

APPROVED

**Maine Association of Assessing Officers Board Meeting  
May 10, 2024 11:00 a.m.  
MMA, Augusta & Zoom**

Present In-Person: Tammy Brown, Nick Cloutier, Dean Prindle, Luke Vigue, Lewis Cousins, Valerie Moon, Cindy Namer, Darryl McKenney, Chelsea Carll (MMA)

Present via Zoom: Ruth Birtz, William Healey Jr.

Guests: Bonnie Baker, Maine Revenue Services, Peter Osborne, Director of MMA Educational Services

Excused Absent: Travis Roy, Taylor Burns, Theresa Duff

**Call to Order:** President Lewis Cousins called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

**Secretary's Report:** Tammy Brown presented the minutes from March 8, 2024 for review and approval.

Motion made by Nick Cloutier, seconded by Luke Vigue, all approved the March 8, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lewis Cousins reported on the financial reports as of November 30, 2023, December 31, 2023, January 31, 2024, February 29, 2024, and March 31, 2024.

Lewis Cousins reported that November and December financial reports had errors, and the MMA finance team revised the reports for approval at this meeting.

Lewis reviewed page 2 of the December 2023 financial reports and pointed out a net loss on the expenditure line for program and facilities.

Motion by Cindy Namer, seconded by Valerie Moon, all approved the financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

**Committee Report**

1. Audit/Finance (Usually no report until Annual Fall Conference)

- Luke Vigue/Darryl McKenney Report

No report.

2. Awards & Scholarship

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- Tammy Brown/Valarie Moon Report

Tammy Brown reported that one nomination has been received for the Legacy Award and applications are due August 9. Tammy will circulate the application forms for the Legacy Award and Assessor of the Year awards periodically in the listserv. She will also continue to circulate scholarship opportunities to membership.

The group spoke about August 9<sup>th</sup> being a conflicting day for the board to meet and have requested to move it to August 2. MMA will follow up to confirm via email.

### 3. Calendar/Advertisers

- Nick Cloutier/Theresa Duff Report

Nick Cloutier reported that we are at 98% of reaching their goal for advertisers for this year and have exceeded their goal at this stage.

### 4. Conference

- Tammy Brown/Travis Roy/Bill Healey Report

Tammy Brown reported that the conference lineup is set, and MMA will coordinate a tour with Tammy and Cindy of the facility this summer. Bill Healey reported that their presenter Joel Moser will be presenting topics on assessing climate change, mediation, and charitable and benevolent cases. Pat Alesandrini will also be presenting topics on evaluation/understanding the basics, and geospatial analytics – refining neighborhoods using GIS. Bill Healey will send the course outline for approval to Bonnie Baker for credits.

### 5. Distance Learning

- Travis Roy/Lewis Cousins Report

Lewis Cousins reported that the Northern Maine and BAR workshops had more people attend via zoom than in person. Lewis proposed that the group removes the Distance Learning reports from their agenda moving forward.

Motion by Cindy Namer, seconded by Valerie Moon to take Distance Learning off of the board reports.

There was a discussion about virtual training and how it can be more inclusive with shared viewing rooms and potential group rates. Chelsea spoke to MMA's current services for hybrid and remote meetings.

### 6. Education

- Bill Healey/Dean Prindle Report

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Luke Vigue spoke about potential program topics for a session at the MMA Convention. There was a group discussion about holding a panel discussion on income-restricted housing. Luke and Cindy will reach out to some potential panelists. Darryl McKenney spoke about the Maine IAAO potentially having a booth, and Tammy Brown spoke about MAAO potentially sharing the booth with them.

### 7. Ethics

- Travis Roy/Dean Prindle Report

No report.

### 8. Executive Board

- Ruth Birtz Report

No report.

### 9. Historian

- Darryl McKenney Report

Darryl McKenney reported on an IAAO cookbook featured from their archives, which includes 350 recipes contributed from IAAO members.

### 10. Legislative

- Darryl McKenney/Valarie Moon Report

Darryl McKenney reported that today is “veto day”. At the Central Maine Seminar, Amanda Campbell shared that there were 9 bills of interest to assessors. He reported that the “Wiscasset bill” was enacted and LD1 was repealed. There was a discussion about the ramifications of the repeal of LD1.

Darryl McKenney also reported that the working waterfront bill passed. Regarding the appropriations committee, he reported that solar farms will no longer be exempt as of 2025. He reported a change in veterans tax benefits beginning next year, and that the platform on tree growth was not passed. He reported that a bill on farmland will be a carryover. There was a discussion.

### 11. Membership

- Theresa Duff/Cindy Namer Report – (324 Members, 86 are currently unpaid)

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Cindy Namer requested an updated paid/unpaid members list for MAAO and will split up the list of unpaid members amongst the board to solicit dues from them directly via email/phone. Cindy will report back at the next board meeting on their progress.

### 12. Newsletter

- Luke Vigue Report

Luke Vigue reported that he intends to get a Spring newsletter out no later than June. He is soliciting the president's and secretary's letter and is soliciting other articles.

### 13. Technology Report

- Taylor Burns Report

Tammy Brown will be sending updated forms to be updated to the MAAO website to Chelsea Carll.

## **New Business**

- Ratify straw poll vote regarding continuing LSoft Listserv

Motion to keep the listserv and Lsoft by Tammy Brown, seconded by Valerie Moon. All approved, motion passed.

Darryl McKenney spoke about other groups' listserv platforms for future consideration. There was a discussion.

- Northern Maine Spring Workshop Update

Lewis Cousins reported 22 in-person attendees including representatives from MRS. He reported that 22 attended remotely.

- BAR Workshop Update

Bill Healey reported that 29 attended via zoom. The workshop was originally offered via hybrid but moved just to zoom due to low in-person registration counts. The group spoke about offering this event exclusively by zoom in the future.

- Photos for Website

Luke Vigue reported that board members' photos have been collected for the website and would like to have a group photo at the Fall conference.

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- Other

Peter Osborne, Director of MMA Educational Services, joined the meeting at 12:03 PM, and spoke to a recent memo that was circulated to MAAO president regarding the website migration to a common web platform. The MAAO website would migrate to the MMA website, and attributed benefits to this migration include cost reduction due to less staff time and increase functionality for your website. It will allow a more integrated member center, a single sign on would be a convenient change for this website, and additional options for board members to add/remove content independently (permission to upload), better security, and more options for MMA partnership with sponsorship ads and revenue of those ads. The first stage of this transition would be a like-for-like migration of the current platform by the end of this calendar year. The second stage (last 2025 – 2026) will be the incorporation of customized options at ala carte pricing to the MAAO website. Peter reported that website fees will not increase through (at minimum) 2025. The group spoke about having membership-only login access, to improve the incentivization of membership.

Lewis Cousins reported that the annual membership letter has been updated.

Nick Cloutier asked the group if further conference planning meetings are needed. The group will plan to coordinate a planning meeting via zoom after a tour of the venue. Chelsea with MMA will follow up with Cindy and Tammy when a date for a tour is available this month/next.

The group tentatively scheduled a zoom planning session for 11 AM for the full board on Friday, June 21.

- Adjournment

Motion by Valerie Moon, seconded by Nick Cloutier, to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 PM.