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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Long Term Finance Committee

June 5th, 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 reviewed the minutes of the May 17, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Gorden moved to accept the minutes with no revisions requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fowler and it passes unanimously.

Attendees continued to work on the value and benefits belonging to MCCA and ideas for improvements that might be made to increase the value of these services, combining drafts submitted by Commissioner Fournier and Administrator Pamela Hile. Some items added during the conversation included the following:

- A. MCCA could encourage a more active Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) year-round, meeting off session on a regular basis to follow up with work done in the last session and plan strategies and legislation for the next session.
- B. Staff and/or county representatives could participate in the Maine Municipal Assoc. conference in more ways, such as having an exhibit booth or teaching an educational session explaining cost savings to municipalities and potential partnerships to provide regional services.

- C. A part-time analyst could be hired for the legislative session to help research new bills as they surface, help write testimony and assist with drafting legislation.
- D. MCCA could facilitate cooperative purchasing opportunities among county jail services such as paper supplies, electronic equipment, bedding, food, and medical services. Or, coordinate county office bulk purchasing to realize a cost savings, perhaps vehicles.
- E. MCCA could help counties host and/or organize a legislative breakfast for every MCCA member county either in Augusta or in each host county. Legislators could meet with county officials and discuss timely topics and current issues and viewpoints.

The group looked at the prepared drafts of various formulas discussed at the last meeting to calculate membership dues. It was decided to also look at a flat rate and add a column reflecting the cost per person for each county.

Committee members were leaning toward Formula #1 as the choice to recommend which would have the least impact to county budgets. Formula #1 was based on \$186,690 as the total amount of membership dues and factored in differing valuation and population for each county. When presenting the recommendation, it will be important to illustrate how much money counties have saved as a result of MCCA testifying and lobbying against bills which would have had a financial impact.

The group reviewed the survey results showing vendors for workers' compensation and health insurance. All MCCA member counties use MMA for their workers' compensation and the majority use Maine Municipal Employee Health Trust. Five counties use other health insurance vendors such as Allegiant Care (Cigna), Hansen Financial (Cigna), Harvard Pilgrim, and Meritain Health (Aetna).

Administrator Pamela Hile offered to work on a three-year plan to raise dues in stages to allow counties to plan their budgets accordingly.

Moving forward, the Association by-laws should be examined as changes might be necessary and would need to be proposed twenty days in advance of a membership meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, June 21st at 1:00 pm at the MCCA offices. The group hoped to have a recommendation to present at the July Board of Directors' meeting so it could be discussed more fully at the August 14th Board meeting.