

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the sixteenth day of September 2025 by adjournment from the second day of September 2025.

Present: William B. Blodgett
Evan Goodkowsky
David Levesque

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

Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to add an agenda item to hear a request from the Town of Wiscasset before the Public Forum, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Town of Wiscasset Update Old Ferry Road Proposal (ARPA Funds) – Town Manager, Dennis Simmons, Select Board Members, Alissa Eason, Bill Mahoney and Economic Development Director, Aaron Chrostowsky addressed the Commissioners. Mr. Simmons discussed a significant shift in the town's previously approved plans for using county ARPA funds. Originally, the funds were designated for housing development on Old Ferry Road, and they had started working on initial surveys and due diligence. At the same time a new opportunity emerged involving a developer interested in building a data center on the Old Ferry Road site, which could bring substantial economic benefits to the town and county - \$5 billion in valuation and 150-200 local jobs. This prompted officials to consider relocating the initial housing proposal to a different parcel that was previously identified in the county's housing study, near Bath Road and Route One. A local developer is interested in constructing 40 units of workforce housing in collaboration with BIW at this new site.

Town officials acknowledged the complexity and time constraints of the new proposal, noting that the data center project had gained momentum with the developer investing in environmental and infrastructure studies. They emphasized their commitment to housing and requested flexibility from the county to redirect the ARPA funds to the new site. The town expressed a desire to pursue both projects—housing and the data center—simultaneously, arguing that this dual-track approach would maximize community benefits.

County Commissioner raised concerns about the abrupt change, the lack of detailed planning for the new housing site, and the potential implications for federal reporting and compliance. They stressed that these ARPA funds must be used strictly for housing and questioned whether the town's new proposal justified an extension or amendment to the original grant. The County also noted that other projects in the region might be more prepared to use the funds effectively.

The meeting concluded with a tentative agreement to review federal regulations and consider allowing Wiscasset to submit an amended application, although the application process could be opened to other entities. County Administrator Carrie Kipfer offered to send the original

application template to guide the town's revised submission. The next County Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for October 7th, where further decisions may be made regarding the reallocation of the ARPA funds and the viability of the new housing proposal.

Public Forum

Speaker One – Joan Schwartz, Newcastle, had some questions on the County's relationship with the Two Bridges Regional Jail (TBRJ) Authority specifically how the Jail Authority Board is put together. Commissioner Blodgett explained that TBRJ is owned by two Counties – Sagadahoc and Lincoln. The Authority is made up of six members from each county with a total of 12 members. Both County Sheriffs as well as two Commissioners from each County are on the Board and six members of the public – three from each County – who are selected by the County Commissioners. She is wondering if she should attend a TBRJ Board meeting to get her questions answered. The Commissioners recommended that Ms. Schwartz reach out to Colonel Bailey at the Jail who can direct her to someone who is authorized to speak on behalf of the Board. The next TBRJ Board meeting is November 12th. Her questions stem from a recent article in the Boston Globe which mentions TBRJ as one of the five sites in New England which will be receiving a greater number of detainees from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with no source given. Sheriff Brackett commented that he had heard about this article from someone recently.

Speaker Two – Jennifer Brewer, Bristol, thanked the Commissioners for their stand on the recent grant even though it meant losing funds.

Minutes

September 2, 2025 – Commissioner Levesque moved to accept the minutes with a change to the section on the Employee Appreciation event from "they" to "he", seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Finance

Bookkeeper, Caitlin Tardif presented for approval Accounts Payable Warrant #76 in the amount of \$363,967.59. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Bookkeeper Tardif presented Payroll Warrant #2025-18 in the amount of \$263,037.96 for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky move to approve the Payroll Warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Department

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett presented the current jail count as follows effective September 16, 2025: Lincoln 37, Sagadahoc 21, Knox 18, Penobscot 48, Waldo 29, Federal 3, and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) 12 for a total of 168. The Sheriff noted that he is a member of the Jail Authority and not authorized to speak on behalf of them but wanted to note that the ICE detainees at the jail are all held there on criminal/judicial warrants, not on

administrative warrants. They have all committed a crime here in the United States and those are the only people from ICE that TBRJ will house per their agreement with ICE.

Purchase Authorization – Absolute Software - Sheriff Brackett presented a Purchase Authorization for payment to Absolute Software in the amount of \$4,800. This budgeted item is the annual subscription for the software which connects the data securely between the computers in the vehicles and the servers at the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Admiral Fire & Safety - Sheriff Brackett presented a Purchase Authorization for payment to Admiral Fire & Safety in the amount of \$4,867.12. This budgeted item is for purchase of two ballistic vests, plates and carriers. We will be receiving 50% of the cost back from the Federal Government through the bulletproof vest act. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve the Purchase Authorization, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Lee Tire – Sheriff Brackett presented a Purchase Authorization for payment to Lee Tire in the amount of \$2,852. This budgeted item is for purchase of snow tires which will then be installed by Hillside. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

EMA

Purchase Authorization – Stop the Bleed Kits – Director Emily Huber presented a Purchase Authorization in the amount of \$30,000 for purchase of Stop the Bleed kits for local schools. These kits are \$829 each for an eight-person kit which will be provided to local schools along with training on the use of the kits in case of mass casualty situations. The funds were granted through Homeland Security in the past. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Command Vehicle Radio Installation – Director Huber presented a Purchase Authorization in the amount of \$11,250.90 to RCM for three radios and installation of the radios in the Command Van that had been purchased through ARPA funding. There will be one radio in the driver's seat and two in the back of the van so they can be used to monitor numerous radio frequencies at the same time. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Director Huber also noted that the Command Van, along with other EMA equipment, has been invited to attend the MCCA Commissioners Conference this week for a demonstration for all the counties to see.

LCRPC

Contract Approval – State of Maine Regional Coordinator Service Contract (Year 2) – Director Emily Rabbe requested approval to enter into a second year with the State of Maine

Regional Coordinator Service Contract through the Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovations and the Future (GOPIF), newly renamed the Maine Office of Community Affairs or MOCA. This is part of a large NOAA Grant, and the funds are used to assist Lincoln County Communities in advancing their community resilience priorities, writing grants, assisting with project scope or implementing projects. It also gives us funds to conduct workshops and training events. The first year also helped cover the cost of our summer intern. This is a five-year program, and this contract would be for year two with the intention of continuing for the remaining three years. Director Rabbe did confirm with the State that the contract language will not be changed since this is a continuation of a previously signed grant. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the contract approval for year two of the grant with Administrator Kipfer signing the contract; seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Paid Family Medical Leave Draft Policy – Administrator Kipfer presented the draft policy for the County's Paid Family Medical Leave self-funded and self-administered plan. Once the draft policy is approved, they will start working on the application for the County employees to use once the plan is in effect on May 1st, 2026. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve the Paid Family Medical Leave Policy as drafted; seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Recycling Packer Truck – Administrator Kipfer explained that our 2001 Mack Packer truck, purchased in 2012, had finally exceeded its lifespan. Weighing the costs of a new engine and other potential issues given the age of the truck, purchasing a replacement used vehicle was the better option. Several options were explored, including having a new vehicle built to the needed specifications for a cost of about \$330,000. A search of east coast truck dealers located a truck in Pennsylvania with approximately 65,000 miles on it that could be retrofitted to meet our needs. Two of our staff went down to make sure it would meet our needs. With the needed assembly installed and transportation of the vehicle to Maine, the cost will be \$152,700 payable to Trucks and Parts of Tampa. The winch equipment has been ordered and hopefully the truck will be here in the next couple of weeks. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve the Purchase Authorization for \$152,700 to Trucks and Parts of Tampa, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky. 3-0 vote approved.

Old Business

LCTV – No updates.

Public Safety Building Project – Still looking for a date for meeting to discuss.

Commissioners' Updates

MCCA – Convention starts this Thursday. Several Department Heads will also be attending.

LCRPC – Next meeting is Wednesday, September 17th.

CCWI - Annual Meeting is Friday, September 19, 2025, in the morning. Commissioner Goodkowsky will be attending and then joining the MCCA Convention in the afternoon.

Executive Session

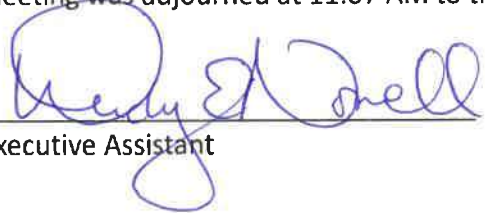
Discussion of Personnel – 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A) – Commissioner Levesque moved to enter Executive Session for Discussion of Personnel per 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A); seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky, 3-0 vote approved.

Commissioner Levesque moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve the motion as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

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

There being no further business, the meeting ~~was~~ adjourned at 11:07 AM to the 7th day of October, 2025 A.D.

ATTEST:


Executive Assistant