

M.C.C.A.

Thomas Coward, President
Cumberland County

Amy Fowler, Vice President
Waldo County

Carol Maines, Secretary-Treasurer
Knox County

Charles Pray
Executive Director

Lauren Haven
Office Manager



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

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes MCCA Offices Augusta, December 12, 2018

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

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* – Comm. Noel Madore; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Thomas Coward; *Kennebec* – Admin. Bob Devlin proxy for Comm. George Jabar; *Knox* – Comm. Carol Maines; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Penobscot* – Admin. Bill Collins proxy for Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Comm. James Annis; *Sagadahoc* – Admin. Pamela Hile proxy for Comm. Charles Crosby III; *Somerset* – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi proxy for Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; *Washington* – Manager Betsy Fitzgerald proxy for Comm. Chris Gardner; and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Admin. Larry Post; *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gorden; *Knox* – Admin. Andy Hart; *Lincoln* – Admin. Carrie Kipfer; *MARP* – Registrar Kathleen Ayers; and *MSA* – Sheriff Todd Brackett.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar; *Hancock* – Comm. Percy Brown; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Charles Crosby III; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; and *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

Comm. Fowler moved and Comm. Gorden seconded approving the agenda with no additions. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of November 11, 2018 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Cote moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on November 14, 2018 with no revisions. Comm. Fowler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business

A. Newly Elected Official Training Update

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported approximately thirty people were expected to participate in the full day of training on Friday, December 14th at the Senator Inn. All instructors were still on board to give their presentations. President Tom Coward would be emceeding the event.

B. Consideration of the 2020 Convention Host County

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported Point Lookout was willing to extend the contract for a second year with the same pricing as 2019 if we're willing to commit. No mention was made of another deposit for the second year. The dates would be the same week in 2020 as 2019, which would be Thursday September 24th through Sunday September 27th. The group discussed the option of another county hosting or co-hosting at Point Lookout. This topic could be revisited at a future meeting. Commissioner Fowler was surprised Point Lookout was willing to offer the same discounts and said it would be a great advantage to MCCA. Then the Convention Planning Committee could continue to work on narrowing down the venues for the rotating schedule. Comm. Fournier moved to accept the extended Point Lookout contract for the 2020 Convention. Comm. Blodgett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. New Business

A. MSA Update by Lincoln County Sheriff Todd Brackett

Sheriff Brackett talked about a stakeholder meeting discussing the impact of courts on county jails, adequate funding and legislative initiatives. Todd identified three key issues a proposed bill should address:

1. State Funding Formula
2. Flexible Cap
3. Standards including pre-trial, and best practices

The group discussed the proposed cap exemption bill from Franklin County. All agreed it is important for MSA and MCCA to work together. Admin Bill Collins stressed the importance of including data provided by MACCAM and county finance managers who have concrete numbers to drive the bill. President Coward said we did make progress last year. Now we need to build on that and move forward. Attendees thanked Sheriff Brackett for coming to the meeting.

B. Choose Venue for the Annual General Membership Meeting

The group reviewed the estimates from the Senator Inn and Spa, The Elks Lodge and Governor Hill Mansion. Comm. Fournier moved to host the 2019 Annual Meeting at the Senator Inn and Spa. Comm. Blodgett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Presentation of the Proposed 2019 Budget by the Budget & Finance Committee

Comm. Norm Fournier spoke for the Budget & Finance Committee explaining the highlights of the changes from the 2018 budget noting the 3% increase of the Risk Pool Assessment had been approved by the Risk Pool Board of Directors prior to this meeting. He then proceeded through each line item answering questions posed. Admin Bill Collins proposed raising the dues instead of \$273 per county to \$500 per county, however there was not enough support to make this change in the draft. They also talked about changing the formula for the dues. Bill said commissioners could raise more revenue for MCCA by supporting the convention. Comm. Fournier stated the MainePERS account would soon be depleted and all agreed there would be a need to decrease expenses or increase revenue in the future. Comm. Blodgett

moved to have the Budget & Finance Committee work on a long term plan. Comm. Cote seconded the motion and it passed. Comm. Fournier made a motion to move the proposed 2019 budget forward to the annual general membership meeting for consideration. Manager Betsy Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

D. Nominations for the County and Municipal Detention Facility Advisory Committee

Comm. Cote reported on the valuable work the committee accomplished cutting nearly half of the jail standards. *Comm. Fowler moved to re-nominate Comm. Cote to serve again on the County and Municipal Detention Facility Advisory Committee. Comm. Fournier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.* The group thanked Comm. Cote for his willingness to serve on the Committee.

VI. Reports

A. Executive Director and Legislative Report

The group discussed the items on Executive Director report by Charles Pray particularly in reference to new legislation and placeholder bills. Mr. Pray agreed to send out a list of the placeholders. Comm. Fowler brought up the issue of blood draws and the cooperation of area hospitals. Admin. Bob Devlin said there needs to be language requiring the patients to remain the responsibility of the hospital and not be transferred to the jail. Admin. Pam Hile suggested the LPC start meeting on a regular basis. Mr. Pray said he would come up with a schedule for conference calls. Also mentioned was the NAMI workshop to address mental illness issues in county jails. Lauren reminded attendees about the free NACo webinar about reducing recidivism for people with mental illnesses in jails occurring that afternoon.

B. Financial Reports

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the November financial reports. She reiterated the tightness of the 2018 budget. The December expenses might exceed the estimated projections for some line items. The Budget and Finance Committee planned to leave room in the 2019 budget for minor fluctuations as they look for long-term solutions for funding. Ms. Haven invited questions about the reports. Hearing none, *Manager Betsy Fitzgerald moved and Comm. Cote seconded approving the financial reports. The motion was passed with no opposition.*

C. Association Reports

MACCAM: Admin. Bill Collins reported the association planned to meet in January. MCCA members would be needed to support the request for jail funding based on current deficits. A report from Criminal Justice is anticipated. Admin. Bob Devlin said MACCAM members as well as the county finance managers were ready to work with counties and commissioners on the numbers for supporting documentation to prove the need for funding. This topic will be revisited when the report is available.

MARP: During the 127th Legislature, LD 123 *An Act to Recodify and Revise the Maine Probate Code*, was signed into law. Register Kathy Ayers reported on the implementation of the many intricate and involved changes in the probate code. The extent of the impact has yet to be determined, however, an immediate concern would be a fee shift and new expenditures necessary to comply with the law. These are being considered an unfunded mandate. Another concern is the anticipation of lengthy, and labor-intensive trials as the details of the code are interpreted and current guardianships are challenged. Ms. Ayers stressed the importance of involving probate representatives in future discussions about mental health in the county jails. The association planned to meet with the probate judges on January 25th to work together to achieve uniformity as they proceed with these changes.

President Tom Coward requested the MCCA Board of Directors take a position on the state's movement to take over areas of responsibility and revenue from the counties. *Comm. Blodgett moved to actively*

oppose any and all attempts from the state to take over the current jurisdiction and revenue streams from the Probate Court. Manager Betsy Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Annual Convention Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported the Convention Planning Committee met on Friday, December 7th to work on the details for the 2019 event. The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, January 11th at the MCCA offices. The meeting minutes for the November meeting were included in the agenda packet. The minutes from the December meeting will be included for review at the January board meeting.

E. NACo Report

The upcoming NACo Legislative Conference will bring together over 1,500 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and residents. Maine representatives will have an opportunity to participate in educational sessions, interact with federal officials and attend congressional briefings and meetings. This event is scheduled for March 2 through March 6, 2019.

F. Strategic Plan Review Committee

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported committee members were still laboring over the wording of the draft. It might take one more meeting of the group before the updated document will be ready for consideration by the Board of Directors.

XIII. Other Business

No other business was brought before the Board.

XIV. Adjournment

President Thomas Coward invited a motion to adjourn at approximately 12:05 p.m. Comm. Cote made the motion seconded by Comm. Fowler, and the motion was unanimously approved. The group adjourned to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Carol Maines