Report - We need Board members to fill positions

- A. Legislative, Officers

Comm. Gorden invited members of the Board to consider volunteering for a position as an officer on the Executive Committee (President, VP, Secretary/Treasurer), or the Legislative Policy Committee. We will be looking particularly for directors who have not recently served. He pointed out that Brian Hobart, the current VP was retiring and would not be stepping up to take on the role of president. Interested parties were requested to contact Comm. Norm Fournier, Chair of the Nomination Committee.

7. Affiliate Organizational Committee Reports - recognize those in attendance or who submitted Information: MSA, B. MARP, C. MACCAM, D. Others

Admin. Carrie Kipfer reported that MACCAM had not had a meeting since the last MCCA meeting.

8. Other Business?

President Steve Gorden asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. Admin. Lauren Haven asked if the Board of Directors to consider allowing Franklin County to rejoin the MCCA. The timing was important, as Franklin County had requested a bid from the MCCA Risk Pool and they need to be a member of MCCA to join the Risk Pool. After a brief discussion, Comm. Baldacci made the **motion** to allow Franklin County to rejoin MCCA with the stipulation that Franklin County would also rejoin NACo. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Pohlman, and the motion **passed** with a **unanimous vote**.

9. Adjournment

Comm. Steve Gorden asked if there were other comments for the good of the organization. Hearing none, President Gorden invited a motion to adjourn at approximately 11:15 a.m. Comm. Fournier made the motion seconded by Comm. Baldacci, and the motion to adjourn was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Norman Fournier

ⁱ State Sanctioned Prisoners and Parole have been discussed

ⁱⁱ **4-E. Electronic images, printed images or electronic abstracts from a county registry of deeds website.** Acquiring electronic images, printed images or electronic abstracts from a county registry of deeds website as follows:

A. No charge for the first 500 images or electronic abstracts, or a combination of the first 500 images and electronic abstracts, acquired by a person in a calendar year; and [PL 2013, c. 370, §5 (NEW).]

B. Fifty cents per image or electronic abstract for each subsequent image or electronic abstract after 500 acquired in the same calendar year; and [PL 2013, c. 370, §5 (NEW).]