

M.C.C.A.

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Charles Pray
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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

MCCA Offices, October 9, 2019

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

MCCA President Thomas Coward called the meeting to order at approximately 10:02 a.m. following the MCCA Risk Pool meeting. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and all present introduced themselves.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Manager Larry Post proxy for Comm. Noel Madore; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Tom Coward. *Hancock* – Admin. Scott Adkins proxy for Comm. William Clark; *Kennebec* – Comm. Patsy Crockett proxy for Comm. George Jabar; *Knox* – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Manager Tom Winsor proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Comm. Wayne Erkinnen; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Brian Hobart; *Somerset* – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi proxy for Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; *Washington* – Comm. Chris Gardner; and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gorden; *Hancock* – Admin. Scott Adkins; *Kennebec* – Admin. Bob Devlin; *Knox* – Admin. Andy Hart; *Lincoln* – Admin. Carrie Kipfer; *Sagadahoc* – Admin. Pamela Hile; *York* – Manager Greg Zinser; *MACCAM* - Admin. Bill Collins; *MACT* – Kathy Robinson; *MARP* – Kathleen Ayers; *MSA* – Sheriff Ken Mason, Sheriff Bill King, Sheriff Troy Morton, and Sheriff Todd Brackett.

Special guests included Commissioner Michael Sauschuck from the Maine Public Safety Bureau, Col. John Cote from the Maine State Police, and Paul Dwyer from WABI.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Noel Madore; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar; *Hancock* – Comm. William Clark; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf.

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. Gardner made a motion to accept the agenda with no additions. Comm. Fowler seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Comm. Baldacci made a motion to advance item IV. Shortage of Patrol Officers to the top of the agenda. Comm. Fowler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting proceeded with item IV.

III. Approval of September 27th Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Baldacci moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on September 27th, 2019. Comm. Cote seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Shortage of Patrol Officers – Commissioner Michael Sauschuck

Special guest Commissioner Michael Sauschuck from the Department of Public Safety and Colonel John Cote from the Maine State Police (MSP) spoke about the issue of the shortage of patrol officers. More patrol officer positions have been requested, however three positions were also needed for computer crimes. “Call Sharing” agreements among counties using various models are being promoted. MSP representatives have been reaching out to meet with Sheriff’s to discuss agreements. This can streamline practices and reduce redundancy. For instance, someone on duty can take a nearby call rather than have a person from another area travel to cover that call. However, not all counties have negotiated an agreement and some county representatives don’t see this as the most appropriate answer as the needs are different from county to county. Everyone seemed to agree all parties will need to demonstrate the need to the Legislature so the funding can be prioritized strictly for patrol officers. Otherwise, the financial impact on counties will be significant and revenues would have to be raised to cover the cost of hiring new positions to cover those areas.

In conclusion, Comm. Baldacci stated we would need to see the supplemental language before blindly voting to support and should gather more specifics. President Coward asked for a show of hands who would like to direct Charles Pray to write a resolution. The group was unanimously in favor.

V. Consideration of the Renewed Contract for Executive Director Charles Pray

President Tom Coward said the Executive Committee reviewed the submitted performance evaluations from member counties and then met with Charles Pray to discuss the evaluations and a renewed contract proposal. The Executive Committee recommended a 2% raise in salary and a contract expiration date of 5-31-19. Mr. Pray made a counteroffer requesting the new contract allow unused benefit time to be carried over into 2020. Both parties accepted the terms and the Executive Committee proceeded with the final proposal which included these details in the agenda packet.

President Coward stated he would entertain a motion to approve the contract as proposed. Comm. Baldacci moved to approve the renewed contract as written. Admin. Dawn DiBlasi objected to the contract proposal stating not all members of MACCAM were happy with the Executive Director’s performance. Comm. Fowler added she was not necessarily in favor of the benefit time carry over and didn’t feel that point in the contract had been fully discussed. Also, the 2% didn’t seem to add up to the increased salary of \$82,958. Office Manager Lauren Haven stated Mr. Pray received a 2.99% raise at the beginning of the year and the figure in his new contract included an additional 2% to his current salary. Admin. Pamela Hile mentioned the wording in the contract contradicted the Association by-laws as the Board of Directors was supposed to conduct the performance evaluation for the executive director and either the by-laws or the contract should be changed. President Coward said the everyone

on the Board of Directors was invited to participate in the performance evaluation process and the Executive Committee carefully considered the submitted evaluations although he only received six or seven completed documents. The question was raised whether the Board should hold an executive session to discuss the topic in more depth, however the suggestion did not get enough traction to move forward.

*Eventually, Comm. Crockett **moved** to **move** the question, **seconded** by Comm. Baldacci which **passed**. Comm. Fournier again **moved** to approve the contract as written and authorize President Coward to sign the contract on behalf of the Association, **seconded** by Comm. Baldacci and it **passed** with nine in favor and five against by a show of hands. A roll call vote was not requested, and so was not taken.*

VI. Reports

A. Executive Director Report and Legislative Discussion

Executive Director Charles Pray presented his report highlighting the legislative activities including LD 973, *An Act To Stabilize County Corrections*, FY20-21 jail appropriations, LD 657, *An Act To Reorganize the Probate Courts*, fiscal notes, 2nd session legislation and more.

B. Financial Reports

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the September financial reports. Debits were associated with normal operating expenses and convention related purchases. Credits were largely from vendors and attendees registering for the convention. The profit and loss results from the convention would be available at the November meeting. Comm. Norm Fournier congratulated the Convention Planning Committee on getting additional sponsors and vendors to participate. Lauren responded the final bill from the venue had not yet been received and there were usually some revisions before the amount was determined. The Committee was hopeful the net profit would exceed the budget goal. Norm commented if the resort bill is under \$30,000 we will be in good shape. As there were no questions about the reports, *Comm. Gardner **moved** to accept the financial reports, **seconded** by Baldacci and it **passed** unanimously.*

C. Association Reports

MACCAM: Admin. Bill Collins stated there would be a meeting on November 7th. Manager Greg Zinser said vice chair of Maine 200 Dave Cheever needs answers from the counties on their intended event plans to participate in the Bicentennial celebration. Admin. Carrie Kipfer said no more information would be forthcoming about the project and counties would need to decide how they would select the students for the tall ship and freshwater experience if they choose to do this.

MARP: Register of Probate Kathleen Ayers reported no meetings had been held about LD 657, *An Act To Reorganize the Probate Courts*. She said the association had a good turn out at the convention and the meetings and training were very productive. In fact, it was so successful, she planned to organize similar meetings for the next convention or even expand on the trainings as utilizing the convention is a cost-effective way for the group to meet without paying separately for an event space. The Association is working on several items, some of them include child protective services, committee guardian issues, quicker processing and placement among others. She will keep the Board up to date on any changes or updates.

D. Annual Convention Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported there were approximately 195 participants at the convention including attendees, guests, speakers and vendors. Evaluation forms were included in the agenda packets and there was an online form at the MCCA website if preferred. Generally, the feedback had been good. Attendees enjoyed the activities, food and educational sessions. The Convention Planning Committee was looking forward to starting work on the 2020 convention taking place at Sunday River. They scheduled their next meeting for November 15th at the MCCA offices.

E. NACo Report

Comm. Baldacci mentioned the NACo representative, Jay Kairam, Director of Program Strategy who spoke at the convention luncheon on Saturday. Lauren said she received an email from Jay thanking her for including him in the MCCA newsletter, and he said it was great to get to know Maine members. He hopes to be able to visit again.

XIII. Other Business

President Tom Coward stated the Budget and Finance Committee would be meeting soon to review the 2020 budget. He invited members to join or leave the committee. As no one responded, the members will remain the same.

Comm. Mike Cote distributed a list of members of the Commission to Improve the Sentencing, Supervision, Incarceration and Management of Prisoners Committee.

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported Executive Director Charles Pray had signed the agreement for the Perksconnect discount program as requested and she would distribute more information on the roll out as it became available.

XIV. Adjournment

President Tom Coward invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:55 a.m. Comm. Baldacci made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Crockett, and the **motion** was unanimously **approved**. The group adjourned to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer