



**STATE OF MAINE CHAPTER
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS**

**Executive Board Meeting
July 13, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.
Mathiau Residence, Vassalboro**

MINUTES

Members Present: President Karen Scammon; Vice President Darryl McKenney; Secretary Barbara Brewer; Treasurer Clinton Swett; Past-President Judy Mathiau; Executive Board Members Natalie Andrews, Nick Cloutier, Amber Poulin and Joe St. Peter. Other attendees included Kyle Avila, Bill Brunelle, Jeff Kendall, Kerry Leichtman, and Wade Rainey.

Members Absent: Lauren Asselin and Brent Martin

Karen called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M.

Secretary's Report: Judy moved to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2023, meeting as written. Nick seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Clint reported a current balance of \$16,566.73. Clint also presented his draft letter supporting Bill Healey's candidacy for the Vice President of the IAAO. Once signed by Karen, the letter will be sent along with a \$250 check from the ME Chapter of the IAAO as a campaign donation. Judy moved that the letter and check issuance be approved by the Board, Nick seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Education**
 - Nick completed his interview/presentation for the University of Maine in Augusta. As mentioned in last month's Board meeting, Nick was asked to participate in a video endeavor to encourage students to consider municipal government as a viable career (and hopefully assessing in particular). Nick's interview was an hour long and will be presented to high school seniors and UMA students.
 - Nick circulated the registration for an upcoming class entitled "An Informal Look at the Income Approach" presented by Jim Thomas and sponsored by John O'Donnell & Associates. This class will be held on July 21st in New Gloucester and will also be taught at Property Tax School in Belfast.
 - Due to the repeal of LD 290, Property Tax Stabilization, the ME Chapter of the IAAO has partnered with the CMAAO and the MAAO to present an educational session to explain the legislative updates and ways we can assist and communicate with the taxpayer. Nick has drafted a registration form that has the basic outline. The educational session will be via Zoom and free to members of the three assessors' groups and only \$10 for nonmembers. Nick has contacted Maine Revenue Services and they will grant 2.5 credit hours for this educational session. Judy agreed to handle the registrations and Amber and Judy will cohost the Zoom event. Nick will have the registration form

done tonight that we can send it via e-mail to our ME Chapter members, the CMAAO, and the MAAO listserv since the class is scheduled for July 26th which is coming up soon.

Nick also shared his LD 290 repeal announcement that Scarborough is using to inform taxpayers of the changes to Property Tax Deferral and Property Tax Relief programs as part of the repeal. Darryl also handed out a couple of additional examples of what other municipalities are using as a summary of property tax relief programs currently available to the taxpayer. The Board agreed that communication is key and hopes to work with the Acting Director of Maine Revenue Services Property Division toward improving communication between the State and assessors.

- Lastly, Nick mentioned that the Property Tax School will be held in Belfast during the first week of August at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center for the last time as the Hutchinson Center will not be available to Maine Revenue after this year.
- **Legislative**
 - Other than the repeal of LD 290, Kerry mentioned that the proposed legislation to allow irrevocable trusts to qualify for the homestead property tax exemption did not pass. Kerry also discussed the budget signed by Governor Mills and how the homestead reimbursement to the municipalities was “frozen” at 76% and that no provision was made to reimburse municipalities for the cost of labor in processing the Property Tax Stabilization applications.
- **Membership**
 - Barbara handed out a revised membership form for 2024 that encompasses several changes discussed, such as adding a line for IAAO membership, and removing educational topic suggestions (since we ask for suggestions after each training session). The Board approved the new form, no vote was necessary to accept the changes.
 - Judy suggested that a free lifetime membership be extended to Julie Romano Ethridge for all her years of hard work as the Board Secretary. Nick moved that a free membership be extended to Julie. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- **Audit**
 - Nothing to report.
- **Nominating**
 - The Nomination Committee will need to present its report to the Board by October 1st. Barbara will send a list of those expiring Board positions to the Board.
- **Communications**
 - Joe discussed his desire to get a greater number of ME Chapter members, who are not currently on the Board, more involved. He appreciates the help we receive from members like Bill, Kyle, and Kerry. The newsletter is one way to get members engaged and this past newsletter was a success due to those who contributed. The Board complimented Joe on this past newsletter. It was enjoyable to read and had a lot of good information (such as the results from the Winter Meeting

survey that Nick compiled). Joe plans to get the next newsletter published in October and welcomes any contributions from the Board.

- Joe went on to discuss some planned website edits, such as updating the mission statement, adding new photos, providing a membership directory, a “hall of fame” section, etc.
- As far as our ability to file share, it’s not quite up and running yet but Joe has created a file share through SharePoint that he can use in the meantime. Julie has forwarded her Board documents to Joe and he has successfully uploaded them.
- As an aside, Barbara mentioned inviting the assessor of the town in which the Board is holding its monthly meeting to join the meeting in hopes of engaging more members outside the Board to become involved.

1. IAAO

- Nothing to report.

Sub-Committee Reports

2. History

- Darryl brought two items for our review. A poll tax bill from 1923 from Minot, Maine, in the amount of \$37.50 and a book titled “1899 Report of the Board State Assessors”.

3. Nominating

- Nothing to report.

Old Business

- **Application Format for New Scholarship.** Judy presented her revised application form for the new Ledew Scholarship. A couple of minor edits were suggested. The deadline was intended to be November 1st, but because of our desire to announce the new scholarship at the annual meeting this year, the deadline will be pushed forward. We will still have a chance to review any applications and decide on the award recipient at year end.
- **IAAO VP Candidate Healey Endorsement.** This item was already discussed under the Treasurer’s Report.
- **Upcoming annual meeting.** Because of the repeal of LD 290 and the ME Chapter’s priority in coordinating an educational session on July 26th, Nick has not had the opportunity to focus on the November 9th annual meeting.

New Business

Though there was no new business on the agenda, Clint just wanted to mention that he received an email regarding the new Maine Tax portal from Maine Revenue. There will be an educational session on the new portal offered at Property Tax School in Belfast

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14th at 10:00 a.m.

Judy moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 A.M, and Clint seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Brewer, Secretary