

M.C.C.A.

Stephen Gorden, President
Cumberland County

Brian Hobart, Vice President
Sagadahoc County

Norm Fournier, Secretary-Treasurer
Aroostook County

Lauren Haven
Administrator



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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes December 8, 2021 @ 10:00 am via Zoom

1. Call to Order: Roll Call

MCCA President Steve Gorden called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 am. Attendees announced themselves.

2. Attendance: Phone attendees will be requested to introduce themselves.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Admin. Larry Post, proxy for Comm. Roland Poirier
Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden
Hancock – Comm. William Clark
Kennebec – Comm. Patsy Crockett proxy for Comm. George Jabar
Knox – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett
Penobscot – Comm. Peter Baldacci
Piscataquis – Comm. Wayne Erkinen
Sagadahoc – Comm. Brian Hobart
Somerset – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi proxy for Comm. Newell Graf
Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Roland Poirier
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill
Somerset – Comm. Newell Graf

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hancock – Admin. Scott Adkins
Knox – Admin. Andrew Hart
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Penobscot – Admin. Erika Honey
Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams
Sagadahoc – Admin. Bill Post
Risk Pool Manager – Malcolm Ulmer
Lobbyists – Jim Cohen and Clara McConnell
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven

3. Approval of the Agenda

President Steve Gorden asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Hearing none, Comm. Hobart **moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Baldacci, and the motion **passed** with no objections.**

4. Consent Agenda:

4.1. Approval of the Minutes

4.2. Officer Reports:

4.2.1. Finance

4.2.1.1. Financial Report - Lauren Haven

4.2.1.2. Treasurer: Norm Fournier

President Steve Gorden requested a motion to move the consent agenda. Comm. Hobart **moved to approve the consent agenda which include the agenda, minutes, and financials. Comm. Fournier **seconded** the motion and it was **passed** with no further comments.**

5. Officer Reports:

5.1. Budget and Finance Committee – Norm Fournier, Chair

5.1.1. Presentation of the MCCA 2022 Annual Budget

Budget and Finance Committee Chair, Norm Fournier, reported the committee members consisting of Comm. Dutremble, Comm. Blodgett, Admin. Scott Adkins, President Gorden, Comm. Johnson and himself worked on the 2022 budget, dues formula and MCCA policies. On November 19th, the committee and Lauren Haven Admin met via Zoom to discuss comments and suggestions. Some highlights included an overall increase of 2% from the 2021 budget. The dues formula will also see an increase of 2%. The agenda packet included a breakdown with a column added to show the dollar increase by county. The committee recommended the proposed the 2022 budget and dues assessment.

Comm. Baldacci inquired if there were any big changes. Comm. Fournier said most of the lines were status quo aside from the agreed upon increase in lobbying services and the delay of in person meetings until May 2022. Comm. Baldacci **moved to approve the recommendations from the Budget and Finance committee and present the 2022 budget and dues assessment draft at the General Membership meeting in January for approval. Comm. Gardner **seconded** the motion and it **passed**.**

5.1.2. Acceptance of the changes to the Purchasing Policy and the Financial Management and Investment Policy.

The group reviewed the changes to the policies marked in red in the agenda packet. Most changes were general housekeeping updates, made to reflect the current organizational structure and procedures. The only substantial change, suggested by the Budget and Finance Committee, was to increase the reserve fund balance from two months to three months (approximately \$60,000) of expenditures. Comm. Hobart **moved to approve the recommended changes to the Purchasing Policy and the Financial Management and Investment Policy, **seconded** by Comm. Baldacci, and the motion **passed**.**

5.2. NACo: Peter Baldacci & Sharyn Pohlman – Updates on Federal legislation, national programs, and resources

The group talked about NACo's Cyber Security Services which are available to member counties. Lauren mentioned there was information about the program on the MCCA website.

There has been an ARPA modification proposed to remove the revenue calculation for counties and replace the language in the bipartisan congressional bill to say it's a flat 10 million or 30% awarded to the county whichever is greater, and counties can use it at their discretion. NACo is supporting the bill and waiting for final ruling. This will be a great simplification. Comm. Fournier asked if it looks like the bill has a chance of passing. Comm. Baldacci said the Senate has already passed it and House looks good to pass as well. Admin. Scott Adkins said he was pleasantly surprised as the calculations could be complicated and might impede the efficient use of the funds. Comm. Gorden asked if the lobbying team would please work on gaining support with their contacts.

NACo will have their Legislative Conference in February. Any member county official can attend. Both of our MCCA representatives are planning to attend.

5.2.1. President Report:

5.2.2. Announcements: Heads Up: OSHA's Covid 19 vaccine policy has been suspended but that does not mean that the State's CDC vaccination requirements are not in effect.

5.2.3. Appointing (drafting) the Nomination committee: Norm Fournier, chair, William Blodget, Richard Dutremble, Brian Hobart

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Standing Committees:

6.2. Legislative Policy Committee – Brian Hobart, Chair, Start regular meetings again?

Comm. Hobart stated the LPC would be starting to meet again in January.

Comm. Gardner said MCCA should be weighing in on the vaccine mandate with regard to Maine EMS providers. There is finger pointing between different agencies about the ruling and who can or should make the exception while rural EMS is getting decimated putting lives are in danger. MCCA should take a position. Comm. Gorden agreed, volunteers are dropping out. Vaccine or test is palatable but not a vaccine mandate. Admin. Scott Adkins said it's not a Maine issue, but a national issue. Legislation is being proposed to officially designate EMS an essential service. Comm. Gardner said something needs to be done now. We could simply propose Maine follows the national guidelines of vaccinate or test. Admin. Scott Adkins said the Board should vote to put forward a letter of support. Comm. Gardner made the motion for MCCA to write a letter of support for Maine to follow the Federal guidelines to vaccinate or test, **seconded** by Comm. Erkinen. Comm. Gorden asked for a roll call vote. The motion **passed** with seven county representatives in favor and three opposed.

6.2.1.1. James Cohen, Verrill Dana

6.2.1.1.1. Legislative Update

Lobbyist Clara McConnell said the weekly report would include new bills which are being printed now, as well as carry over bills. We can start going through the new bills. She will get updates on jail funding, the probate final report and the bills related to hazard pay.

6.2.2. Affiliate Organization Committee Reports - recognize those in attendance or submitted information

MSA – Kennebec County Sheriff Ken Mason reported on the status of COVID-19 cases in the county jails. He said the Sheriff's offices are being affected on a daily basis. Kennebec had a small outbreak. Some of the corrections staff are really hurting. There are staffing issues even without the pandemic as employees are being recruited to other agencies after they complete their training. The MSA LPC is starting to gear up. Sheriff Merry and Sheriff Brackett are working on Jail Funding.

MACCAM – Admin. Carrie Kipfer reported the group was continuing to work on jail funding, specifically fulfilling the request for updated base assessment limit numbers for Part B of LD 1654, "An Act To Stabilize State Funding for County Corrections". This will be crucial to move forward.

6.3. MCCA Staff Reporting – Admin. Lauren Haven

Ms. Haven said aside from the topics already discussed such as the 2022 budget, policy changes, and end of year closing, she was working on the 2022 directory of Maine Counties, the next financial audit, and a project with NACo to facilitate flag retirement.

7. Adjournment

Comm. Gorden wished everyone Happy Holidays: Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Rohatsu, Yule Solstice... & Happy New Year.

MCCA President Steve Gorden invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:15 a.m. Comm. Hobart made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Erkinen, and the **motion** to adjourn was **approved**.

Respectfully submitted,



MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Comm. Norman Fournier