

M.C.C.A.

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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting to Consider Long Term Funding for MCCA May 17th, 2019 at the MCCA Offices Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Commissioner Norman Fournier, Commissioner Amy Fowler, Commissioner Steve Gorden, Administrator Pamela Hile, Executive Director Charles Pray and Office Manager Lauren Haven.

The group discussed the organizational makeup of the association and the services currently being provided such as:

- A. Promoting County Government, lobbying, drafting legislation, and testifying on bills which would impact counties,
- B. Maintaining a working relationship with the Self-funded Risk Pool to which member counties belong,
- C. Organizing educational opportunities for elected officials and the public.

There is not a strong directive expressed in the adopted strategic plan to expand the organization. Looking forward, the Long-term Financing Committee decided to concentrate on a plan which would sustain the association's mission, adequately fund the organization to continue providing the current level of services and allow for some measure of growth.

The committee recognized the two major line items in the 2019 budget being depleted and not replenished, MainePERS Surplus (approximately \$10,000) and the Transfer in from Fund Balance (approximately \$28,000).

Executive Director Charles Pray presented research gathered from county associations in other states, the services they provide and their sources of income. The group agreed it would make sense to explore the idea of offering workers' compensation insurance and/or health insurance. Lauren will survey the counties to ascertain what vendors are being contracted for these services.

Attendees talked about imposing a fee for county associations to belong to MCCA. Other funding sources included increased revenue from the annual convention, more advertising, other educational and training opportunities, and additional NACo affiliate endorsements.

The structure of the formula to calculate membership dues varies from state to state based on a standardized minimum amount, and factors in valuation and/or population to determine the dues rate. Attendees looked at the dues structure for the National Association of Counties as well as Maine Municipal Association's dues formula which uses both valuation and population.

Each county paid \$9,402 for a total of \$141,043 in MCCA's 2019 budget. A target dues total of \$186,690 would cover the projected shortfall. The dues rate could be increased in stages to allow counties to budget for the change. It was decided to test several formula's with different scenarios to be discussed at the next meeting. Lauren will create a spreadsheet with \$186,690 as the total amount of dues and \$9,400 as the base. There will be one scenario utilizing MMA's formula, one using just valuation and one just using population. There will be one more formula using \$196,000 as the total amount of dues still using \$9,400 as the base. Other scenarios could be requested after these figures are examined.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 5th at 1:00 pm at the MCCA offices.