STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the third day of November 2026 by adjournment from the twentieth day of October 2026.

Present: David Levesque (via Zoom)
Evan Goodkowsky, Acting Chair
William B. Blodgett

Meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM by Commissioner Goodkowsky, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

None present.

Minutes

October 20, 2026 – Commissioner Blodgett moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Finance Department

Warrants – Finance Director, Michelle Kane, presented Accounts Payable Warrant #81 in the amount of $312,999.75 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 #2026-2, paid on October 30, 2026, in the amount of $291,098.76 for approval. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 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 20, Sagadahoc 11, Knox 48, Penobscot 38, and Oxford 4 for a total of 121.

ASP Update – Chief Deputy Rand Maker presented and update on the October 16-23, 2026, Alternative Sentence Program (ASP) at Wavus Camps. There was a total of 38 participants in the program from eight counties for a total of approximately 1,400 community service hours of work. The participants work at various sites such as cemeteries, the Courthouse and Camp Wavus and Kieve doing clean-up of the grounds and prep for winter. In the evenings, education programs are presented. The program saves the counties about $29,946 in jail bed days and provided approximately $21,140 in labor costs. The Lincoln County ASP program is one of the few in Maine and has a 15% recidivism rate among attendees. Chief Deputy Maker would like to invite some of the key players, such as the Commissioners and the District Attorneys, to visit during the next ASP in April 2027 and meet with the participants next time to get a feeling for the program.

RFP – Substance Use Disorder Recovery Services contract renewal – Sheriff Brackett requested permission to issue an RFP for next year's Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Support Contract, which expires December 31, 2026. The new RFP will define clearer expectations for handling staff vacancies and County Administrator Carrie Kipfer is working with the Sheriff to finalize the vacancy language on the RFP. The bids would be due in time to present them to the Commissioners by the end of December or the beginning of the year. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the issuing of the RFP, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky, 3-0 vote approved.

Resolution to Apply for DOJ Grant Funding – Sheriff Brackett requests permission to apply for a $50,890, three-year Department of Justice (DOJ) grant with no matching funds required. If awarded, it would help fund a Sheriff's Office app offering anonymous tips, witness information and video submissions, incarceration status checks, and release notifications from Two Bridges. The project would improve communication among victims, law enforcement, and prosecutors while integrating the office's website and social media. Funding would cover the initial app purchase in year one, subscriptions and maintenance in years two and three, and a complete LCSO website rebuild. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the application for the DOJ grant, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Job Postings for Patrol Vacancies - Sheriff Brackett requested approval to post for two patrol positions to replace vacancies created with the recent promotions. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the posting of two vacant patrol positions, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

EMA

Purchase Authorization for RCM Radio Install - $4,895.37 – Director Emily Huber presented a Purchase Authorization to RCM for a radio system including install for the new EMA Tahoe SUV in the amount of $4,895.37. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the Purchase Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization for Island Tech Light and Siren Install – $12,370.00 – Director Huber presented a Purchase Authorization to Island Tech for a light and siren system including install for the new EMA Tahoe SUV in the amount of $12,370.00. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the Purchase Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

2026-27 Local Emergency Planning Committee Contract - $10,042.48 – Director Huber requested permission to sign the 2026 Local Emergency Planning Committee contract on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Funding includes $5,420.37 for operations and equipment and $4,622.11 for responder training in Lincoln County for a total of $10,042.48. The contract is through FEMA and has been reviewed for new terms and conditions. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the request, seconded by Commission Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

LCRPC

Introduction of Floodplain Manager Bekah Farmer - Executive Director Emily Rabbe introduced Bekah Farmer, new Floodplain Manager, who started on Monday, November 2, 2026. She will be working to help municipalities with ordinance writing and participation in FEMA's Community Rating System. The state-funded position aims to help communities earn points that can lower flood insurance rates for eligible residents. Ms. Farmer will be visiting the Lincoln County municipalities to become familiar with their needs while working toward floodplain manager certification through the State of Maine.

Fellows Program Application Approval – Director Rabbe presented a request to apply for the 2027-2028 Maine Service Fellows Program for a proposed 20-month service fellowship through Volunteer Maine to establish a volunteer clearinghouse for Lincoln County. The Fellow would work with municipalities and service organizations to identify volunteer needs, build an online Volunteer Network portal (Volunteer Linc), promote opportunities to residents, and develop a plan to sustain the program after the fellowship ends. Director Rabbe explained the need to broaden civic participation beyond the same small group of volunteers and connect retirees and younger residents with community organizations.

The County's proposed costs included a $1,800 enrollment fee, mileage reimbursement, a housing stipend, and training. Volunteer Maine would cover the Fellow's salary and benefits. Suggested training included a $120 certificate in volunteer management and a grant-writing micro credential to support long-term funding. Administrator Kipfer expressed hope that living and working in Lincoln County would encourage the Fellow to establish roots and remain in the community.

Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the application for the Maine Service Fellows Program, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Emily Rabbe – Northern New England Professional Planner of the Year Award – Director Rabbe showed the Commissioners the award she was presented at the Northern New England Planners Conference where she was named the Professional Planner of the Year. Her entire department and Administrator Kipfer were all present for the presentation and one of the Planning Department employees, Laura Graziano, was a speaker for one of the presentations at the conference. The LCRPC staff are invited back year after year because of the quality of presentations that they provide for the organization.

Probate

Payment Authorization – Court Appointed GAL $4,077.44 – Probate Register Catherine Moore presented a Payment Authorization in the amount of $4,077.44 for payment of a Court Appointed Guardian ad Litem (GAL). The Probate Judge appointed a GAL in a lengthy guardianship case of a minor to represent the best interests of the child. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the Payment Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

District Attorney

Hiring Recommendation – Victim Witness Advocate – In the absences of District Attorney Natasha Irving or Assistant District Attorney Kent Murdick, Administrator Kipfer presented a Hiring Recommendation for the Victim Witness Advocate (VWA) vacancy. After a series of interviews, the new Office Supervisor has consulted the ADAs who were unanimously in support of recommending hiring Jonathan Hawkins as the new VWA. Mr. Hawkins is currently living in New Hampshire but will be relocating and will be available to start working at the beginning of December. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Hiring Recommendation for Jonathan Hawkins, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Opioid Settlement Fund Participation Agreement – Albertsons – Administrator Kipfer presented an opportunity to participate in an opioid settlement agreement with Albertson's, AKA Shaw's Supermarkets. Attorneys recommended joining the settlement, which was expected to provide about $38,000 over nine years. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve participation in the Albertsons Opioid Settlement Participation Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – 2 Recycling Containers (up to $25,000) – Administrator Kipfer presented a Purchase Authorization in the amount of up to $25,000 to Plum Creek Containers for two recycling containers for use with roll-off trucks at transfer stations. The containers will have roofs and four sliding side doors that allow sections to be separated. The anticipated total cost is up to $25,000, including delivery. They will be made to order in New Hampshire and delivered by truck once completed, replacing two containers which can no longer be repaired. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the Purchase Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Policy Update – County Vehicle Policy – Administrator Kipfer presented an update to the County Vehicle Policy which reflects changes needed for the new EMA vehicle since we are adding lights and a siren to it. The policy adds expectations on how these lights and siren will be used and there will be specific training associated with the policy. The revisions have been reviewed with the EMA Director. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the update for the County Vehicle Policy, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Old Business

Public Safety Building Project - Administrator Kipfer has no updates but will be looking at a new parcel shortly.

Commissioner Updates

MCCA – Commissioner Levesque informed the Commissioners that there would be an MCCA meeting on Monday, November 9, 2026, where they will be discussing the Executive Director position.

CCWI – Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners that the next CCWI meeting will be Friday, November 20, 2026.

LCRPC - Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners that the next LCRPC meeting will be Tuesday, November 24, 2026, at 6 PM via Zoom and the Executive Committee meeting will be next week.

Jail Authority – Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners that the next Jail Authority meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, 2026, which is Veterans Day. Administrator Kipfer was in contact with the Colonel about shifting to a new date.

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 2027 salary adjustments as discussed; seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

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

Commissioner Levesque moved to come out of Executive Session for Discussion of Real Property per 1 MSRA 405 (6)(C), seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved. No votes were taken.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM to the seventeenth day of November 2026 A.D.

ATTEST: _____
Executive Assistant