



GARDINER CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET



Meeting Date	02/05/2020	Department	City Council
Agenda Item	4.5 Maine Service Center Coalition 2020 Resolution for Membership and Appointment of Voting Delegate Representative and Alternate		
Est. Cost	\$689.40 Annual Dues		

Background Information

The City of Gardiner currently participates in the Maine Service Center Coalition. The City Manager serves as President of this organization.

The Maine Service Centers Coalition (MSCC) was established in September 2001 for the purpose of promoting public policy and legislation that supports and contributes to the economic and social viability of Maine's service center communities. The MSCC is an affiliate organization of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA). The MSCC establishes policy/legislative priorities and objectives as determined by its membership and works collaboratively with MMA's Executive Committee and Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) for this purpose.

The MSCC's primary purpose, generally speaking, is to:

- Promote and advocate for legislation and policy that benefit the economic and social viability of member communities.
- Work with the interests and priorities expressed by the Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Policy Committee.
- Increase the knowledge and awareness of legislators, policy makers, interested organizations, rural communities, and Maine residents regarding MSCC issues and needs.

Mission Statement

"To provide a mechanism which will articulate the needs of service centers to our elected officials; to educate our citizenry as to the importance of healthy and thriving service centers; and to network and collaborate with municipal officials, the legislature, state agencies and non-profits in the pursuit of promoting better quality-of-life for all who visit, work, or live in Maine."

Vision Statement

"Strive to be an organization that shall operate with the best interest of those who live, work, and depend on service center communities for a myriad of needs and will advocate for:

- Achieving a more equitable treatment of service center communities, and those that shall soon become service center communities, who often face significant social, educational, recreational, land use, public safety, and a variety of infrastructure pressures.
- Helping all citizens and our legislature better understand the unique nature of our service centers and their importance to a healthy state economy.
- Addressing escalating property tax levels and why we must move to, once and for all, comprehensively address the deficiencies of an antiquated system of taxation that places a disproportionate dependence on property taxes.

Embracing the following as the organization's primary objectives:

1. To provide advice and support to Maine's service centers throughout the state.
2. Recommend, develop and advocate policy positions to the legislature and to the Maine Municipal Association.
3. Create public forums for the exchange of information that concern service and or urban centers.
4. Advise the Maine Municipal Association about developments within this organization of service/urban center communities.
5. To promote the potential values associated with inter-municipal cooperation and collaboration."

Requested Action	'I move to appoint City Manager Landes as the MSCC Representative and _____ as the alternate.'
City Manager and/or Finance Review	The City Manager recommends the above action.
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____

MAINE SERVICE CENTERS COALITION

60 Community Drive • Augusta, Maine 04330 • (207) 623-8428

Christine Landes, Chair
City of Gardiner
(207) 582-4800

Catherine Conlow, Vice Chair
City of Bangor
(207) 992-4204

January 17, 2020

Ms. Christine Landes, City Manager
City of Gardiner
6 Church Street
Gardiner, ME 04345

Scott Morelli, Secretary
City of South Portland
(207) 767-3201

James Bennett, Treasurer
City of Biddeford
(207) 284-9313

Dear MSCC COMMUNITY MBR KO:

As the second session of 129th Maine Legislature begins we are asking that you renew your dues support of the Maine Service Centers Coalition. Your municipal revenue received significant and long overdue increases in the 2019 Maine Legislative Session. Our efforts along with MMA and other interested parties resulted in the increase in Revenue Sharing from the original \$74 million in 2019 to approximately \$105 million in FY 2020 and \$143 million in FY 2021.

The budget enacted last June also included a fully State funded expansion of the homestead exemption from \$20,000 to \$25,000. Obviously the new Administration and bipartisan majorities in the Maine Senate and House deserve part of the credit for this dramatic turnaround in Maine's budget priorities and for their support in numerous other areas including local aid to education funding, county jails, workers compensation reform and the critical need for the \$100 million transportation bond package approved by Maine's voters in November.

Your membership and support are now even more important to our continued success. It will take a collective effort to maintain and continue the restoration and protection of municipal revenue as the new Administration and Legislature continue to repair the damage from the recent twelve years of band aids in biennial budgets. Recent revenue figures show that Maine ended the recent fiscal year with a budget surplus of \$168 million. Unfortunately, this legislative session began with more than \$250 million in carried over bond proposals and worthy state agency and municipal program needs.

Full funding of Revenue Sharing is part of the base budget that the next legislature will begin 2021 with. In addition to protecting last session's gains our major priorities include addressing the need for permanent solutions to county jail funding, local share of marijuana revenue to compensate municipalities for administrative costs, more responsive Tax Increment Finance rules and regulations and some overdue changes to the General Assistance burden for many of Maine's Service Centers.

The need for your participation in the Maine Service Centers Coalition's advocacy efforts has never been greater. We will continue to work with a group of organizations to restore full funding of all revenue to municipalities. Our strategy includes holding every Maine legislator accountable for every vote that impacts municipal revenue or impairs our ability to provide property tax relief to our citizens. However, as always we will need your help support and input.

Given the obvious advantage of experienced political advice and relationship, the Maine Service Centers Coalition leadership and staff will again rely upon Richard Trahey and his firm of Maine Governmental Relations for professional lobbying staff support. I believe that this relationship with Richard has benefited the Coalition greatly in providing us access to policy makers, sound policy advice and effective advocacy services.

We are enclosing the MSCC Membership Dues invoice for 2020 and hope you will respond favorably. Membership dues are set at twelve cents per capita based on your community's population (established by the latest State Revenue Sharing data available) with a minimum dues payment of \$500 per community. Also enclosed please find an informational form that we ask you to update and return to us. Please be sure to note to whom we should rely upon as the principal REPRESENTATIVE and ALTERNATE for your community.

In addition, please feel free to contact me directly at the Gardiner City Hall (207.582.4200) or by e-mail at clandes@gardinermaine.com.

Once again, thank you for your municipality's past support. Together we can make 2020 a productive year for the Maine Service Centers Coalition.

Sincerely,



Christine Landes
Chairperson
Maine Service Centers Coalition

Enclosures (3)

MAINE SERVICE CENTER COALITION

**2020 Resolution for Membership and
Appointment of Voting Delegate Representative and Alternate**

BE IT RESOLVED that the _____
(City/Town Council or Board of Selectmen)

hereby authorizes membership in the Maine Service Center Coalition and designates:

(name) (position in municipality)

to be the appointed REPRESENTATIVE for the Maine Service Centers Coalition and is therefore authorized to vote at the Maine Service Centers Coalition business meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the designated ALTERNATE is:

(name) (position in municipality)

Dated

Attested To By:

Please return this Resolution as soon as possible to:

Maine Service Centers Coalition
c/o Theresa Chavarie, Manager, Member Relations
Maine Municipal Association
60 Community Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330
E-mail: tchavarie@memun.org

MAINE SERVICE CENTERS COALITION

VOTING DELEGATES - 2020

Membership Information Sheet

MSCC REPRESENTATIVE	MSCC ALTERNATE
NAME:	NAME:
TITLE:	TITLE:
MUNICIPALITY:	MUNICIPALITY:
MAILING ADDRESS:	MAILING ADDRESS:
CITY/ST/ZIP:	CITY/ST/ZIP:
TOWN OFFICE PHONE:	TOWN OFFICE PHONE:
WORK PHONE:	WORK PHONE:
HOME PHONE:	HOME PHONE:
FAX PHONE:	FAX PHONE:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	E-MAIL ADDRESS:

RETURN TO:

Maine Service Centers Coalition
c/o Theresa Chavarie, Manager of Member Relations
Maine Municipal Association
60 Community Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330
FAX: (207) 626-3358
E-MAIL: tchavarie@memun.org