

Approved

**Maine Association of Assessing Officers  
Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2020  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Virtual Zoom**

**Present:** President Tammy Brown, Rebecca Adams, Lauren T Asselin, Ronald G Beal, Joshua Berry, Ruth Birtz, Angela Bradstreet, Ardis Brown, Bill Brunelle, Nicholas Cloutier, Lewis Cousins, Julie Cromwell, Brenda Cummings, David Cyr, Gerald Daigle, Theresa Duff, Karen Fortier, Larry Gardner, Kaela Gonzalez, Kelly Grotten, William Healey Jr., Katlyn Howlett, Virginia Joseph, Kathleen Kern, Barbara Kinsman, Roxy LaFrance, Curt Lebel, Kerry Leichtman, Rick Mace, Judy Mathiau, Sean McCarthy, Darryl McKenney, Paul McKenney, Joe Montefusco, Martine Painchaud, Marc Perry, Kendall Priest, Susan Ricker, Travis Roy, Brandon Saucier, Kristy Sheehan, Geoff Smith, Lillian Smith, Kara Taylor, Ben Thompson, Caitlin Thompson, Elisa Trepanier, Deborah Turner, Luke Vigue and Steven Weed.

**MMA Staff Member Present:** Melissa White, Liaison for Affiliate Services

**Call to Order:** President Tammy Brown called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**Opening Remarks:**

**Presentation of the Assessor of the Year Award:** A presentation slide show of photos was shown to all in attendance. Rick Mace spoke briefly and congratulated the Assessor of the Year, Robert Konczal, Assessor from the Town of Freeport.

**Secretary's Report:** Ruth Birtz asked those in attendance if they had reviewed the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes. Motion made by Travis Roy, seconded by Darryl McKenney, all approved the September 19, 2019 Annual Business Meeting minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Martine Painchaud reported financials on the months ending May2020, June 2020, and July 2020.

Martine Painchaud reported the total current assets as of May 31, 2020 are \$12,998.04, as of June 30, 2020 are \$12,388.22 and as of July 31, 2020 are \$11,730.76.

Motion made by Ruth Birtz, seconded by William Healey Jr., all approved the financial reports.

**Committee Reports:**

1. Audit/Finance

Ruth Birtz reported the finances were reviewed, along with Darryl McKenney in a different manner this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financials were sent by MAA for review reviewed separately and both agreed that everything was in order and there are no concerns.

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### 2. Calendar/Advertisers

Lewis Cousins reported there was no calendar printed due to distribution issues [COVID-19]. Advertisers are still returning and he encouraged anyone to provide his contact information for any new advertisers that are interested in advertising with MAAO.

### 3. Newsletter

Travis Roy reported the Fall newsletter was recently distributed to members; he encourages all to participate all of those that submitted articles for the newsletter this year. Tammy reported that the newsletter issue will be in December.

### 4. Ethics

Travis Roy advised there were no pending issues this year.

### 5. Legislative

Darryl McKenney thanked Maine Revenue Services for adding a Legislative Update section to their website. Darryl reported that MMA will provide an update during the last conference session. There were two BETE changes (listed below) including excluding property exempted under any other provision of the law and clarified properties that an excise tax had been assessed against is not eligible for BETE. There were two changes to TIF's, revenue used for Child or Adult care facilities is allowed and any unused finance revenue may be transferred to the general fund once the district has expired.

**Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE).** The law clarifies that equipment eligible for the BETE program specifically excludes property exempt under any other provision of law. Additionally, the law clarifies that property against which an excise tax has been assessed is not eligible for the BETE program. Effective June 16, 2020. LD 2047, PL 2019, c. 659.

**Proposed state valuation.** The law updates the noticing provisions for the proposed state valuation numbers. The State Tax Assessor will now send the proposed state valuation numbers to municipal officers, who are the parties authorized to appeal the State's assessment. Effective June 16, 2020. LD 2008, PL 2019, c. 607

#### COVID-19 updates:

- Last year's budget can be applied, if needed
- Treasurer may disperse funds by the majority of Municipal Officers
- School board may delay budget meeting beyond July 1
- Motor vehicle registrations, trailer, liquor and dog licenses will expire 30 days after the State of Emergency termination.
- Remote access to public meetings
- The Homestead exemption increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000
- Solar is exempt. (Must be operable by April 1).

### 6. Membership

## Approved

Ruth Birtz reported that there are 298 members and 261 total paid members to date and 37 unpaid members to date.

7. Awards & Scholarship

Rick Mace reported there were no scholarships awarded due to COVID-19. He reminded all to continue to apply for scholarship as there is money available in the fund balance.

8. Technology Report

William Healey Jr. reported on behalf of Dan Robinson the following. Dan has been working with MMA to upgrade the MMA website, hoping to have this completed by the end of the year.

9. Executive Board

Ruth Birtz reported the board was able to meet virtually, [COVID -19] via Zoom and was able to determine the Assessor of the Year award winner.

10. Education

William Healey Jr. thanked MMA, presenters and the MAAO board for their assistance will preparing the virtual conference. He noted future events will most likely be held virtually and in-person if able to do so. Lisa Hobart and N. Joel Moser have both been invited and have agreed to take part in next year's conference.

11. Conference

Tammy Brown noted they are looking forward to holding the in-person conference next year, but will hold in any manner as they are able to.

12. Historian

Darryl McKenney joked that 2020 has been the year that everything changed, [COVID-19] he noted some life events. There have been some changes including office hours and the current tax bill, in which budget comments are listed on the back of the form. It was the first time in about fifteen years that the tax in Waldoboro remained the same. Home sales are soaring and he anticipates updates and re-evaluations in the near future.

13. Distance Learning

Travis Roy reported that due to the pandemic, many IAAO courses that previously were not accessible online, now are. Case study workshops are now being added. He encouraged people to take advantage of these new offerings.

### New Business:

**Slate of Officers:** On behalf of the Nominating committee, Tammy Brown presented a proposed slate for the three Board members up for re-election:

Dan Robinson

Approved

Martine Painchaud

Roger Hoy

Travis Roy made motion for the secretary to cast ballot to accept the proposed Slate of Officers, seconded by Ruth Birtz. Ruth Birtz cast one vote for the Slate of Officers as presented. There was no further discussion. All Approved with no opposition.

Board Member recognition:

Tammy Brown thanked the entire Board for all their assistance throughout the year, especially during the pandemic.

**Other New Business:**

None

**Adjournment:** Motion made by William Healey Jr., seconded by Lewis Cousins, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 12:26 p.m.