



**MME Board of Directors Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, October 27, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.  
League Lansing Office & Zoom Video Conference**

Acting President Christian Wuerth called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and led the Board in a moment of silence for President Christine Burns who passed away last month.

I. Convene and Roll Call

Directors present:

Christian Wuerth, Acting President; Village Manager; Milford  
Brad Kaye, City Manager; Midland  
Laura Lam, Deputy City Manager; Kalamazoo  
Sarah Moyer-Cale, City Manager; Hastings  
Mark Rambo, Deputy County Administrator; Kent County  
Deborah Stuart, City Manager; Mason  
Julius Suchy, Township Manager; Ada Township

Directors on Zoom:

Michael Cain, Immediate Past President; City Manager; Boyne City  
Aaron Desentz, City Manager; Mt. Pleasant  
Bridgette Grandsen, Vice President; Administrator/Controller; Midland County  
Mark Heydlauff, City Manager; Charlevoix  
James Krizan, City Manager; Lincoln Park  
Devin Olson, City Manager; Munising  
Tom Tanghe, City Manager; Auburn Hills

Also present:

Kelly Warren, Secretary/Treasurer; MML  
Margaret Mooney, MML  
Katie Farver, MML (on Zoom)  
Nicole Bidwell, MML (on Zoom)  
Asante Cain, Assistant to the City Manager; Grand Rapids (on Zoom)  
Matt Fulton, ICMA (on Zoom)  
Nicole Klepadlo, Nonprofit Spot (on Zoom)  
Frank Walsh, Member Success Committee Chairperson; Township Manager;  
Meridian Township (on Zoom)  
Griffin Graham, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee; Assistant City  
Manager; South Haven (on Zoom)

Pat McGinnis, Advocacy Committee Chairperson; City Manager; Portage  
Mark Washington, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Chairperson; City  
Manager; Grand Rapids

II. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of June, July, and August 2023 Financial Statements
- b. Approval of July 24, 2023 minutes
- c. Approval of the 2024 Meeting Dates
- d. Chris Burns Scholarship Contribution Confirmation

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion by: Deborah Stuart

Seconded by: Tom Tanghe

Motion carried.

III. Committee Updates

- a. Professional Development Committee: Winter Institute Locations for 2025, 2026, & 2027

The Board reviewed the Professional Development Committee's location recommendations for the Winter Institute to be held at the Grand Traverse Resort in 2026 and in Kalamazoo at the Radisson in 2027. The committee is also working with Aaron Desentz to solidify the details for a 2025 MME conference to be held in Mt. Pleasant in 2025.

Motion to approve the Winter Institute locations for 2026 and 2027.

Motion by: Julius Suchy

Seconded by: Brad Kaye

Motion carried.

- b. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: Presentation

Mark Washington and Asante Cain from Grand Rapids presented on the purpose of the MME Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee to the Board and shared their recommendation for the ICMA Racial Equity Toolkit to be included as a resource on the MME website for members to utilize. Griffin Graham from South Haven also presented to the Board on how his community has successfully used the Toolkit. Aaron Desentz expressed that the Board did not receive the Toolkit for review prior to this meeting and Deborah Stuart added that the process for Board action when adding such resources to the website should be clarified.

Motion to endorse the ICMA Racial Equity Toolkit as a resource.

Motion by: Julius Suchy

Seconded by: Laura Lam

Opposed by: Aaron Desentz

Motion carried.

Mark Heydlauff added that he has put together a more in-depth purpose statement for the DEI Committee that he will seek further Board feedback and action on at a later time.

**c. Advocacy Committee: Request**

Pat McGinnis and Julius Suchy shared the Advocacy Committee's request for MME to sponsor a table during the upcoming MTA conference for \$750 to serve as a resource for attendees to learn about the Council-Manager form of government and encourage membership.

Motion to approve the request.

Motion by: Sarah Moyer-Cale

Seconded by: Mark Rambo

Deborah Stuart added that there are other opportunities to spread awareness about the profession and supports the expansion of this.

Motion carried.

**d. Member Success Committee: Update**

Frank Walsh gave an update on recent efforts of the Member Success Committee, including the custom chocolate bars that were distributed at the 2023 Summer Workshop and the session they sponsored with Michigan State University's Interim President Theresa Woodruff, also at the 2023 Summer Workshop. He added that the committee is now working on a session for the upcoming Winter Institute and collaborating with the MME Senior Advisors to offer additional help for Managers in Transition.

**e. Ethics Committee: Update**

Christian Wuerth reported on behalf of Daryl Delabbio that the Ethics Committee has not had anything to review but they did hold a meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the ICMA Code of Ethics, along with some additional items from recent Listserv discussions.

**IV. 2024 Budget Adoption**

Christian Wuerth prefaced this discussion to say that the budget will change from what is presented at this meeting and some of the dollar amounts are placeholders. He also shared that he plans to present an outline of a revised budget adoption process at the December Board meeting with the hope of improving the process. This would include an initial review of the budget by the full Board at their meeting during the Summer Workshop. Nicole Bidwell and Katie Farver presented the budget for discussion by the Board and discussion included thoughts on the membership dues structure, year-end projections, and staffing support costs. Discussion concluded that the dues structure will remain the same as 2023, the Colloquium line item will be

renamed to Advocacy/Promotion and be increased to \$10,000 for future contributions and participation with MTA and other organizations, and \$5,000 will be added to Miscellaneous. The approval of MML staffing costs was also determined to require a separate motion.

Motion to approve the MML services dollar amount.

Motion by: Julius Suchy

Seconded by: Mark Heydlauff

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the budget as discussed and amended today.

Motion by: Mark Rambo

Seconded by: Sarah Moyer-Cale

Motion carried.

#### V. Nonprofit Spot Renewal Request

Christian Wuerth and Nicole Klepadlo discussed the Nonprofit Spot's work so far and goals for the future. Nicole highlighted that leveraging the work of each MME committee and establishing synergy among this work to help track metrics and outcomes is a primary goal, as well as contacting sponsors based on their budget seasons to capture annual sponsorship funds proactively. Sarah Moyer-Cale added that she would like to know more about what the Nonprofit Spot is working on. Currently the Executive Committee meets with Nicole once a month but perhaps this could shift so there is a report back to the full Board.

Motion to approve the extension of services with the Nonprofit Spot for 2024.

Motion by: Brad Kaye

Seconded by: Julius Suchy

Motion carried.

#### VI. ICMA Update

Matt Fulton gave an update from ICMA which included a request for Midwest nominations for the ICMA Regional Vice President role and information about other initiatives that ICMA is currently working on.

#### VII. Comments from the Board

Cain – Nominating Committee will be meeting soon so that they may provide notice to the members on December 1 regarding the MME Board election.

Kaye – Commented about the DEI presentation and making sure the Board has the materials for review before being asked to approve.

Suchy – Asked about the cost increase in 2022 for website/IT/Listserv services. MML Finance staff clarified that additional services were provided in 2022 that resulted in higher costs than normal.

Tanghe - It would be time well spent to identify the managers who are not members. If a few folks could do outreach about membership and why to join MME that would be worthwhile.

**VIII. Comments from the President**

Christian Wuerth said how much he has appreciated the outreach he has received since Christine passed and added that his column in the upcoming MME newsletter will include words from several members remembering Christine. He also requested help from the Board to arrange something during the Winter Institute to honor Christine.

**IX. Adjournment**

Christian Wuerth adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.