

M.C.C.A.

Stephen Gorden, President
Cumberland County

Brian Hobart, Vice President
Sagadahoc County

Norm Fournier, Secretary-Treasurer
Aroostook County

Lauren Haven
Administrator



4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2
Augusta, ME 04330
207-623-4697
www.mainecounties.org

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes February 9, 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 10:00 am. Attendees announced themselves.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. John Michael
Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden
Hancock – Admin. Scott Adkins proxy for Comm. William Clark
Knox – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett
Penobscot – Comm. Peter Baldacci
Piscataquis – Comm. Wayne Erkkinen
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:

Hancock – Comm. William Clark
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill
Somerset – Comm. Newell Graf

OTHERS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Admin. Ryan Pelletier
Knox – Admin. Andrew Hart
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Penobscot – Admin. Erika Honey
Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams
Sagadahoc – Interim Admin. Amber Jones
Lobbyists – Jim Cohen and Clara McConnell
MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven
MSA – Sheriff Ken Mason

2. Approval of the Agenda

President Steve Gorden asked if there were any additions to the agenda. He said he planned to talk about the annual convention in his report. Hearing no other proposed topics, Comm. Hobart **moved** to approve the agenda. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Gardner, and the motion **passed** with no objections.

3. Consent Agenda:

3.1. Approval of the Minutes

3.2. Officer Reports:

3.2.1. Finance

3.2.1.1. Financial Report - Lauren Haven

3.2.1.2. Treasurer: Norm Fournier

President Steve Gorden requested a motion to move the consent agenda. Comm. Gardner **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.

4. Administrative Report – Lauren

Ms. Haven reported on recent projects such as the invoicing of MCCA and NACo dues and the Directory of Maine Counties.

5. Officer Reports:

5.1. Budget and Finance Committee – Norm Fournier, Chair

Comm. Fournier said MCCA finances were in good standing with nothing significant to report at this time.

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

Due to new COVID-19 mandates in Washington D.C., Comm. Baldacci reported that NACo was offering online options for the upcoming legislative conference. Both Comm. Baldacci and Comm. Pohlman would attend these virtual sessions in lieu of in person participation. NACo said they were refunding fees already paid and any member county official would be eligible to attend some of the virtual sessions free of charge.

Comm. Gardner asked about the status of the Medicaid bill. Comm. Baldacci said it's still alive and needs to pass in the Senate. The group discussed sending another letter in support of the bill.

5.3. President Report:

President Gorden announced the reappointment of Comm. Gardner to the County and Municipal Detention Facility Advisory Committee. Attendees thanked Comm. Gardner for his willingness to serve on the committee.

President Gorden raised the topic of the 2022 Convention. We need to be sure commissioners and vendors are willing to attend the event. Comm. Gorden requested each county discuss whether or not they would be comfortable attending the conference. We will take a vote at the March Board of Directors' meeting.

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Standing Committees:

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

6.1.2.1. James Cohen, Verrill Dana

6.1.2.1.1. Legislative Update

Jim Cohen reported on the status of the Legislature. Committees are still meeting remotely although in February, there are three legislation sessions in person scheduled. State of the state address will be presented next week by Governor Mills, and the full supplemental budget would follow. Jim and Clara McConnell reviewed the current slate of bills being monitored.

LD 1950, "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Create a Plan To Incorporate the Probate Courts into the Judicial Branch". A separate division would be created in the court system for the chief probate judge and eight probate judges would be appointed. There would be several years in which the court system would transition. Kathy Ayers, Kennebec Probate Registrar would be advocating neither for nor against the bill. She requested all the probate registrars give testimony. Ultimately, they would need to work with whatever system was in place and they didn't want to create animosity or make things more difficult. Jim asked if the commissioners wanted to take a position. After some discussion, Comm. Baldacci made a motion to oppose LD 1950 and send a letter from MCCA, seconded by Comm. Gardner, and the motion passed with no opposition.

LD 467, "An Act To Support E-9-1-1 Dispatchers and Corrections Officers Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder": Since 2017, Emergency and Public Safety employees have been covered for PTSD under Workers Compensation. Adding 911 dispatchers and corrections officers makes sense, although more data is needed. There's a five-year sunset plan in effect. The Committee was agreeable to extend the sunset provision for three years, until 2025. If new groups are added they will have to report after five years to test it.

LD 596, "An Act To Improve the Law Regarding Abandoned Roads":

A subcommittee for the offseason worked on issues concerning discontinued roads but was still not able to come to a consensus. Therefore, it was decided to set up an ongoing advisory board on the issues. This is an amendment that passed. The group will include a representative of county government.

6.1.2.1.2 Jail Funding Legislation

LD 1654, "An Act To Stabilize State Funding for County Corrections" negotiations were in progress. Proposed was the creation of a corrections council with a five-member board which would include representation from counties. Comm. Gardner asked if this would be the same as the DOC because the money flow was obstructed by this. Jim said it was not supposed to be. There was discussion concerning overlapping authority with the DOC commissioner on jail standards. Even in an advisory roll the Commissioner of Corrections must listen to and consider, but would not be forced to agree. Comm. Fournier said the bottom line is that we want the funding to be 20%, so we're not begging for money every year. The Maine Municipal Association is in favor, so if we need to

compromise, let's do it and get it done. Jim said there would be two potential mechanisms for funding and the highest would win, one being 20% of jail costs and the other involves a data collection process which would show individuals incarcerated held for certain crimes fitting a determined criteria; "state sanctioned inmates" who would be reimbursed at \$50. The two sets of numbers would be compared. That reporting isn't in place at this time. Tyler Technologies, Berry Dunn and others are working on a different RFP for the state. This is the skin in the game. We could propose to wait for a three -year delay in reporting. Sheriff Ken Mason stated the jail population after COVID-19 was almost back to normal. As a result of the pandemic, offenders were not being arrested for nonviolent crimes. Comm. Blodgett reminded the group that new legislators could change whatever we do. It won't last forever. Comm. Baldacci said the 20% is a better deal with less work involved. Comm. Gardner said we should take it and what do we need to do to get this bill passed. Comm. Gardner made a motion to take position to support, seconded by Comm. Fournier. None were opposed and the motion PASSED. Admin Ryan Pelletier said there was a typo on the 102 million excel sheet formula which left out Androscoggin County. Ryan said the tax cap is correct, it just didn't tally. Admin. Carrie Kipfer said there was a hearing on the bill scheduled for later this month.

6.1.2.1.3 Judicial Probate Report - incorporating the Probate Court into Judicial System

This item was discussed previously in the meeting during the legislative update.

6.1.3. MACCAM - Maine Jail Supplemental Funding Distribution Process, Admin. Ryan Pelletier

Mr. Pelletier thanked Cumberland County Manager, Jim Gailey, for collecting the information including backup documentation which eleven counties submitted with details on projects. Some projects were pending, some had been completed and some were ongoing projects. Comm. Fournier thanked the administrators for all their work. It will be important to get the money distributed before it's gone. We don't want to miss this opportunity. Sheriff Brackett had said the sheriffs would support the MACCAM numbers. Comm. Fournier moved to adopt the report and submit it to commissioner of the Department of Corrections and MSA. Comm. Dutremble seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

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

MSA – Kennebec County Sheriff Ken Mason reported the Maine Sheriff's Association Legislative Policy Committee is focused on law enforcement and corrections related bills. They plan to be very active until the close of the session.

7. Adjournment

President Gorden asked if there were any questions or comments for the good of the order before the meeting was adjourned. Knox County Admin. Andy Hart inquired if other counties were having difficulty with the EMA grant reimbursement. He asked the Director of NEMA and was waiting for a response about their pending reimbursement for \$71,000 from 2021 NEMA grants. Admin. Erika Honey said they have had an issue with turnover. Payments have been delayed but they are slowly catching up.

Comm. Baldacci suggested a topic for a future meeting would be the issues with the Maine State Police withdrawing from rural patrol. They are systematically reducing their presence and shifting the expense to Sheriff's Offices. It will be added to the next meeting agenda.

President Gorden reminded the group to stay for the presentation by Kyle Bryans from MS-ISAC who will speak immediately after the close of the meeting to give the group an overview of cybersecurity programs and services they provide and answer questions posed by attendees.

MCCA President Steve Gorden invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 12:00 p.m. Comm. Fournier made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Hobart, and the **motion** to adjourn was **approved**.

Respectfully submitted,



MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Comm. Norman Fournier