



STATE OF MAINE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD
Board of Directors Business Meeting

August 26, 2026

A business meeting of the Maine Workers' Compensation Board of Directors was conducted remotely via Teams on Tuesday, August 26, 2026.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Rohde (*Executive Director/Chair*), Glenn Burroughs, Ronnie Green, Serina DeWolfe, and Lynne Gaudette (*Directors*), and Richard Hewes (*General Counsel*) attended via Teams.

CALL TO ORDER

Executive Director Rohde called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with 25 people participating via Teams. Board members introduced themselves for the recording.

I. FY 2028-2029 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Executive Director Rohde offered available information about the Board's current position in the annual budget process. The Board still has not received all of the information needed from the budget office to forecast next year's characters and objects which statutes require agencies to submit to the Office of Budget by September 1st of each year. The Board is able to see the "all other" and "personal services" lines of the draft budget that was provided by the Office of Budget but can't yet see how that is divided between technology, rents, general operations, etc.

Director Green expressed frustration that the Board is still waiting for up-to-date budget information. He noted that the Board has tried very hard to gather accurate information so it can meet the September 1st submission deadline. However, the directors still do not possess have the information needed. This happens every year during the budget process. The Board waits for information and then has to review and vote on it within a very short turnaround time. The Board has always managed to meet the deadline in recent years, but this year it does not even have the most basic budget information. He does not feel comfortable voting on the budget that he cannot see in detail.

Director Gaudette agreed with Director Green's concerns and added that the Budget is paid for by Maine employers. She does not feel comfortable voting on a budget when we don't yet know the details.

Executive Director Rohde noted that Deputy Directors Lizzotte and Ouellette tried to get the information in advance of September 1st. Unfortunately, the Board is dependent on the Bureau of the Budget to provide a draft budget.

Deputy Director Lindsay Lizzotte noted that for the Office of Information Technology (OIT) piece of the budget, OIT did not receive vital information until a few weeks ago. She then had a preliminary meeting with OIT to discuss the Board's budgetary needs, but she was not able to access up-to-date data. Once OIT generates its data, Deputy Director Lizzotte will still have to review it for errors or omissions and then wait for OIT to comment or make corrections.

Deputy Director Ouellette said that part of the delay this year was that the Bureau of the Budget's Information System was down and was not fixed until last Friday. Additionally, costs for the potential pay raise for State employees must be voted on by the Union before it can be added into the Budget figures, which delays the process even more.

Executive Director Rohde summarized that while the Board has done its part to meet the September 1st deadline, the Directors are not comfortable voting on an estimated biennial budget. The Directors would prefer to hold off on voting at this time. Executive Director Rohde will file a placeholder budget to meet the statutory deadline and then schedule a Budget Subcommittee meeting once all of the information is received.

II. RULEMAKING UPDATE

Executive Director Rohde reported that the Attorney General's (AG) office has completed the required legal pre-review of our proposed rule changes. The Assistant Attorney General who did the pre-review was very thorough. There are no substantive changes that need to be made. The Board can proceed with scheduling a public hearing and the public comment period. After that, the Board can review the rules, public comments, and take final action.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Director Green MOVED TO ADJOURN. Director Gaudette SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 4-1.** (*Director Burroughs opposed.*)

The meeting formally adjourned at 10:16 a.m.