

M.C.C.A.

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Cumberland County

Amy Fowler, Vice President
Waldo County

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Lincoln County



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Lauren Haven
Office Manager

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

MCCA Offices, December 11, 2019

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

MCCA President Thomas Coward called the meeting to order at approximately 10:32 a.m. following the MCCA Risk Pool meeting. 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; *Kennebec* – Admin. Bob Devlin 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 Erkinen; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Brian Hobart; *Somerset* – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi proxy for Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; and *York* – Comm. Richard Dutremble proxy for Comm. Michael Cote.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gorden; *Knox* – Admin. Andy Hart; *Lincoln* – Admin. Carrie Kipfer; *Sagadahoc* – Admin. Pamela Hile; *MACCAM* - Admin. Bill Collins; and *MSA* – Sheriff Ken Mason.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Hancock* – Comm. William Clark; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Washington* – Comm. Chris Gardner; *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

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. As there were no additions, Comm. Baldacci made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Comm. Fowler seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

III. Approval of November 13th Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Fournier moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on November 13th, 2019. Comm. Fowler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Choose the Venue for the Annual General Membership Meeting

The group reviewed the estimates provided by Office Manager Lauren Haven. The estimated cost to host the meeting at the Senator Inn was \$1,200, The Elks Lodge was \$1,300 and the Governor Hill Mansion estimated \$1,473. These numbers were based on an approximate number of 40 to 45 attendees. Comm. Fournier moved to accept the proposal from the Senator Inn, seconded by Comm. Hobart, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Presentation of the 2020 Budget Recommendations by the Budget and Finance Committee

Comm. Fournier introduced the 2020 budget recommendations as the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee which also included Comm. Coward, Comm. Amy Fowler, Comm. William Blodgett and Administrator Pamela Hile. Two versions of the 2020 budget were presented, each based on the approved formula using an 80% base amount, plus 10% valuation and 10% population. In one version the total amount of membership dues would be \$186,690 (#8), the second scenario set the membership dues total at \$166,690 (#8A). The lower budget reduced the Risk Pool assessment by 10%. It also allowed for the completion of the contract at the end of May for the current Executive Director without immediate renewal or rehire. The organizational structure of the Association would be revisited and determined at that time with at least three months lapsing between employees or contractors. This would save money in both salary and benefits. Comm. Hobart moved to present the lower second budget proposal (#8A) for a final vote at the annual general membership meeting in January. Comm. Baldacci requested the group consider not reducing the amount of the Risk Pool assessment and leave it the same as was budgeted in 2019. Comm. Hobart amended his motion as such. Admin. Bob Devlin seconded the motion and President Coward called for a show of hands. Eleven Directors voted for budget #8A with the Risk Pool assessment the same amount as 2019, two were opposed and the motion passed. This budget will be considered at the January 8, 2020 meeting.

VI. Reports

A. Executive Director Report and Legislative Discussion

Executive Director Charles Pray presented his report along with copies of *Requests Accepted by the Legislative Council* in which he highlighted several titles, *Agency and Department Bills* with highlighted titles of legislation likely to impact counties, and a list of *Committee Bills Carried Over*. The group discussed the material with no motions made or actions to be taken between this meeting and the January meeting.

B. Financial Reports

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the November financial reports. Debits and credits were associated with normal operating expenses. She noted a few items. There should be one more payment made for NACo trip reimbursements. Expected income included the Risk Pool assessment and a quarterly check for NACo endorsements as well as a \$300 refund from the recently upgraded photocopier lease. As there were no questions about the reports, Comm. Fournier moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Comm. Hobart and it passed unanimously.

C. Association Reports

MACCAM: Administrator Bill Collins said the group met on December 6th with ten counties represented. The group, particularly Admin. Bob Devlin, is working with Marc Cyr, Principal Analyst for the Office of Fiscal and Program Review to help define the term, “unfunded mandate”. The goal is to develop a method by which to estimate costs for fiscal notes to make it clear how much the passing of a bill would cost those impacted. Currently there is no standardized method. This is particularly important as it pertains to new probate laws. Also, there will be a Criminal Justice workshop on LD 973. *MACCAM* is

working with MSA to “keep an eye” on where the county jail funds are being allocated, the concern being the percentage of money going to programs versus the percentage going to operations.

MSA: Sheriff Ken Mason said Sheriff Kevin Joyce on behalf of MSA was very grateful for the partnership with MCCA working shoulder to shoulder and providing a good format to work on current issues. The Association hopes it will continue in this direction.

D. Annual Convention Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported the Convention Planning Committee met on November 15th and planned to meet again on December 20th to begin outlining the activities, food and educational sessions for the 2020 convention taking place at Sunday River.

E. NACo Report

Comm. Baldacci reported the National Association of Counties continued to work on the priorities the group set for 2019 including addressing the opioid crisis, mental health issues, grants for diversion programs, and more. The NACo Legislative Conference will take place in Washington DC on February 29th through March 4th.

VI. Other Business

Office Manager Lauren Haven stated the *Perks Connect Program* MCCA staff was working to set up for the benefit of county employees and their families had been quashed as the company recently reorganized the program to include costs for the organization offering the program.

Some good news, ConnectME agreed to present a training on fiber optics after the conclusion of the annual meeting on January 8th. Other ideas for future trainings were welcome. Lauren said she would be happy to organize a training after every Board meeting.

VII. Adjournment

President Tom Coward invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 12:02 p.m. Comm. Hobart made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Fournier, and the **motion** was unanimously **approved**. The group adjourned to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer