

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the fourth day of January 2025 by adjournment from the twenty-first day of January 2025.

Present: William B. Blodgett
David Levesque (Remote)
Evan Goodkowsky

Public Comment

Commissioner Blodgett recognized the efforts of staff from our Communications and Emergency Management Departments, along with representatives from DiMauro Electric and Burgess Technology, in the recover from a recent electrical emergency at the Communications Center. Quick response and willing expertise allowed a restoration of service in a speedy timeframe that limited our service disruption to a minor inconvenience instead of a large disaster. We offer our thanks and appreciation to everyone who helped make this happen.

Minutes

January 21, 2025- Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Finance Department

Warrants – On behalf of Finance Director Michelle Richardson, County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented for approval accounts payable warrant #37 for \$946,219.74. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll warrant #2025-02 for \$246,449.89 was presented for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Department

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 23, Sagadahoc 22, Knox 29, Penobscot 56, Waldo 25, Kennebec 01, and Federal 08 for a total of 164.

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

ACO Contract Renewal – The Animal Control Officer 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 Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

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

Alternative Sentencing Program Agreement Renewal - Chief Deputy Maker requested permission to renew the Alternative Sentencing Program contract with Kieve Wavus Camps for the upcoming April session. A reduced price is offered in exchange for the assistance offered to the camp by program participants. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Addiction Resource Center Annual Contract –Sheriff Brackett presented a contract renewal for the Recovery Coaching services from the Addiction Resource Center (ARC) through Mid Coast Hospital. A few edits have been suggested and accepted by ARC. The total amount of the contract will be \$199,043.00. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve as edited, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – A contract renewal in the amount of \$8,491.53 for the annual software licensing for Power DMS was presented. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – A payment request to Lee’s Tire in the amount of \$4,060.88 for the purchase of new cruiser tires (seven invoices) was presented for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Chief Deputy Maker presented a payment authorization in the amount of \$2,295.56 to Hillside Collision for repairs to cruiser #816 that sustained damage when it recently hit a deer. A \$1,000 deductible applies to this interaction and the remaining \$1,295.56 will be reimbursed by the Risk Pool. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

District Attorney

Employee Training Request – DA Office Supervisor, Amanda Charlton, along with Victim Witness Advocate Abriana DeLena attended the meeting and requested permission for Ms. DeLena to attend the *Conference on Crimes Against Women* in Dallas, Texas in May 2025. A scholarship for the cost of Ms. DeLena’s conference registration and hotel room has been awarded, but an additional expense of \$1,003.00 is expected for the cost of meals and travel. Sheriff Brackett indicated that he would support also sending Detective Matthew Ryan to this conference at a cost of \$2,308 (no scholarship offered). Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve a total cost of \$3,311.00 for Ms. DeLena and Detective Ryan to attend the conference, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Communications

Employee Retirement –Communications Director Tara Doe presented a retirement notice from Emergency Communications Officer Bobbie Robinson effective April 9, 2025. Ms. Robinson has faithfully served in her role as a dispatcher for more than 39 years and Director Doe expressed her heartfelt gratitude for her service. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the retirement notice with extreme regret and thanks for Ms. Robinson’s service to Lincoln County, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Electrical Panel Repairs - Director Doe recapped the recent events with the electrical emergency at the Communications Center and acknowledged the many parties who assisted in addressing the late night repairs, including DiMauro Electric (Paul DiMauro), Burgess Technologies (Micah Simmler), EMA Director Emily Huber, ECO Bobbie Robinson, and ECO Trevor Whitney. The Commissioners voiced their support also to Director Doe for her leadership in the event.

Emergency Management

Blinn Hill Tower Lease Agreement - EMA Director Emily Huber presented a lease agreement for the Ham Radio Repeater and antenna to be installed on the Blinn Hill Tower, owned by Dave Libby. This will replace the equipment that was previously installed on the former Blinn Hill Tower, owned by Central Maine Power. Mr. Libby is offering this space at no charge to the County and will be for a term of four years, expiring February 2029. The equipment has been purchased, and a tower climber will be contracted in the coming weeks, for an installation sometime in February (weather dependent). Commissioner Levesque moved to approve and offered thanks to Mr. Libby for his generous offer, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Hiring Recommendation – Director Huber presented a recommendation to hire Mr. Francis DeMers to the position of Preparedness Coordinator effective March 10, 2025, pending a successful background check. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

DOT Notice of Taking – Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented a *Notice of Taking* for a parcel in the Town of Damariscotta. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept and place the documents on record, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Unorganized Territory Budget – Administrator Kipfer presented the proposed FY2026 budget for Unorganized Territories in Lincoln County. The total is \$38,569.50, which represents a significant decrease in capital expenses vs. FY2025 budget. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved. The Commissioners will sign the commitment and Administrator Kipfer will submit it to the State of Maine UT Fiscal Administrator.

Tax Abatement Application – Administrator Kipfer advised the Board that the Town of Bremen and Bremen resident Annette Bossler are both available for a Tax Abatement Hearing on March 4, 2025. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to schedule the Hearing on March 4th at 1pm, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved. Administrator Kipfer will notify all of the parties.

NTIA Digital Skills & Inclusion Grant – The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has recently announced grant awards totaling \$25M in the State of Maine. Lincoln County is included in the two grants, with a direct allocation of \$800,000 over four years to expand digital access to a variety of covered populations. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Retire Rehire Policy Amendment – Amendments to the Retire Rehire Policy were presented by Administrator Kipfer, along with a Memorandum of Agreement between the Commissioners and the Sheriff's Office Fraternal Order of Police Union. Several issues related to the seniority of rehired employees were addressed. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the MOU and update the Retire Rehire Policy as detailed in the MOU, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

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

Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to enter Executive Session, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved. Joined by Amanda Charlton. Out of Executive Session, no votes were taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM to the 18th day of February 2025 A.D.

ATTEST: 
County Administrator