

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the fifteenth day of September 2026 by adjournment from the first day of September 2026.

Present: David Levesque, Chair
William B. Blodgett
Evan Goodkowsky

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Commissioner Levesque, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

None present.

Minutes

September 1, 2026 – Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

EMA

Purchase Authorization – 2027 Chevrolet Tahoe \$48,758.00 – Director Emily Huber presented a Purchase Authorization to O'Connor GMC, Bruick, Chevrolet in Augusta in the bid amount of \$48,758 for purchase of a new EMA SUV according to bid specifications. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization to O'Connor GMC in the amount of \$48,758 as presented for purchase of the 2027 Chevrolet Tahoe, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

After Action – 9/4/2026 Boothbay Harbor Event – Director Huber informed the Commissioners of an incident on September 4, during the Friday of Labor Day weekend. The Boothbay Harbor Fire Department responded to a call of a valve failing and breaking off on a 1,000-gallon propane tank at the Small Mall in Boothbay Harbor, releasing propane into the busy business district. Because that tank was connected to four other 1,000-gallon tanks, responders faced the possibility of a much larger incident. Police and fire personnel evacuated nearby businesses, residences, the school, the YMCA, and a motel while closing roads and securing the area. Lincoln County Emergency Management responded with cones, barricades, and a command vehicle, establishing a command post at the YMCA.

At the incident commander's request, EMA worked with the Maine Emergency Management Agency to issue a two-mile emergency alert resembling an Amber Alert. The notification reached people throughout the area, including hikers who otherwise might not have known about the evacuation, and prompted reluctant motel occupants to leave. CMP shut off power early to reduce ignition risks, while trained firefighters consulted industry specialists for guidance on securing the leaking tank. As propane escaped, the tank cooled enough to slow the leak, allowing responders to reinstall the valve, although it continued to leak. Residents and

businesses began returning around 8:30 p.m., while the Small Mall remained closed and without power until Suburban Propane completed repairs at approximately 1:00 a.m.

The after-action review found that the overall response was effective, particularly the evacuation, interagency coordination, command post, and public alert. Recommended improvements included notifying EMA sooner, increasing awareness among local responders about emergency-alert capabilities, strengthening firefighter accountability, and requesting mutual aid earlier so more qualified personnel are available before crews become exhausted. Emergency alerts are reserved for life-safety situations such as evacuation or shelter-in-place orders, rather than routine notices such as road closures.

Finances

Warrants – Finance Director, Michelle Kane, presented Warrant #74 in the amount of \$345,375.28 for approval. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll Warrant – Director Kane presented Payroll Warrant #2026-18, paid on September 4, 2026, in the amount of \$297,509.44 for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Office

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett presented the inmate count for Two Bridges Regional Jail from this morning as follows: Lincoln 31, Sagadahoc 17, Knox 52, Penobscot 50 and Cumberland 1 for a total of 151.

Payment Authorization – Island Tech Services - \$12,284.75 – Sheriff Brackett presented a Payment Authorization in the budgeted amount of \$12,284.75 to Island Tech Services for equipment and installation of equipment for the new 2026 Dodge Durango. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Payment Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – RCM - \$5,687.77 – Sheriff Brackett presented a Payment Authorization in the budgeted amount of \$5,687.77 to Radio Control Management (RCM) for the installation of in car radio repeaters for two of the newer vehicles. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the Payment Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Communications

Employee Resignation – Emily Salley, Reserve Dispatcher – Director Tara Doe presented an Employee Resignation for Emily Salley, Reserve Dispatcher, formerly full-time Communications Officer and Communications Supervisor. Ms. Salley has made the decision to stay at home full-time with her new daughter and Director Doe requested the Commissioners accept the resignation with great regret. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the

resignation of Emily Salley with great regret, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Text to 9-1-1 Information – Director Doe informed the Commissioners about Text-to-911 which allows people to contact the Lincoln County Communications Center by sending a text message to 911. A live dispatcher receives the message, uses standard prompts to determine the location and nature of the emergency, and can view location information on a map to help direct responders. The service is particularly useful for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, people in unsafe situations where speaking could escalate danger, and callers in areas where a text may connect even when a voice call will not.

Dispatchers have used the service successfully in domestic incidents and other situations involving children or people who cannot safely speak. Law enforcement is typically sent first when the circumstances may involve an intruder or an unsafe scene. However, a voice call remains the preferred option because dispatchers can gather information faster, hear background sounds and signs of medical distress, provide instructions such as CPR or bleeding control, and have additional dispatchers listen and assist simultaneously.

The center also sends text messages after disconnected or unanswered 911 calls and makes every effort to confirm whether help is needed, while officers still follow up because a caller may deny an emergency under pressure. Accidental calls are common and can result from locked-screen emergency buttons, phones carried in pockets or cup holders, wet touchscreens, or children handling devices; even an activated phone without a service account can call 911. Public education therefore emphasizes two points: call 911 by voice whenever possible, but text 911 when speaking is unsafe or impossible, and always respond if dispatchers call or text back.

LCRPC

APRA Award Recommendation – Town of Damariscotta \$40,000 – Executive Director Emily Rabbe presented a proposal recommending a distribution of \$40,000 in ARPA housing funds to the Town of Damariscotta with Great Salt Bay Sanitary District as the agent for the project performing a system capacity study for the Great Salt Bay pump stations and lagoon system. The purpose of the study is to understand how many housing units the system currently has capacity for. They are working with Dirago Engineering on this study with a total cost of \$50,000. The \$40,000 award will be spent down by the end of the year, which is our ARPA deadline and then the Great Salt Bay will use their own funding for the remaining \$10,000. This funding represents a good portion of the remaining ARPA funds that possibly need to be reallocated. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the ARPA award of \$40,000 to the Town of Damariscotta for the System Capacity Study for Great Salt Bay's pump stations and lagoon system, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

2026/2027 Contract with MOCA for Regional Resilience Coordinator Year 3 Work – Laura Graziano, Community Resilience Planner, presented the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) Contract for year three of the on-going Regional Resilience Coordinator work. The majority of Ms. Graziano's work is performed through providing climate and energy

technical assistance to the Lincoln County communities. The tasks include technical assistance with grant writing and implementation, workshops and learning activities both locally and regionally as well as assisting communities in enrolling in the State's Community Resilience Partnership and maintaining their enrollment status. At this time all but five of the Lincoln County towns are enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership and Ms. Graziano and LCRPC are working on getting more enrolled. This is work LCRPC would be doing anyway but the costs are supplemented through the MOCA contract. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the 20265/2027 Contract with MOCA for the Regional Resilience Coordinator Year 3 Work, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Presentation on the Lincoln County Economic Development Strategy Project Proposal –

Alex Zipparo, Economic and Community Development Planner, presented information on the Economic Development Strategy Project LCRPC is planning on working on over the next year. The LCRPC Staff proposed developing a county-level comprehensive economic development strategy to guide sustainable growth. Although the County benefits from access to major markets, hundreds of small businesses, strong blue-economy industries, working waterfronts, agriculture, manufacturing, and 450 miles of tidal coastline, statewide and regional plans often overlook its needs. A localized strategy would support municipalities, chambers of commerce, existing businesses, prospective investors, and county programs with better data, priorities, and a coordinated vision.

The proposal responds to serious demographic and market pressures. State projections indicate that Lincoln County may lose population over the coming decade, with only residents aged 65 and older expected to increase, while school enrollment declines and roughly 19% of the workforce is projected to retire by 2032. Housing costs have risen sharply—from a median price of about \$180,000 in early 2020 to around \$500,000, turning the county from one of Maine's most affordable into one of its least affordable. Workforce shortages, widening economic disparities, and the planned closure of the Lincoln Hospital Family Birth Center in Damariscotta further threaten the county's ability to retain and attract younger families.

A consultant, pending selection through an RFP process, would analyze current conditions, identify growth opportunities, establish a shared vision, and produce practical, measurable, time-bound recommendations with an implementation plan. The work would integrate housing, transportation, land use, community resilience, workforce development, grant readiness, and opportunities in the blue economy and other heritage industries. Public participation would begin early through a representative Advisory Committee, a widely distributed community survey, and focus groups designed to reach residents, businesses, municipalities, and organizations throughout the County.

LCRPC expects to use up to \$80,000 from its strategic reserve account, which currently holds about \$146,000, because reshaping the project to fit available grants would weaken its purpose. Mr. Zipparo and the rest of the staff believe the budget is realistic based on preliminary conversations with consultants, and they expect a final report by December 2027. Commissioners were broadly supportive but emphasized that the plan must lead to action,

measurable results, and follow-through; LCRPC staff will return for approval of the RFP and later the consultant agreement, with the goal of turning the investment into stronger grant applications, private and public investment, job creation, workforce retention, and long-term economic resilience.

Administrator

CMP Waiver of Reallocation Authorization – Administrator Carrie Kipfer explained to the Commissioners that, because of ARPA funding to the Town of Waldoboro, we funded the three-phase power which means we now own a portion of that. CMP is asking us to provide a waiver so that any future attachments to that service do not have a fee associated with it. Lincoln County is entitled to receive payments in the event of other customers requesting service from the electrical lines but that was not our intention and since the funding came from ARPA any payments would not be ours to keep. The County's intention was to provide funding for this service so there could be attachments, and the barriers could be lowered. The waiver will allow CMP to move forward and do attachments as they receive them. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the County Administrator signing the CMP Waiver of Reallocation Authorization, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Old Business

Public Safety Building Project – Administrator Kipfer informed the Commissioners that there is a newly identified parcel in a neighboring town that a preliminary site evaluation is being worked on. A GIS map has been received, and the Planning team is working through the town planning board approval requirements and other considerations before the next step of going out and walking the property and talking with the owners.

Abatement Decision – De Pietro v. Town of Westport Island – Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Abatement Decision in the matter of Mario and Veronica De Pietro vs the Town of Westport Island, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 with Commissioner Levesque abstaining, vote approved.

Commissioners Updates

Budget – Commissioner Goodkowsky let the Commissioners know that the Budget Advisory Committee Caucus was held Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 3 PM. The Budget Advisory Committee consists of:

From District One – Kenneth Rayle, Boothbay Harbor

From District Two – John Blodgett, Waldoboro; Reuben Mahar, Waldoboro; Robert Clifford, South Bristol

From District Three – Karen Paz, Newcastle, Daniel Hunter, Damariscotta, Brent Hallowell, Whitefield

The Public Hearing for the Budget will be on Thursday, September 17th, at 3:00 PM at the Planning Commission offices, Route One, Wiscasset. The Public is welcome to attend.

CCWI – Commissioner Goodkowsky let the Commissioners know that he had attended the CCWI Board Annual Meeting on Friday, September 11, 2026, in Freeport. It was an

informative meeting. The Executive Director, Antoninette Manus, is outgoing and the Deputy Director, Heather Stott, has been promoted to Executive Director.

Jail Consolidation Meeting – The meeting previously scheduled for September 17th, 2026, has been postponed pending the RFP.

LCRPC – Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners of the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026.

MCCA - Commissioner Goodkowsky reminded the Commissioners of the MCCA Convention at Sunday River, Bethel, on September 23rd to the 25th, 2026.

Executive Session

Discussion of Personnel – 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A) – Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to enter Executive Session for a Discussion of Personnel per 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A), seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

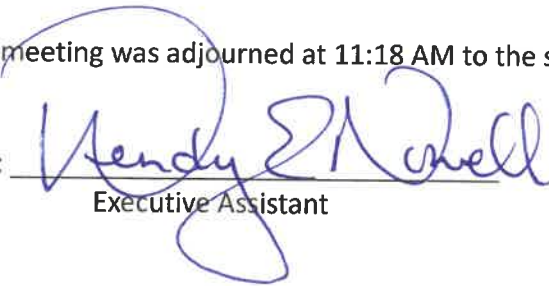
Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to come out of Executive Session for Discussion of Personnel per 1 MSRA 405 (6)(A), seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the leave of absence request by employee as discussed, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Commissioner Blodgett moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM to the sixth day of October 2026 A.D.

ATTEST:


Executive Assistant