

MINUTES
CML Executive Board Meeting
April 24, 2020, Denver, Colorado
via Videoconference

Board members present: President Liz Hensley, Council Member, Alamosa; Vice President Robert Widner, City Attorney, Centennial; Secretary/Treasurer Kathi Meyer, Council President Pro Tem, Steamboat Springs; Past President Wade Troxell, Mayor, Fort Collins; Larry Atencio, Council Member, Pueblo; Kendra Black, Council Member, Denver; Cathie Brunnick, Mayor Pro Tem, Lone Tree; Barbara Bynum, Mayor, Montrose; Greg Caton, City Manager, Grand Junction; Sharon Craig, Trustee, Ignacio; A.J. Euckert, City Manager, Dacono; Dale Hall, Mayor Pro Tem, Greeley; Kathy Hodgson, City Manager, Lakewood; John Kettling, Trustee, Deer Trail; Wynetta Massey, City Attorney, Colorado Springs; Ashley McMurray, Mayor Pro Tem, Hayden; Christian Morgan, Town Manager, Kersey; Jessica Sandgren, Mayor Pro Tem, Thornton; Russell Stewart, Mayor, Cherry Hills Village; Darrin Tangeman, City Manager, Woodland Park.

Board members absent: Kristie Melendez, Mayor, Windsor.

CML Staff members present: Kevin Bommer, Executive Director; David Broadwell, General Counsel; Morgan Cullen, Legislative and Policy Advocate; Brandy DeLange, Legislative and Policy Advocate; Meghan Dollar, Legislative and Policy Advocate; Courtney Forehand, Training and Marketing Specialist; Karen Rosen, Meetings and Events Planner; Heather Stauffer, Legislative and Policy Advocate; Christine Taniguchi, Publications and Design Specialist; Mark Vanderbrook, Database Specialist; Sarah Werner, Engagement and Communications Manager; Laurel Witt, Associate Counsel; Allison Wright, Finance & Administration Manager; Dianne Backhus, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was called to order by President Hensley at 10:00 AM. Attendance was taken and a quorum was established.

Kathi Meyer MOVED AND Barbara Bynum SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2020, BE APPROVED. The motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Bommer recognized Kristie Melendez, outgoing mayor of Windsor, for her years of service on the Board. Kristie was not present to receive the award, but it will be sent to her. Sarah Werner also recognized Christine Taniguchi for her nine years on CML Staff, and Christine expressed her thanks to the Board and Staff. Allison Wright introduced Karen Rosen to the Board. Karen joined CML Staff in March as Meetings and Events Planner, following the retirement of Kathleen Harrison.

Kevin Bommer presented his Executive Director's report. He assured the Board that the budget is in good condition, and the senior managers are taking action to reduce expenditures wherever possible to help relieve any potential COVID-19 financial impacts to the current CML budget. CML finances are stable with plenty of reserves, but capital projects (e.g., carpet replacement) will be limited for 2020.

Allison Wright reported on the recent meeting of the BAM Committee. Rodney Rice and Stephanie Simon from RubinBrown LLP presented the audited financial reports and 2019 Viewpoints on completion of the recent CML audit. As always, the audit was outstanding, and Rodney re-echoed Kevin's assurances that CML has plenty of reserves available. Bob Widner MOVED AND Kathi Meyer SECONDED THAT THE BOARD ACCEPT THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED. The motion passed unanimously.

Allison also reported on the BAM committee's discussion of the 2021 municipal dues and possible ways to reduce stress on budgets of our municipalities. Kevin reminded the Board that dues for the following year must be announced at the business meeting held at the annual conference. CML realizes that economic conditions within municipalities (and CML dues assessments) will be impacted for several years. Four possible options for the 2021 dues were presented to the Board. The BAM Committee and CML staff recommend Option 2, a freeze of dues at the 2020 amount that would allow for future consideration of a 2021 dues rebate. Such consideration would have to occur by October. After discussion of the four options and their impact to the CML budget as well as municipal budgets, Kathi Meyer MOVED AND Dale Hall SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BAM COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION THAT OPTION 2 FOR 2021 DUES BE PRESENTED AT THE 2020 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING. The motion passed unanimously.

Meghan Dollar presented the statehouse report. The 2021 state budget was nearing completion when the Legislature adjourned on March 14, 2020, and work will need to be restarted, anticipating revenue shortfalls for at least two years following the COVID-19 crisis. The Joint Budget Committee will begin meeting on May 4th, working with updated revenue forecasts. The Legislature is expected to reconvene on May 18th, and any bills needing funding will be greatly impacted. A key topic will be disbursement of CARES funding to the municipalities. The CML advocacy team will continue to remain active in support of our municipalities' needs and concerns.

Laurel Witt presented a brief explaining CML's Amicus Curiae participation in a Rule 106 case filed against the City of Aurora dealing with hard deadlines for appeals. Wynetta Massey then MOVED AND DARRIN TANGEMAN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION THAT CML PARTICIPATE IN THE AMICUS CURIAE. The motion passed unanimously. David brought the Board up to date on several other pending cases. A federal judge ruled against Trinidad in the ADA issue, and Trinidad has elected to update their sidewalks. In the Larimer County quasi-judicial decision-making issue, good results are expected soon. The Court of Appeals ruled against the city of Aurora and its HR department re: the Independent Ethics Commission. Greenwood Village is being sued for damages caused by police while apprehending a suspect, and the case appears to be going to the US Supreme Court. The legal team is monitoring issues with solicitation of signatures for candidates and petitions during COVID-19 restrictions. During the Safer at Home phase of the current health crisis, state orders are frequent, and some towns have their own "Local Options." This is causing considerable confusion, and CML staff should expect members to continue contacting us with requests for advice.

Allison, Sarah and Karen provided an update on plans for the CML Annual Conference. Staff is working closely with the Westin Hotel in hopes of postponing and restructuring the conference, including a possible hybrid live/virtual conference. CML bylaws require that CML hold an annual conference which includes an annual business meeting. The Executive Board members are to be elected at the annual meeting. In addition, the 2021 dues are announced, and the membership votes on the policy statement. Staff is researching the possibility of holding a virtual business meeting (videoconference) in June, with a shorter conference later in the summer or fall. Sarah is also working on setting up a Meet the Candidates page on the CML site so that candidates for the Board can introduce themselves and campaign via video and statements. Negotiations with the Westin are expected to be completed within the next week.

Kevin reminded the Board of the guidelines for Board elections and the subsequent Selection of Officers. Both applications and endorsements are due at CML by June 10, 2020. Those Board members with terms expiring this June are: Largest Category – Wynetta Massey; Large Category – Larry Atencio, Kathy Hodgson, and Jessica Sandgren; Medium Category – Kristie Melendez (off Board effective April 28, due to term limits), Kathi Meyer, and Darrin Tangeman; Small Category – Sharon Craig, John Kettling, and Ashley McMurray. In June, Liz Hensley will move into the position of Immediate Past President. Any Board members interested in officer positions for the coming year should let Liz Hensley know as soon as possible.

Kevin also reported on plans for the Board retreat, usually held soon after the Annual Conference in July. It is currently on the schedule to be held in Centennial, but there is the possibility of having a virtual Board orientation in July and a fall Board retreat to be held later.

The packet for today's meeting included background materials for 18 nominees for the Sam Mamet Good Governance Award. The Board Officers met earlier in the week and narrowed the list down to four finalists: Jim Gelwicks, Phyllis Hardin, Ryan Mahoney and John Suthers. Dianne Backhus will send out ballots via email later today, and votes should be submitted through Dianne's email before 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 28th. Board members commented on the good representation of municipalities among those nominated. They also wanted CML to provide considerable recognition for the award. Some thought that it would be good to have two awards – one for elected officials and one for staff; that will possibly be considered for next year. Kevin will have CML staff take care of ordering the award itself.

Kathi Meyer MOVED AND BARBARA BYNUM SECONDED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Meyer
Secretary/Treasurer