



STATE OF MAINE CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS

Executive Board Meeting
March 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 (remote); Treasurer Clinton Swett; Past President Karen Scammon; Executive Board Members Natalie Andrews (remote), Lauren Asselin, and Terri Duff (remote). Bonnie Baker was also in attendance.

Members Absent: Kerry Leichtman, Brent Martin, and Amber Poulin

Darryl called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Joe moved to accept the minutes of the February 20, 2025, meeting as written. Clint seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Clint reported a current balance of \$10,599.42. Joe moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Lauren seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Clint also reported that he completed the 990-N annual filing for 2024 for the IRS and has submitted the application for Maine tax exemption for the Chapter.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Education:** Karen, Lauren, Amber, and Natalie have been working on the upcoming May 22ND educational event. The selected venue is the Augusta Civic Center. Natalie will get the contract from the Civic Center for May 22nd and forward to Clint. Karen mentioned that Natalie has been in touch with Dan Stevenson as a speaker for the event. Dan is an Economic Development Director and he is available on May 22nd. Karen dismissed the topic of TIFs as other assessing groups are addressing the topic. She then requested that the Board narrow down other topics for discussion. Karen suggested that a second topic could be abatements and supplementals with a discussion included on the concept of manifestly wrong. Darryl and Joe agreed that this would be a good topic. Joe mentioned that the Board could also fill the day with some activities, which is a nice feature of our training, but that some additional educational content is needed. Karen suggested that because it's a spring event, an update on the current market from someone in real estate might be a nice, light, useful topic. Joe added that he believes this might be well received since the last time the topic was presented there was quite a bit of audience participation. Bonnie provided contact information for Aaron Bolster at Allied Realty. Karen will reach out to him to see if he is available. Lauren suggested a session on deeds and remembered that we had an attorney speak at a previous event (maybe at the Green Ladle) on the topic and he was funny and kept it light. Solar was dismissed as a topic since, as Darryl pointed out, some further guidance from the State is needed.

Darryl mentioned that the CMAAO will have a spring meeting on April 10th. The topics will include TIFs, assessor burn out, and a round table discussion of JATA (“Just Ask the Assessor”).

- **Legislative:** None
- **Membership:** Barbara reported that there are currently 144 members of the Maine Chapter of the IAAO.
- **Audit:** None
- **Nominating:** None
- **Communications:** Joe has most of the content for the newsletter. He needs one more article from Amber. He hopes to get the newsletter published next week. If anyone has any announcements, please send them to Joe for inclusion in the newsletter. Joe will include information regarding the May meeting in the newsletter as a “save the date” item.

Joe is also updating the JATA list. He will include the updated list on our website. Joe hopes to refresh the website over the next few months. He wants to make certain that the content is current. If any Board members have suggestions or recommendations to improve the website content, please let him know.

Bonnie mentioned that the MRS will be sponsoring an IAAO week-long course in October in Portland. The course selected is IAAO 400, Assessment Administration.

- **IAAO:** Lauren reminded the Board that the IAAO offers many two-day workshops, and these workshops are listed on the IAAO (learn.iaao.org) website. The annual IAAO conference will take place in Orlando this year from September 21st through the 24th.

Ad Hoc Committee Report

- **History:** None

Old Business

- **2025 Educational Events-**the Board returned to the topic of the May 22nd educational event with a discussion regarding the times of day, selection of food, and cost for members to attend. Karen stated that the venue will be booked from 8:00-4:00 that day. The Board can set up the room around 8:00 and the last educational event should end at 4:00. The Board agreed that a light afternoon snack will be provided for the attendees.

The cost of attendance was also broached since the Maine Chapter has lost money in recent years on these events. Unfortunately, the cost of hosting educational events has increased significantly over recent years. Barbara recommended raising the cost to attend by \$5 for both members and non-members. Natalie recommended that Board members, who traditionally have not been required to pay to attend, pay the member fee for their attendance. Barbara asked for a compromise on this policy since Board members do a lot of the work to put on an event and only ask that Board members pay half the

fee. Clint would like the Board to notify members of the increasing costs and put a fee increase in motion next year. Barbara stated that our fees have been steady for years and that an increase is overdue. Darryl agreed with these arguments and put forth that the fee for the May 22nd meeting be \$55 for members and \$70 for non-members and that Board members pay ½ the member fee to attend (\$27.50). The Board can revisit the fees for the annual meeting in November.

A plea from the Secretary, Barbara asks that Board members make a note that ½ fee for attendance for the May 22nd meeting will be needed. Please be pro-active and submit the registration form and appropriate fee without prompting by the Secretary if you plan to attend.

- **2025 Annual Meeting & Planning**-the date for the annual meeting has been tentatively scheduled for November 20th. Lauren commented on the Hilton in Auburn as a possible venue for the November annual meeting. Karen will reach out and see if it is available and get a cost estimate.
- **Property Tax School, Evening Program Volunteering/Co-sponsoring (Update)**. Some discussion regarding the former Board member entering retirement was held. Karen mentioned that a celebration of the retiree's career during Property Tax School would be a nice way to honor their contributions to the Maine Chapter. Speakers (such as David Ledew, Kerry Leichtman, and Clint) could share stories, old photos could be displayed, and some decorations would be nice. Barbara asked if the Board could grant the retiree a lifetime membership to the Maine Chapter to acknowledge their service to the Maine Chapter (as has been done several times in the past). The Board agreed. Darryl would like to honor the retiree with some type of plaque. Natalie suggested "retiring" this person's "number" (assumably the CMA #) and presenting the retiree with a commemorative jersey with their name and number. As the date of Property Tax School approaches, the volunteer activities and the celebration for the honored retiree will be more detailed.

New Business

- **None**

Joe moved to adjourn the meeting, and Barbara seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed and the Board adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 17th.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Brewer, Secretary