

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the seventh day of January 2025 by adjournment from the seventeenth day of December 2024.

Present: William B. Blodgett
David Levesque
Evan Goodkowsky

Commissioner Goodkowsky nominated Commissioner Blodgett for 2025 Commission Chair, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Public Comment

None

Minutes

December 17, 2024- Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Finance Department

Warrants - Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented for approval accounts payable warrant #95 for \$183,307.30. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0-1 (Goodkowsky) vote approved.

Accounts payable warrant 98 for \$164,857.37 was presented. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll warrant #2024-26 for \$269,772.55 was presented for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – The 2025 annual subscription invoice for TRIO software in the amount of \$6,510.11 was presented for payment. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Employee Rehire – On behalf of Sheriff Todd Brackett, Director Richardson requests permission to rehire former employee Sergeant Scott Hayden effective January 1, 2025. A verbal approval was previously granted by Commissioner Blodgett. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve as presented, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Department

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 26, Sagadahoc 28, Knox 31, Penobscot 56, Waldo 27, Androscoggin 05, Kennebec 01, and Federal 06 for a total of 175.

ACO Contract Renewal – The Animal Control Officer contract renewal for the Town of Dresden was presented for renewal. The new term is from January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

ACO Contract Renewal – The Animal Control Officer contract renewal for the Town of Jefferson was presented for renewal. The new term is from January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Marine Shellfish Warden Contract Renewal – The Shellfish Warden contract renewal for the Town of Bremen was presented for renewal. The new term is from January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Hiring Recommendation - Sheriff Brackett presented a conditional offer to hire Lindsay Smith to the position of part-time Animal Control Officer, pending a successful screening process. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Chief Deputy Rand Maker presented a contract renewal in the amount of \$8,100.00 for three Motorola In-Car and Body-Worn Camera System. The 5-year contract is paid annually, with a FY 2025 cost of \$8,100.00. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Chief Deputy Maker presented a contract renewal in the amount of \$3,198.00 for Maine Law Enforcement Training on PoliceOne Academy from Lexipol. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Sheriff Brackett presented an annual contract renewal in the amount of \$33,849.17 for CentralSquare records management software. This amount was reduced from the original invoice to reflect portions of the software that are inoperable. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Highway Safety Speed Grant Enforcement – Chief Deputy Maker presented a recommendation to accept an annual grant in the amount of \$9,900 to cover the cost of two replacement radar units plus reimbursement for speed enforcement overtime costs. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve accepting the funds, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Communications

Hiring Recommendation – Communications Director Tara Doe presented a hiring recommendation for the position of Deputy Communications Director. Brendan Parker was hired effective January 7, 2025. A verbal approval was previously granted by Commissioner Blodgett. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved. The Commissioners welcomed Mr. Parker, who was also in attendance, to his new role.

Payment Authorization – The 2025 annual tower rental to Litchfield Tower Company on the Blinn Hill Tower in the amount of \$10,395.00 was presented for payment. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – The 2025 annual tower rental to Midcoast Tower Company on the Nobleboro Tower in the amount of \$14,400.00 was presented for payment. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – The 2025 annual service plan for Zetron Max dispatch system in the amount of \$9,514.80 was presented for payment. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – The 2025 annual dispatch system maintenance agreement with Radio Communications Management in the amount of \$29,943.81 was presented for payment. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – An estimated repair cost in the amount of \$10,000 for electrical panel replacement and/or repairs with DiMauro Electric was presented. When the recent heating system replacement was completed at the Communications Center, damage to the existing (original) panel was discovered. A crew is available to begin addressing this issue this week. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Emergency Management

Payment Authorization – On behalf of EMA Director Emily Huber, Director Doe presented an invoice from D4H Technologies in the amount of \$4,160.00 for the 2025 annual software renewal. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Position Elimination – County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented an employee termination resulting from the position being eliminated in the 2025 County budget. Operations and Training Specialist Brandon Look has been notified of the change that is effective December 31, 2024. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

LCRPC

ARPA Housing Grant Payment Authorizations - Executive Director Emily Rabbe presented requests to issue previously approved ARPA grant payments as follows:

- Town of Newcastle in the amount of \$120,000 - Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved. Town Manager Kevin Sutherland was in attendance and thanked the Board for their support.
- Town of Waldoboro in the amount of \$65,000 - Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved. Town Planner Max Johnstone was in attendance and thanked the Board for their support.
- Town of Wiscasset in the amount of \$240,000 - Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved. Economic & Community Development Director Aaron Chrostowsky was in attendance and thanked the Board for their support.
- Town of Damariscotta in the amount of \$230,000 - Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.
- Monhegan Plantation in the amount of \$50,000 - Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

All of the projects are related to municipal affordable housing projects focusing on first responders and municipal staffing.

GOPIF Service Provider Grant –Director Rabbe presented a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future for services to be provided to the Towns of Edgecomb and Whitefield related to climate resiliency work. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve acceptance of the grant, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved. County Administrator Kipfer is authorized to sign on their behalf.

DECD Housing Opportunity Service Provider Grant –Director Rabbe presented a request to apply for a \$150,000 grant from the State Department of Economic and Community Development to perform a sewer and water feasibility study that would support the previously completed Housing Needs Assessment. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve applying for the grant, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved. County Administrator Kipfer is authorized to sign on their behalf.

LCRPC Board Representative – An advisory Board member seat designated for a County Commissioner is vacant on the LCRPC Board. Commissioner Goodkowsky volunteered to assume the seat effective immediately.

Northern Borders Regional Commission – Lincoln County was notified on January 3, 2025 that the Northern Borders Regional Commission has expanded their territory to include Lincoln County effective immediately. A workshop is being planned for February 6th to train municipal leaders on the benefits of inclusion and to assist in the grant process.

Administrator

Registry of Deeds Update – County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented an update from Register of Deeds Rebecca Wotton. The Maine Deeds Association is proposing to the Maine Legislature a fee increase for recording and surcharge fees. Senator Rick Bennett of Oxford County is sponsoring the bill.

MCCA & Risk Pool Representative – A County Commissioner representative to the Maine County Commissioners Association and the MCCA Risk Pool Board is needed for an annual appointment. Commissioner Levesque volunteered to serve on both Boards and Administrator Kipfer was nominated to serve as Proxy to Commissioner Levesque. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Maine Connectivity Authority Contract – An annual services contract totaling \$150,000 for year three of the Maine Connectivity Authority Broadband initiative was presented for approval. A change in the scope eliminates Knox County from the coverage territory, but Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties are still included. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the contract with the changes, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved. County Administrator Kipfer is authorized to sign on their behalf.

Digital Planner Contract Renewals – Two annual Digital Planner Consulting Agreement renewals were presented for approval. Mary Ellen Barnes and Julie Casson will remain in their roles as Digital Planners with their work primarily focusing on the goals and objectives contained within the renewed Maine Connectivity Authority services contract. Updated reimbursement rates and hours were presented in the draft agreements. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the contract renewals with the changes, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved. County Administrator Kipfer is authorized to sign on their behalf.

Payment Authorization – Administrator Kipfer presented an invoice from Maine Commercial Tire in the amount of \$2,966.84 for the purchase of four tires for the 2019 Kenworth Recycling roll-off truck. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Two Bridges Jail District 6 Collaboration- Administrator Kipfer updated the Board on the District 6 Jail Collaboration efforts. A meeting is scheduled on January 17th to discuss with the SMRT Consultants and representatives from Sagadahoc, Knox and Waldo Counties the next steps in engaging the Regional Partnership Assessment. Commissioner Blodgett volunteered to take the committee seat vacated by Commissioner Hamilton Meserve. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve signing the Partnership Assessment Agreement and to commit funding half of the Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties proposal, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved. County Administrator Kipfer is authorized to sign on their behalf.

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

Commissioner Blodgett moved to enter Executive Session, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved. Out of Executive Session, Commissioner Levesque moved to terminate the employment of Recycling Assistant Brandon Achorn effective January 7, 2025, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:11 AM to the 21st day of January 2025 A.D.

ATTEST: 
County Administrator