



STATE OF MAINE CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS

Executive Board Meeting
February 20, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.
Auburn City Hall, 60 Court Street

MINUTES

Members Present: President Darryl McKenney; Vice President Joe St. Peter; Secretary Barbara Brewer; Treasurer Clinton Swett (remote); Past President Karen Scammon; Executive Board Members Natalie Andrews, Lauren Asselin, Terri Duff (remote), Kerry Leichtman (remote), Brent Martin (remote) and Amber Poulin (remote). Bonnie Baker and Bill Brunelle were also in attendance.

Members Absent: None

Darryl called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Joe moved to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2024, meeting as written. Natalie seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Barbara abstained from the vote as she was absent from the December meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Clint reported a current balance of \$10,209.42. Clint stated that he paid the annual fee for our domain name (\$21.17) and the venue for our recent annual meeting (Jeff's catering in the amount of \$1,536.56). Clint enjoyed Jeff's as a venue. Natalie moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Education:** Natalie stated that the annual meeting at Jeff's Catering in Brewer went well. She added that the remote option, which she chose because of the weather, was fine, which was good to hear as Joe admitted that offering the meeting as a hybrid (in person and remote) was a bit tricky. Darryl asked if the location seemed agreeable to the overall group. Joe replied that it was nice to offer a location a little further north of Augusta. The issue of cost for the meetings was also discussed. Natalie agreed to serve on the Education Committee for this year and Karen agreed to be the Education Coordinator.
- **Legislative:** Bill Brunelle mentioned that there are currently 2,050 bills submitted this legislative. At least 70 of these bills relate to property tax. Some of these bills will require a constitutional amendment. Kerry added that he is currently working on a bill to regulate short term rentals.
- **Membership:** Barbara reported that there are currently 139 members of the ME Chapter for 2025. There are four pending memberships as Barbara is just waiting for the members' payments, which will bring the 2025 total to 143.
- **Audit:** Amber checked with Quan Minh Le (assessor in Freeport), and he agreed to serve on the Audit Committee. Terri also agreed to serve on the Committee.

- **Nominating:** Barbara asked the Nominating Committee to think about a nominee to serve as Secretary beginning next year. Barbara is happy to serve on the Board in another capacity, but the work involved in being Secretary is a bit intensive for her upcoming schedule. She suggested that Donald Ferrara might be a good choice as he has volunteered to serve on the Executive Board for the past couple of years. Brent checked in with Donald and he is interested in the position.
- **Communications:** Joe is working on the next newsletter which he hopes to publish in March. He has articles from Bill and Barbara plus he is working on an article regarding TIFs. Joe is also looking for a “Just Ask the Assessor” article for Amber, please send any suggestions to either Joe or Amber.

Joe is also hoping to revisit the possibility of a Maine Chapter cookbook. Joe also mentioned that while our website is current it could use some edits. He is hoping the members of the Communications Committee could “adopt a page” and help with any adjustments that might be needed. Other items of note on our website include the membership list and the training calendar (which includes all assessor training events, not just the Maine Chapter of the IAAO). Joe is still hoping to add a photo of the Board if we have a chance to meet in person as a group this year.

Joe further mentioned that the Maine Chapter of the IAAO will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2028.

Lastly, Joe mentioned that the JATA list is a little out of date, as one assessor on the list has retired and another will be retiring next year.

- **IAAO:** Kerry mentioned that nothing is happening right now.

Ad Hoc Committee Report

- **History:** Darryl will add Azadeh Mashhadi (appraiser in Auburn) to the History Committee.

Old Business

- **None**

New Business

- **2025 Educational Events-**Karen asked about planning an event in either May or June as we have a long-time assessor retiring right around that time and it would be nice to celebrate their accomplishments in some way. In looking at the calendar, we have a Board meeting on May 15th. Since the Board agreed that a meeting before the next training event would be useful, the next training event was set for May 22nd. As far as topics, Karen suggested that abatements and supplements might be good. Amber added that Nicole Philbrook might be willing to discuss abatements and supplements. Natalie also suggested solar as a topic. Bonnie mentioned that Josh Bragan, who works for Garnet Robinson, might be a good speaker. Kerry suggested including such concepts as “manifestly wrong” be taught as well. Others who might be interested in presenting at a future event include Valerie Moon and Benjamin Thompson as they can talk on a variety of subjects.

Karen suggested that Central Maine Community College might be a good venue for a meeting, and Board members also suggested several other places which include returning to Jeff's or the Augusta Civic Center. Karen will send out the list of places suggested to the Education Committee, this list includes Maple Hill Farm, Green Ladle, the Bethel Inn, Spring Meadows (Gray), Poland Springs (Poland), Pineland Farms (New Gloucester), etc. Amber added that information gathering should be consistent so that we can compare actual costs. The list of venues will be divided by the Education Committee (Karen, Natalie, Lauren, and Amber) so that each member can call.

- **2025 Annual Meeting & Planning-** At the December meeting, the date for the annual meeting was set for November 20th. Joe mentioned that the Board can decide to be flexible if needed on the date.
- **Property Tax School, Evening Program Volunteering/Co-sponsoring.** Bonnie mentioned that Property Tax School will be providing food trucks in the evenings from 4-6 (Monday through Wednesday of that week) for assessors staying overnight at Thomas College who wish to purchase dinner. To provide networking and some fun in the evenings, Bonnie is asking the assessors' groups to volunteer/co-sponsor some of the evening activities to go along with the food trucks. Kerry suggested a movie night, Joe suggested corn hole on the lawn, and other Board members, Amber, Lauren, Darryl, etc., volunteered to help in any way. There is another meeting by the unofficial "activities" committee on March 11th so more information will be made available as Property Tax School gets closer.
- **Potential JATA Session at CMAAO Spring Seminar in April** Amber asked if the CMAAO could incorporate "Just Ask the Assessor" (JATA) into their spring seminar? The group would solicit questions ahead of time from membership. The Seminar will be held at the Sea Dogs (Bangor) on April 10th. The Board agreed that the CMAAO could use terminology with no issue. Darryl volunteered to answer questions at this meeting as one of the assessors of "JATA". Amber will take other volunteers should anyone else from the Board want to participate.

Amber moved to adjourn the meeting, and Joe seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed and the Board adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Brewer, Secretary