

**STATE OF MAINE CHAPTER
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS
Executive Committee Meeting
May 13, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
MRS, Augusta, Maine**

MINUTES

Executive Committee Members in attendance: President Kerry Leichtman, Vice President Judy Mathiau, Past President Wade Rainey, Treasurer Matt Sturgis (at 10:15), Secretary Clint Swett, Directors Kyle Avila, Martine Painchaud, Susan Russo, Darryl McKenney (at 10:20).

Also present was Nichole Philbrick of MRS

Members absent: none

The meeting opened at 10:00 a.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Wade Rainey moved to accept the 4/15/16 minutes as written, seconded by Martine Painchaud, all in favor as motion passes unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Matt Sturgis stated that our checking account (as of 5/13/16) is \$4,733 and our savings account has a balance of \$8,609.27.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education – Kyle Avila reports that the Property Tax Institute (PTI) was a big success! Sunday River provided a great venue, hospitality, and conference space for our excellent presentations. Kyle is working on new panels for the display board and said it will take the form of a living document used for future events. Excellent comments about the food and staff. Question was asked if we wanted to include the MAAO, but they are working with MRS Dave Ledew on other topics.

Fall meeting will be our next gathering as we are now searching for topics.

- Specialized properties - More legal review for deeds and subdivisions (much was covered by our PTI instructor); keep reviewing it for those who missed it, very good information. MRS could cover some of this topic, as well.
- Dangerous Properties (Meth labs, Grow rooms, etc.) - Kerry indicated that it would be a good idea to inform assessors who may stumble across a dangerous situation. Meth labs are known for having explosive chemicals and present imminent danger.
- Marijuana - what's legal and what isn't? How do you place a value on a grow facility with grow-light equipment, hydroponics, technology involved, scale of operations, and available sales data? There were questions regarding if this was an agricultural or MRS issue. Perhaps we could have a legislator or Tom Murphy provide insight.
- O'Donnell's Solar Farm - Perhaps a field trip to this area, suggested by Judy Mathiau.
- Home Building Components - hear a presentation about today's home building products/cost/what they do? Interlocking foam in basement and how it affects the grade of the house, looking behind the walls for details. There are so many different materials to choose from. Geothermal pumps, heat pumps, and air exchangers also provide different values.

Poster board (Kyle) bring to meeting? Will bring them to Property Tax School as they are a work in progress. Clint will also bring the binders to the next event.

(Judy) Information about Property Tax School will be presented in the June newsletter.

Legislation – Nothing to report (Kerry)

Membership – Judy, about 114 members...gained two members, Ben Thompson (Lebanon selectman assessor) and Shirley Bartlett (Assessor's Agent). We need to check new members/CMA, and offer the 1st year free...check with Jeff Kendall to see who passed and issue welcome letters.

Audit – Nothing to report (Martine)

Nominating – See OLD BUSINESS below

Newsletter – Judy: draft went out earlier this week, some edits will be done. A blurb about tax school. next 2 wks...(Clint) create distribution list from mailing list that Judy sent me. The Logo looks nice.

New articles about taxation issues in different states is very interesting (via the IAAO emails). Matt: have Steve Weed expand on foreclosure/auction.com, continue discussion on the Bangor/Casino negotiations utilizing the income approach....Air BnB (Kerry) good education topic...keep short stories/news w/presidents' summary, and then have a feature article, etc.

History –Wade, good work on the panel! PTI event was the unveiling, all in all, it worked out well with lots of people checking it out. It was not too heavy and had a good carrying case. Julie should be replaced on the history committee and Kyle agreed to fill her position. It will have many uses in the future!

OLD BUSINESS:

Nomination - Wade Rainey nominates Darryl McKenney as a board member; Judy made a motion to accept Wade's nomination, Kyle seconds the motion, voting was unanimous. Welcome Darryl to the board!

Secretary position has been filled by Clinton Swett through the end of Julie Ethridge's term ending December 31, 2017. Judy has reorganized the secretary's files and given them to Clint on a thumb-drive. Thanks to Judy and Susan for their assistance.

Board of Assessors Training – Kerry said that he was approached by a member suggesting training videos for local Boards of Assessors. Kerry said he would contact the Maine Media Workshop in Rockport to request filming assistance. (Kerry update) ideas can be confidential, he will ask MAAO, CMAAO, NMAAO and other groups to put out info to their membership, talk it up and try to get as much information as possible complete with a list of items that are common issues; can then focus on the product. This meeting first come up with a time table before the meeting with Maine Media as we will have to coordinate with them to have it done professionally; coordinating with the school year. We need to come up with ideas! Contact BOA to see what they want to see in a video.

JATA "Just Ask the Assessor" – Judy proposed a program that would involve our Chapter membership. She would like to create a survey that would ask members if they would be willing to participate as a mentor to new assessors. The survey would ask what their specialties are, if they could be contacted and perhaps even be willing to allow the new CMA to shadow for a day. She will create the survey and distribute to the board for feedback. (Judy update) Created a summary of the program (handout), scenario to provide the new CMA with the opportunity to connect with a professional assessor, survey

the chapter for a list of volunteers, the survey would ask for specialty properties in their town, interests, what town they are from; sounds like a good idea!! Need to come back to the next meeting with a complete package, Judy will be in charge of the list, which will be included in the welcome package to new CMA people. This needs to be promoted at chapter events and distribute the information out to the groups. A major article will be included in the next newsletter just before tax school towards the end of July.

MAAO CONVENTION MEETING IN BANGOR - Kerry has spoken with Bill Healey to plan our educational offering at the convention. It will be a panel of organizations serving assessors, and its purpose will be to inform assessors what is available to help them get things done...no list yet and we may not be able to fill the whole time. We could have reps from Mapgeo and CAI GIS informational to talk about their products.

Perhaps screen the movie *Nosey Parker*...buy barn/renovate has nothing to do with the town, BOA want to come in to do an inspection but, this may not be the correct forum this movie.

The MMA convention will be rotated between Augusta/Bangor, maybe Portland.

NEW BUSINESS

Future New Business – Manager Outreach Kerry, affiliate meeting? if video is successful for assessors, we may want to create a video for the managers as well, explaining the value of the assessing department, chief money raiser for the town. A Board of assessment review video would also be beneficial. Dave Ledew spoke about this in the past.

They also need to understand tax law (Kyle), explain working relationship with MRS/training, how we are growing with more CMAs. (Matt) there are people available who want to advance into assessing field, with differing levels of CMA.

We should invite Dave to the next meeting, as there are resources available to help hire a new assessor for towns in need.

MEETING SCHEDULE - Kerry...moving forward, we should plan a spring meeting far enough away from PTI to have it a separate event. Meetings earlier in November, next mid-January and next meeting at the end of March.

PTI will be 1st or 2nd week in May. June meetings are tough, so no go. July is no better. Suggest a November 4th meeting, checking to see if Wishcamper is available on that day.

January 13th check Lewiston High School for availability; with our executive board meeting **BEFORE** the event at 8:30am.

March 24th meeting at O'Donnells for solar farm meeting. (Judy will get in touch with them).

June's meeting is at Judy's home.

Judy Mathiau moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m., seconded by Wade Rainey, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully Submitted By
Clinton Swett, Secretary*