

M.C.C.A.

Thomas Coward, President
Cumberland County

Amy Fowler, Vice President
Waldo County

William Blodgett, Secretary-Treasurer
Lincoln County



Maine County Commissioners Association

4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2

Augusta, ME 04330

207-623-4697

www.mainecontinies.org

Charles Pray
Executive Director

Lauren Haven
Office Manager

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Point Lookout, September 27, 2019

I. Call to Order, Introductions, Attendance and Pledge of Allegiance

MCCA President Thomas Coward called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the annual convention at Point Lookout in Northport. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and all present introduced themselves.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Noel Madore; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Tom Coward. *Hancock* – Admin. Scott Adkins proxy for Comm. William Clark; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Manager Tom Winsor proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Charles Crosby III proxy for Comm. Brian Hobart; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; *Washington* – Manager Betsy Fitzgerald proxy for Comm. Chris Gardner; and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Manager Larry Post; *Aroostook* – Comm. Paul Adams; *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gorden and Manager Jim Gailey; *Kennebec* – Comm. Nancy Rines, Comm. Patsy Crockett and Admin. Bob Devlin; *Lincoln* – Admin. Carrie Kipfer; *Piscataquis* – Manager Michael Williams; *Sagadahoc* - Admin. Pamela Hile; *Somerset* – Comm. Robert Sezak; *York* – Comm. Richard Clark and Comm. Al Sicard; *MACCAM* - Admin. Bill Collins.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Hancock* – Comm. William Clark; *Knox* – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Piscataquis* – Comm. Wayne Erkinen; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Brian Hobart; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Washington* – Comm. Chris Gardner.

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Charles Pray, Risk Pool Manager Malcolm Ulmer and Office Manager Lauren Haven.

II. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

President Tom Coward inquired if there were any additions to the agenda. Comm. Fowler made a motion to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Comm. Crockett. The motion and it passed with no opposition.

III. Approval of August 14th Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Cote moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on August 14th with the revision made showing York and Waldo counties in favor of the newly adopted membership dues formula. Comm. Fowler seconded the motion and it passed.

IV. Maine 200 Bicentennial Events

Meeting attendees reviewed information included in the agenda packet about some of the local and state-wide events planned for the 2020 Bicentennial celebration. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

V. Perksconnect Program

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented information about the Perksconnect discount program which could provide a benefit not only to commissioners, but all county employees and their families who would use the program. Perksconnect allows members to redeem discounts at thousands of business locations across the country. Members can search by city, state, and zip code for discounts either locally for everyday purchases in-store at the time of purchase; online by making purchases through a link; via a toll-free number using a value code; or through downloadable coupons. The number one advantage would be to provide greater value to MCCA services with no additional cost to MCCA or its membership. The Perksconnect company makes money from vendors who participate in the program.

Comm. Coward said he would be in favor of moving forward with the Perksconnect discount program and would entertain a motion to do so. Comm. Cote moved to authorize Office Manager Lauren Haven to implement the program and for Executive Director Charles Pray to sign the agreement. Comm. Baldacci seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

VI. Reports

A. Executive Director Report and Legislative Discussion

Executive Director Charles Pray presented his report highlighting the legislative activities, session pending items from the last session, and new legislation to be introduced in the next session. Some of the conversation included the following items:

Lifting the Tax Cap – There were some county representatives for and some against proposed legislation to lift the cap on county jail budgets due to individual circumstances among counties as has been the scenario in the past. President Tom Coward asked for a show of hands, and the vote was five for and three against lifting the cap. The conversation continued and the outcome was a general agreement to revisit the topic at a future meeting.

County Revenue Sharing – Comm. Baldacci moved to support legislation to promote revenue sharing seconded by Comm. Cote and the motion and it passed without opposition.

County Home Rule - Comm. Fournier **moved not to introduce this legislation as it is not an emergency bill, and to continue to work on it. The motion was seconded by Comm. Fowler and the motion passed.**

Witness Fees – Currently, municipalities pay for district court witnesses and counties pay for superior court witnesses. Comm. Coward **moved to introduce legislation to alleviate the burden of these fees from the counties, seconded by Comm. Blodgett and the motion passed.**

Workforce Boards – Several commissioners are serving on workforce boards which are divided into three regions for the state. Comm. Sezak said he would be willing to serve on the board for his region (Central/Western Maine). Comm. Gorden **moved to nominate Comm. Sezak for the board, seconded by Comm. Baldacci and the motion passed.**

MFB Building - Unrelated to legislation, Mr. Pray mentioned the Maine Farm Bureau building where the MCCA offices are located may be up for sale. MCCA no longer has a contract and is paying the same fee as agreed in the last contract until further notice. More information will be provided when available.

NAMI Grant – The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) “Community Voices for Health” grant will improve access to mental health and substance use disorder care as well as work to divert people with mental illness out of county jails, with an overall goal to improve the mental wellness of Mainers. NAMI is requesting participation from members of MCCA and MSA. Comm. Baldacci **moved to partner with MSA in this effort. The motion was seconded by Comm. Fournier and the motion passed.** MCCA would likely be asked to select a delegate.

E911 Letter – Administrator Bill Collins made a **motion to support MACCAM by sending a letter in opposition of the E911 fire and law enforcement protocol changes. Comm. Fowler seconded the motion and it passed.**

Comm. Fowler informed the group her re-appointment to the E911 Board would be in order. Comm. Cote made a **motion to re-nominate Comm. Fowler to the E911 Board, seconded by Comm. Fournier and the motion passed unanimously.**

Comm. Fowler made a **motion to submit Comm. Cote’s name to the Governor to consider appointing him to the commission being established for LD 829 Resolve, To Reestablish the Commission To Improve the Sentencing, Supervision, Management and Incarceration of Prisoners. Admin. Bill Collins seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.**

B. Financial Reports

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the August financial reports. Debits and credits for the month were associated with normal operating expenses and the convention. There were two items to note. As a result of a meeting with the auditors, Ron and Mitch Beaulieu, some numbers have been changed in or added to MCCA accounts in QuickBooks. This was an item which had come up as an area for improvement. Secondly, it was recommended to discontinue the method of transferring money from the MCCA fund balance into a budget line item. We can use the money of course. However, this is not income, and should be left as a deficit in the budget. The auditors would explain this more fully in their upcoming report. Comm. Baldacci **moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Comm. Fournier and it passed with no opposition.**

C. Association Reports

MACCAM: Admin. Bill Collins stated the association would be meeting today at the convention. The group planned to work in November to continue to update the salary survey.

D. Annual Convention Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported the Committee met on Friday, August 16th at the venue Point Lookout to meet with the staff and work out logistics. They met for the last time before the convention on September 13 to discuss last minute details. She was happy to report the income goal for sponsors, exhibitors and advertisers had been exceeded. The total number of participants including vendors, speakers, county employees and guests was approximately 200. It's not likely there would be any final income or expense numbers until the end of October, possibly even the beginning of November. The Committee planned to meet next on November 15th.

E. NACo Report

Comm. Baldacci spoke to the group about Director of Program Strategy Jay Kairam visiting from NACo to speak at the conference luncheon on Saturday. MCCA requested a couple of topics for his speech and it was expected to be timely and informative.

XIII. Other Business

Comm. Paul Adams thanked the group for the many well-wishing cards and gifts sent to him after his accident earlier this year. They were greatly appreciated and encouraged him on some difficult days.

Executive Director asked if the group would like to consider postponing the next Board of Directors' meeting until November as the usual second Wednesday of the month would only be less than two weeks away. The group decided to keep the regularly scheduled meeting.

XIV. Adjournment

*President Tom Coward invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 10:35 a.m. Comm. Baldacci made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Fowler, and the **motion** was unanimously **approved**.* The group adjourned with some attendees remaining for the MCCA Risk Pool meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer