

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the nineteenth day of August 2025 by adjournment from the fifth day of August 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.

Public Forum

Commissioner Blodgett introduced Mr. Andre Cushing, Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA) President and Penobscot County Commissioner. Mr. Cushing shared information on the MCCA Convention of Maine Counties to be held in Sagadahoc County September 18-20, 2025. Matt Chase, CEO of the National Association of Counties (NACo) will be a featured luncheon speaker along as well as being a sponsor of the Convention. The goal is informational and enjoyable. Thursday and Friday morning there will be panel discussions, Friday afternoon networking, and other activities. One third of the Commissioners in Maine have been in their positions for less than two years. MCCA has focused on educating the Legislature on the Counties' roles in Jail Management. With the lack of mental health facilities in most county jails, it is important to educate and adapt to the new needs in the jails. MCCA is looking to have more collaborative efforts with municipalities as well; Counties can be resources for the towns with their needs such as Animal Control Officers. Mr. Cushing encouraged the Commissioners and the County staff to attend the various events. MCCA is looking to also reinstate the Executive Director position and structure the role to assist all the elected County officials. He also noted that Administrator Carrie Kipfer will be one of the presenters on Thursday on a panel on County Administration.

Minutes

August 5, 2025 – Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Finance Department

Warrants – Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented Accounts Payable Warrant #70 for \$687,190.28 for approval. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Director Richardson presented Payroll Warrant #2025-16 for \$289,285.75 for approval; this also includes union payouts due to a long-term employee leaving. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization for Replacement of Recycling Center Mechanic's Garage apron – Director Richardson presented a purchase order for up to \$6,000 to Highland Construction to replace the apron on the entrance to the Recycling Center Mechanic's Garage. The new door does not close all the way, and the current concrete apron needs to be removed and rebuilt.

The cost will be under \$6,000. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization for RHR Smith FY 2025 Annual Audit Service – Director Richardson presented a purchase order for up to \$20,000 for service from RHR Smith for our Annual Audit for FY 2025. There are some changes in services provided and they will be looking for partial payment up front. The Single Audit of Federal monies (ARPA) will be \$6,000 with \$4,000 built in for time and labor costs. Services will not exceed \$20,000. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

FY2025 PSAP Contracts for Kennebec Towns – Director Richardson requested approval to send out the FY2025 PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) contracts for our Kennebec Towns. They are sent out based on the departmental budget increase. Each town will see a 17.4% increase this year in their contract. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Extend Planning Department Summer Internship for two weeks – Director Richardson requested approval to extend the summer internship by two weeks to end August 29, 2025. Our summer intern does not have to return to school until after Labor Day and she has been providing valuable services. We have funds in the budget due to only having one intern for the summer instead of the two planned for. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Quarterly Financials – Director Richardson presented the second quarter FY25 Financial Statement update. The YTD expenses are currently just under 50% of the budgeted amount for the end of June. We have some revenues that are expected to fall short but not so far short that it is of concern.

Sheriff's Office

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett presented the current jail count as follows: Lincoln 25, Sagadahoc 29, Knox 24, Penobscot 50, Waldo 30, Aroostook 1, Federal 3, and Immigration Customs Enforcement 12 for a total of 174.

Payment Authorization – Sheriff Brackett presented a payment authorization for \$5,308.17 to Hillside Collision Center for cruiser repairs. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization - Sheriff Brackett presented a purchase authorization for Coastal Electronics, Wiscasset, for equipment installation in the new 2025 cruiser. The amount of \$13,494.91 is budgeted. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Animal Control Services – Edgecomb – Sheriff Brackett requested permission to approve a proposal to enter into a contract to extend Animal Control Services to Edgecomb. The contract will be through December 31, 2025, to keep the contract in line with all the other Animal Control agreements. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to authorize Sheriff Brackett to

enter into an Animal Control Services Contract with the Town of Edgecomb, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Sale of Surplus Property – Sheriff Brackett submitted a request for approval to sell off surplus vehicles. The fleet is regularly rotated based on condition of vehicles and mileage. A frontline vehicle lasts approximately 3 years and 150,000 miles, other vehicles might be used for longer. The property proposed for sale include 2020 Dodge Durango, 2021 Dodge Durango, 2018 Dodge Charger, and a 2018 Ford SUV. Administrator Kipfer plans to switch the county vehicle, a Chevy Impala, for one of the Durangos which will be a more efficient vehicle for the Facilities Team. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the sale of surplus property with the change of one of the Durangos for the County's Impala, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Highway Safety Grant Submission – Sheriff Brackett requested approval to apply for a grant through the Department of Highway Safety for approximately \$5,000 which will also make us eligible for a couple of new radar units. If we are awarded the grant, it will come back to the Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the submission of the Department of Highway Safety grant, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Courthouse Elevator Repair – Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented a proposal from Pine State Elevator Company for \$106,300 to repair the existing 1970's era elevator. The elevator has been having problems with the door functioning and, given the age, needs to be modernized for efficiency and ADA compliance. It will eventually fail and by having the upgrades done proactively, we can plan for the materials ordering lead time and it being offline for four (4) weeks rather than having a failure that could lead to months offline. Other repairs include upgrading the walls of the elevator would be another \$15,000, replacing the original hydraulic jack for \$85,000 plus \$8-12,000 for hazardous materials disposal and updating the electrical panel for an estimated \$15,000. The hydraulic jack is working at this time but replacing it at the same time as the elevator repairs would cost less, financially and timewise, in the long run as the elevator needs to be removed to replace it. The total project would be around \$200,000 and we do have money in the capital repairs fund to cover it. The scheduling of the project would be coordinated with the Courts and the meeting rooms on the main floor would be made available to them. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved that Administrator Kipfer move forward on completing the estimate and getting the repairs planned, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Reminder – Employee Appreciation Day – Administrator Kipfer reminded the Commissioners that Friday, August 22nd the Administrative Offices will be closing at noon for the annual Employee Appreciation Day. She hopes the Commissioners will be able to attend. There will be games, lunch and socializing.

Old Business

LCTV Proposal – No updates currently.

Public Safety Building Project – The analysis of the properties by the Planning Office has been completed. Administrator Kipfer will be reviewing the results and contacting the consultants to go over them for next steps.

Tax Abatement Hearing Decision – The deliberation of the August 5, 2025, Tax Abatement Hearing needs to be scheduled. The Commissioners proposed adding it to the schedule for the September 2, 2025, meeting. The Petitioner is allowed to attend but can listen only as the hearing is officially closed.

Commissioner Updates

CCWI – Commissioner Goodkowsky Board met last Friday and approved a new Merrymeeting Bay Adult Education member as well as a BIW Business Board member.

LCRPC – Commissioner Goodkowsky stated that the Board meeting is the evening of August 19th.

Broadband – Commissioner Goodkowsky stated that the Fidium Broadband Celebration was Friday, August 14th and was well attended. The County was presented with a plaque recognizing Lincoln County as the first fully connected Broadband county in the state.

MCCA – Commissioner Levesque reminded the Commissioners about the Convention in September.

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

Commissioner Levesque moved to enter Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved. Out of Executive Session, no votes were taken.

Workshop – The Commissioners discussed the August 5, 2025, Tax Abatement Appeal of JLLD Trust, Jerry Ogle Trustee vs. Town of Whitefield. A separate audio recording was made for the record.

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 10:49 AM to the 2nd day of September 2025 A.D.

ATTEST:


Executive Assistant