

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the nineteenth day of November 2024 by adjournment from the fifth day of November 2024.

Present: William B. Blodgett
Mary Trescot
Hamilton Meserve

Minutes

October 18, 2024- Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

November 5, 2024- Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

November 5, 2024 Executive Session- Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Finance Department

Warrants - Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented for approval accounts payable warrant #88 for \$256,496.16. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Director Richardson presented payroll warrant #2024-23 for \$424,723.96. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

The final draft of the FY 2025 budget was reviewed, with Total Expenditures of \$16,826,232 and Total Revenue of \$2,017,861, for a net Budget of \$14,808,371. This represents a 7.75% increase over FY 2024. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve the budget as presented, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Department

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 18, Sagadahoc 27, Knox 28, Penobscot 53, Waldo 27, Androscoggin 07, and Federal 08 for a total of 168.

Purchase Authorization – Sheriff Brackett presented a payment authorization for Coastal Electronics in the amount of \$12,489.30 for equipment and installation costs to outfit a new patrol vehicle. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Sheriff Brackett presented a payment authorization for Lee's Tires in the amount of \$4,305.52 for snow tires for several patrol vehicles. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Securus Monitoring Solutions Agreement – Chief Deputy Rand Maker presented a renewal to the Securus Monitoring Annual Agreement. The document detailed the cost per service provided as needed. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve updating the agreement, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

EMA

Promotion Recommendation – County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented a recommendation to the Board to promote Deputy EMA Director Emily Huber to the vacant EMA Director position retroactive to when the vacancy occurred (August 10, 2024). Ms. Huber has been serving as the Interim EMA Director during this time. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve the recommendation, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Job Description Update – A review of the Deputy EMA Director job description resulted in a recommendation to make some minor changes to the duties and qualifications of the position. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the changes as presented by Administrator Kipfer, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

LCRPC

ARPA Funding Recommendations - Planner Laura Graziano presented a recommendation for preliminary approval of Affordable Housing grants to several Lincoln County towns. The Town of Damariscotta requests \$230,000. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

GOPIF Resilience Collaborative Regional Coordinator Project – Planner Graziano presented a Service Contract with the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to become a Regional Coordinator to provide resilience planning services for the region. This 5-year grant would provide \$100,000 funding for each grant year. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve and authorize Administrator Kipfer to sign on behalf of the Board, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Payment Authorization – Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented a request to authorize payment of \$1,300,000 of ARPA funds to Consolidated Communications for the Lincoln County Regional Broadband Project, in cooperation with the Maine Connectivity Authority \$6,000,000 grant to the project. The terms of the agreement required Lincoln County to make a payment of one-half of the commitment (\$650,000) at the start of the project and the remainder later in the project. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Recycling Tractor & Truck Bid – Administrator Kipfer requested permission to list a used tractor and a used box truck on the online bid service that we use to sell used cruisers. Both items have recently been replaced with other pieces of equipment and these items are no longer needed. A final highest bid on each will be presented to the Board of acceptance. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve the request and authorize Administrator Kipfer to list the items for bid, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Jail Authority Membership – Commissioner Meserve recommends that incoming County Commissioner Evan Goodkowsky (who was in attendance at the meeting) be appointed to the Two Bridges Regional Jail Authority as a full member effective immediately. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve and welcomed Commissioner-elect Goodkowsky to the Jail Authority, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Risk Pool Deductible Change – An upcoming change to the Risk Pool coverage was discussed. Effective January 1, 2025, the deductible for new claims will raise to \$2,500. No action is needed by the Board.

Executive Session: Discussion of Legal-1MRSA 405 (6) (E)

Commissioner Blodgett moved to enter Executive Session, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved. Out of Executive Session, Out of Executive Session, no votes were taken.

Executive Session: Discussion of Labor Negotiations-1MRSA 405 (6) (D)

Commissioner Blodgett moved to enter Executive Session, second by Commissioner Meserve; 3-0 vote approved. Out of Executive Session, Commissioner Meserve moved to approve the draft Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Lincoln County Communications Association as present and to authorize Administrator Kipfer to instate a partial pay increase as discussed, second by Commmissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Executive Session: Discussion of Personnel-1MRSA 405 (6) (A)

Commissioner Blodgett moved to add an additional Executive Session for Personnel to the agenda and enter such session, second by Commissioner Meserve; 3-0 vote approved. Out of Executive Session, Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the decision of the November 5, 2024 Grievance Hearing as presented, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

SMRT Jail Collaboration Proposal

The Board received a proposal from SMRT Consultants for a review of the four-county jail partnership at a shared cost of \$38,000. The Board has no objections to the proposal and instructed Administrator Kipfer to communicate this to the Sagadahoc County Commissioners for their consideration. A future meeting of the four counties will be held to take action on the proposals.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the 3rd day of December 2024 A.D.

ATTEST: 
County Administrator