

# 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

July 13th, 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. Admin. Lauren Haven asked the group to welcome Clarice Proctor, the Interim County Administrator for Androscoggin County filling in for Larry Post who just retired.

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Interim Admin. Clarice Proctor proxy for Comm. John Michael  
Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier  
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden  
Hancock – Comm. William Clark  
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. Wayne Erkkinen  
Sagadahoc – Comm. Brian Hobart  
Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson  
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner  
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

#### DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. John Michael  
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar  
Knox - Comm. Sharyn Pohlman  
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill  
Somerset – Comm. Newell Graf

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer  
MARP – Registrar Kathleen Ayers  
MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer  
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven  
MSA – Sheriff Ken Mason, Sheriff Dale Lancaster, and ED Mary-Anne LaMarre  
Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams  
Verrill Dana – Lobbyists Clara McConnell and Jim Cohen

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

President Steve Gorden asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Comm. Fournier moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Comm. Hobart, and the motion passed with no objections.

## 3. Consent Agenda: Additions, Changes or Deletions?

- a. Approval of the Minutes
- b. Administrative Reports:
  - i. Finance:
    1. Financial Report - Lauren Haven
    2. Treasurer - Norm Fournier

President Steve Gorden requested a motion to move the consent agenda. Comm. Hobart 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 – Brian Hobart, Chair
  - i. Legislative Update, James Cohen, Verrill Dana

The two main gubernatorial candidates accepted the invitation to speak at the MCCA/MSA meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. We would still need to define the time and subject matter. Comm. Gardner said this would be a unique opportunity to have them both answer the same questions on boiler plate issues so we can compare. Mary-Anne LaMarre said that before questions are created, MSA would like to be part of the discussion for the content creation.

- a. Officer Reports: President Reports:
  - ii. Proposed Legislation:

### 1. Funding for Rural Patrol

The group agreed it would require funding to cover the areas the Maine State Police (MSP) intended to discontinue covering. A meeting was proposed with MSA, MCCA and MSP to discuss the MSP restructuring and plans going forward. Comm. Gardner said he would be willing to participate in these discussions due to his background in law enforcement and the importance of the topic to Washington County. The group talked about a bill to allow counties to keep a greater portion of the fees they collect to help pay for rural patrol services. Comm. Blodgett said rural patrol isn't equally important among the counties and he would hesitate to support using the real estate transfer tax as an alternative funding source. Steve said the State is trying to do what's best for the citizens. MSP was charged with rural patrol by statute, and this is the message we need to convey. If they are no longer covering some of these rural areas, the counties should receive funding as it will require additional employees to take on the responsibility. Mr. Gorden said the MCCA Executive Committee was planning to meet next week to discuss this and other matters.

2. Funding of Public-Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) Call Center Infrastructure: propose legislation to assist PSAP's with their capital infrastructure through the Public Utilities Commission's 911 fee
3. Hold:
  - a. Limited Bonding authority for County Capital Maintenance Projects
  - b. Reimbursement for Non-Qualified County Jail Prisoners (i. e. Parolees, etc.)
  - c. Pro-Rata Prisoner Funding of County Jail Capital Costs
5. September 14th: Gubernatorial Candidate Meeting: Please communicate the number of Commissioners attending (Franklin County will be invited.)

The group discussed Franklin County's involvement in the September meeting and the possibility of Franklin County rejoining the MCCA and the Risk Management Pool sometime in the future. The group asked Risk Pool Manager Malcolm Ulmer to comment. Mr. Ulmer said that Franklin County would need to rejoin MCCA before it could be considered for participation in the Risk Pool. He added that Franklin County's return to the Risk Pool would also require the approval of the Risk Pool's Board of Directors.

6. Affiliate Organizational Committee Reports - recognize those in attendance or who submitted information:
  - a. MSA, Sheriff Ken Mason reported MSA had a meeting in Boothbay last month in which they discussed the rural patrol issue. Unfortunately, not all the sheriffs were able to attend. They will discuss the topic again at their next MSA meeting. He was confident there would be a meeting involving the different groups so they could discuss it together. The County Corrections Professional Standards Council created by LD 1654, "An Act To Stabilize State Funding for County Corrections" would be meeting for the first time with Ryan Andersen from the Department of Corrections.

Sheriff Mason reported Camp Postcard was again successfully managed by Chief Deputy Rand Maker from Lincoln County. This year, it was held at Mechuwana in Winthrop.

Knox County Sheriff Tim Carroll has resigned to become Rockland's police chief. Admin. Andy Hart said Sheriff Carroll's last day was Friday and he would be starting his new job on the 11<sup>th</sup>. His replacement on the ballot was still to be determined but many feel the best choice would be Chief Deputy Patrick Polky.

Sheriff Lancaster thanked the group for allowing MSA to attend MCCA board meetings as it is very important to continue to work together. He said costs are not static, and we would like to avoid having to beg for additional funding. Regarding rural patrol, he said we should embrace it with sustainable funding. We should pursue an appropriate revenue source.

MACCAM, Admin. Carrie Kipfer reported there were new county administrators joining the association. The Secretary of State appointed Ms. Kipfer, as recommended by MCCA, to the EMS Blue Ribbon Commission. She said the legislative analyst asked for topics and issues to focus on and she wanted the group's input. Comm. Baldacci said the commissioners should talk with their EMA/EMS people and bring back their ideas and comments. EMS is an essential service, yet it is not designated as such in municipalities at this time. Comm. Gardner asked about the ramifications. Carrie said if a town decided to discontinue a contract, they have the option to do that right now. However, when the people in the town with no contract call 911, no ambulance comes to the rescue.

7. Other Business

Comm. Baldacci reported NACo's Annual Conference was planned outside of Denver, CO. on July 21<sup>st</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> in Adams County. He would not be participating in person.

8. 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 10:55 a.m. Comm. Gardner made the motion seconded by Comm. Baldacci, 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, Norman Fournier