

STATE OF MAINE

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

Present: William B. Blodgett
Hamilton Meserve
Mary Trescot

Public Comment

Lincoln County News Reporter Charlotte Boynton addressed the Board by notifying them that she would be leaving her position covering Commissioner meetings. The Board thanked her for her many years of service providing excellence in reporting to keep the Lincoln County community informed about the County.

Minutes

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

Finance Department

Warrants - Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented for approval accounts payable warrant #93 for \$166,498.83. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll warrant #2024-25 for \$233,983.28 was presented for approval. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Five contracts with non-Lincoln County towns for Recycling services were discussed. These contracts are adjusted annually to reflect actual consumption in addition to the annual budget changes for FY 2025. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve renewing the contracts as presented and to distribute to the towns as needed, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Department

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 19, Sagadahoc 23, Knox 26, Penobscot 53, Waldo 27, Androscoggin 05, and Federal 07 for a total of 160.

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

Purchase Authorization – Chief Deputy Rand Maker presented a contract renewal in the amount of \$13,679.00 for Motorola WatchGuard In-Car and Body-Worn Camera System. The 5-year contract is paid annually, with a FY 2025 cost of \$2,879.00. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Contract Renewal – A renewal to the contract for police services with the Town of Boothbay Harbor was presented for consideration. The contract will be for the time period 1/21/25-5/23/25 while the Town experiences low staffing as a result of new officers attending the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. New pay rates will be reflected in the hourly charges. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Behavioral Health Liaison Bid Opening Update – At a prior meeting, Bids were received in response to a Request For Proposals for a Behavioral Health Liaison contract. The Commissioners opened the bids and announced the bidders as follows: Volunteers of America (\$149,499), Sweetser (\$190,418), TruCare of Tampa, FL, and Lincoln Center of Audobon Center, PA (\$90,000). Sheriff Brackett has reviewed the bids and recommends accepting the bid from Sweetser. He also suggests that County Administrator Carrie Kipfer review the bids to address any administrative concerns she may have. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve accepting the Sheriff's recommendation and award the bid to Sweetser, pending Administrator Kipfer's concurrence, second by Commissioner Meserve; 3-0 vote approved.

Employee Rehire Authorization – Recently retired Patrol Sergeant Kevin Dennison has inquired into the ability to be rehired by Lincoln County back into his recently vacated position. Sheriff Brackett supports his request and makes the recommendation to rehire Sgt. Dennison by presenting an Offer of Probationary Employment. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve rehiring Sgt. Dennison effective January 4, 2025, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Communications

Employee Resignation – Communications Director Tara Doe presented a resignation from Dispatcher Reagan Pearce effective December 4, 2024. Commissioner Blodgett moved to accept with regrets, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Emergency Management

Hiring Recommendation – EMA Director Emily Huber presented a recommendation to hire Emma McKearney for the position of Deputy EMA Director effective January 6, 2025. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Director Huber presented an invoice from Farber Specialty Vehicles in the amount of \$129,000.00 for the purchase of a 2019 Sprinter Command Center vehicle. This purchase was previously approved, and ARPA funds will be used to pay the invoice. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

LCRPC

DOT Contract Renewal – Administrator Kipfer asked to table this to a future meeting. Commissioner Blodgett moved to table, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Retire Return to Work Policy – County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented an updated draft of the previously discussed Retire Return to Work Policy. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the policy, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Administrator Kipfer presented information regarding the Kenworth Recycling roll-off truck. Repairs to the head gasket, oil pan gasket, and turbo were discussed. An estimate of \$10,000-\$17,000 for the repairs has been received, with the higher end possible if the head also needs replacement. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve up to \$17,000 for repairs, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Administrator Kipfer presented a request to issue payment in the amount of \$22,000 to the Town of Somerville for their Municipal Broadband Project. This expenditure was previously approved by the Board using ARPA funds from the Broadband category. Their project with Axiom Technologies is progressing and the expenses have been verified. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

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

Commissioner Blodgett moved to enter Executive Session, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved. Communications Director Tara Doe joined the session. Out of Executive Session, no votes were taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the 7th day of January 2025 A.D.

ATTEST: 
County Administrator