

## STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the sixth day of August 2024 by adjournment from the sixteenth day of July 2024.

Present: William B. Blodgett  
Hamilton Meserve  
Mary Trescot

### Minutes

July 16, 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 #68 for \$366,121.65. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Presented for approval accounts payable warrant #70 for \$233,251.58. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll warrant #2024-15 for \$234,347.88 was presented for approval. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

**Payment Authorization** – A payment request to Maine DA Tech Services for \$6,767.05 for 6-months of IT services for the District Attorney's Office was presented for approval. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

### Sheriff's Department

**Jail Count** –Chief Deputy Rand Maker reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 19, Sagadahoc 32, Knox 33, Penobscot 59, Waldo 22, Androscoggin 15, and Federal 08 for a total of 188.

**Payment Authorization** – A payment request to Motorola Solutions for \$10,704.00 for the purchase of three in-car video systems and five body-worn cameras was presented for approval. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

**Renewal of Boothbay Harbor Police Services Contract** – A Memorandum of Understanding for the time period of August 14, 2024-October 1, 2024, was presented for consideration. The coverage provided by Lincoln County Sheriff's Office will supplement the Boothbay Harbor Police Department, with reimbursement rates detailed in the document. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved. Chief Deputy Maker is authorized to sign on behalf of the County.

### LCRPC

**ARPA Funding Repurposing** –Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Emily Rabbe presented a request to repurpose previously approved ARPA funds. An allocation of \$300,000 for a limited term Land Use Specialist position was approved, but the

position was never filled. A restructuring of budgeted positions addressed this need with the Land Use and Transportation Planner, but a new need was identified. Director Rabbe recommends using these funds for a new “Economic and Community Development Planner” position instead. Commissioner Blodgett moved to accept the recommendation and dedicate the ARPA funds previously allocated to this use instead, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Director Rabbe presented a draft job description for the Economic and Community Development Planner position for approval. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve the job description and authorize posting the position for hiring, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

**ARPA Housing Funds Usage** – Director Rabbe updates the Board on progress awarding ARPA Affordable Housing Funds. No additional applications are pending for the usage of matching funds to develop affordable housing units in Lincoln County. A new approach has been refined and Letters of Interest have been solicited from Lincoln County Towns. This usage would provide financial assistance to Towns who have a need for planning dollars to advance development of affordable first responder and/or municipal workforce housing on town-owned parcels. Letters of Interest are due by August 16, 2024. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve the usage of ARPA Housing Funds for this purpose, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

#### **Administrator**

**Payment Authorization** – Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented a request to issue checks to the following organizations using Opioid Settlement Funds: \$20,000-Healthy Lincoln County; \$20,000-Hearty Roots; \$20,000-Healthy Kids! A Family Resource Network; \$20,000-Lincoln County Recovery Community Center; \$10,000-Studio B. An advisory committee made up of members of the Substance Use Recovery community submitted a written recommendation on the use of the funds and the Commissioners previously reviewed and supported the recommendation. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve and issue the payments to the representatives of the organizations in attendance at the meeting, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved. Haley Bezon represented Hearty Roots, Larissa Ray and Will Matteson represented Healthy Lincoln County, Peter Bruun and Leigh Perkins represented Studio B, Abigail Boudin represented the Lincoln County Recovery Community Center, and Charlene Corbett represented Healthy Kids.

Administrator Kipfer also shared that a Request For Proposals is being developed to make additional Opioid Settlement Funds available later this year and any provider offering allowable usage services is encouraged to apply.

**Notice of Layout and Taking**- The Maine Department of Transportation has submitted a Notice of Layout and Taking for parcels of land in Nobleboro related to the East Pond Road project. Commissioner Trescot moved to receive the Notice and place on file at the Registry of Deeds Office, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

**Payment Authorization**- A quote from Radio Communications Management in the amount of \$3,250.06 to purchase an antenna and accessories for the Amateur Radio repeater on Blinn Hill was presented. Funding for this project is through the FY23 Homeland Security

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

**Broadband Grant Application** – Administrator Kipfer updated the Commissioners on a grant application submitted to Maine Connectivity Authority by Consolidated Communications to expand Broadband in Lincoln County. The \$6M PEMM grant would cover Dresden, Wiscasset, Whitefield, Alna, Nobleboro, Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Edgecomb and Southport. A final decision by the MCA Board will be made on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**IRS Section 127 Plan** – A draft of the *County of Lincoln's Educational Assistance Program* document was presented for review, along with Program Procedures, an Application and a Claim Form. A Section 127 Plan allows an employer to provide tuition assistance to an employee with tax benefits. The Commissioners reviewed the documents and discussed the County's role in this process. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the Plan as presented, with an immediate effective date for all future applications and reimbursement approvals, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

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

Commissioner Blodgett moved to enter Executive Session, second by Commissioner Meserve; 3-0 vote approved. Out of Executive Session, Commissioner Trescot moved to approve the recommendation of Administrator Kipfer regarding an employee disciplinary action, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

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

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 recommendation of Administrator Kipfer regarding an MCCA Risk Pool claim settlement, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

**Executive Session: Discussion of Real Property-1MRSA 405 (6) (C)**

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the 20th day of August 2024 A.D.

ATTEST:   
County Administrator