

STATE OF MAINE

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

Present: William B. Blodgett
Mary Trescot
Hamilton Meserve

Minutes

October 15, 2024- 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 #85 for \$166,242.18. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Accounts payable warrant #86 for \$244,189.77 was presented. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Director Richardson presented payroll warrant #2024-21 for \$230,388.53. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll warrant #2024-22 for \$252,547.34 was presented. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Director Richardson presented a purchase authorization for up to \$26,000 to have a building contractor modify the existing Recycling Mechanic Shop door to allow the truck box to pass safely through the doorway. One bid has been received so far and an additional bid is expected shortly. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve awarding purchase authorization for up to \$26,000 for the building modifications, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Department

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 18, Sagadahoc 25, Knox 25, Penobscot 61, Waldo 26, Androscoggin 07, and Federal 09 for a total of 171.

Employee Change of Status – Sheriff Brackett presented a request from Detective Ryan Chubbuck to change status from full-time detective to reserve deputy effective October 25, 2024. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve the change, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Employee Retirement – Sheriff Brackett presented a notice of retirement for Sergeant Scott Hayden effective December 20, 2024. Commissioner Trescot moved to accept the notice with regret and appreciation for Sgt. Hayden's service, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Employee Retirement – Sheriff Brackett presented a notice of retirement for Sergeant Kevin Dennison effective December 12, 2024. Commissioner Trescot moved to accept the notice with regret and appreciation for Sgt. Dennison’s service, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

FY25 Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant – Sheriff Brackett presented the FY25 EUDL award in the amount of \$5,280. This grant provides funds for staff to conduct training and enforcement activities related to underage drinking. A renewal contract with Dirigo Safety is the conduit for these grant funds. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve accepting these grant funds, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Chief Deputy Rand Maker presented a payment authorization for Coastal Electronics in the amount of \$8,953.72 for equipment and installation costs to outfit a new CID vehicle. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Alternative Sentencing Program (ASP) – Chief Deputy Rand Maker presented a summary of the recent ASP session held at Wavus Camps in Jefferson. A total of 33 participants were in attendance, which resulted in saving 197 jail bed days with a total cost savings of \$24,311.

Administrator

Opioid Settlement Fund RFP – County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented the Commissioners with a draft copy of an RFP to request for proposals to use Opioid Settlement Funds. The Board reviewed the draft and approved it as presented. A copy of the RFP will be forwarded to previous awardees and posted on the county website, along with a public notice in the local newspapers. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Communications

Payment Authorization - On behalf of Director Tara Doe, County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented an invoice from Priority Dispatch in the amount of \$10,560.00. This represents the Quality Assurance contract to review our calls from June-September 2024. The State of Maine has contracted with Priority Dispatch to begin paying this fee starting in October 2024. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Employee Change of Status – Administrator Kipfer presented a request from Emergency Communications Officer Michael Johnson to change status from full-time dispatcher to reserve dispatcher effective November 3, 2024. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the change, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Employee Resignation – ECO April McCaslin has submitted her resignation effective November 8, 2024 to return to her former employer. Commissioner Trescot moved to accept the resignation with regret, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

LCRPC

ASK Grant – Executive Director Emily Rabbe requested payment authorization for an ASK Grant awarded to the Town of Dresden in the amount of \$2,500 to review their options in updating their Transfer Station. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Director Rabbe requested payment authorization for an ASK Grant awarded to the Town of Newcastle in the amount of \$2,500 to update their municipal road inventory using RSMS software. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Hiring Recommendation – Director Rabbe made a recommendation to hire Alex Zipparo for the position of Economic & Community Development effective November 6, 2024. The position is funded using an allocation of ARPA funds through FY26. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

ARPA Funding Recommendations - Director Rabbe presented a recommendation for preliminary approval of Affordable Housing grants to several Lincoln County towns. The Town of Wiscasset requests \$240,000. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

The Town of Newcastle requests \$120,000. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

The Town of Waldoboro requests \$65,000. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

The Town of Monhegan requests \$50,000. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

All projects are approved to move forward, but the final amount may need to be adjusted if final costs are determined to need additional funds on one of the projects. An additional grant application has been received by the Town of Damariscotta and will be reviewed by the committee for a presentation to a future Commissioners meeting.

Affordable Housing Project Update - A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the 16 Mills Road, Newcastle Affordable Housing project that was partially funded using \$48,000 in ARPA funds. The construction will add 16 housing units and is expected to be completed in 2025.

Community Resilience Partnership Service Provider – Director Rabbe presented a recommendation to apply for a Service Provider grant application on behalf of the towns of Whitefield, Edgcomb and UT Hibbert's Gore. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve and authorize Administrator Kipfer to sign on behalf of the Board, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

EPA Brownfield Grant - Mary Ellen Barnes requested permission to submit a grant application for EPA Brownfield revitalization funds, which would include grants for assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan funds. The grant application will request \$500,000 in funding. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the request and authorize Mary Ellen Barnes to submit the application, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Job Description Update – Administrator Kipfer presented an updated job description for the EMA Director position. A few minor changes were made in preparation for posting the vacancy. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the change, second by Commissioner Meserve; 3-0 vote approved.

Tax Abatement Application – A property tax abatement application was received in regard to 32 Blueberry Lane, Bremen. The Commissioners suggested scheduling a hearing on November 19 or December 3 and advised Administrator Kipfer to contact the town assessor's office as well as the property owner in regards to the appeal. Commissioner Blodgett moved to accept the application and schedule a hearing, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Administrator Kipfer presented an agreement with the Town of Palermo to provide snow plowing, sanding, salting and grading on Gore Road in the Unorganized Territory of Hibbert's Gore for the 2024/2025 season. The total cost of the contract is \$8,250. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Notice of Application – A Notice of Application in regards to a pier, ramp and float system proposed on Louds Island was reviewed and posted for public inspection. Interested parties can comment on the proposal to the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on or before November 17, 2024. The Board offers no opposition to the proposal.

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

Commissioner Blodgett moved to enter Executive Session, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved. Out of Executive Session, Commissioner Meserve moved to approve reinstating the overtime premium pay for the Communication Center dispatchers through April 30, 2025, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

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, no votes were taken

Executive Session: Discussion of Confidential Records-1MRSA 405 (6) (F)

Commissioner Blodgett moved to enter Executive Session, second by Commissioner Meserve; 3-0 vote approved. Out of Executive Session, Commissioner Blodgett moved to deny an appeal to reconsider a poverty tax abatement hearing that was previously denied due to timeliness, second by Commissioner Meserve; 3-0 vote approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the 5th day of November 2024 A.D.

ATTEST: 
County Administrator