

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the fifth day of March 2024 by adjournment from the twentieth day of February 2024.

Present: Hamilton W. Meserve
William B. Blodgett (remote)
Absent: Mary Trescot

Minutes

February 20, 2024- Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Department

Deputy of the Year Award – Sheriff Todd Brackett presented the 2023 Deputy of the Year Award to Detective Matthew Ryan. Deputy Ryan's wife and co-workers were in attendance to hear of his many accomplishments and the high praise of his performance. The Commissioners offered their thanks and congratulations.

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 15, Sagadahoc 28, Knox 29, Penobscot 57, Waldo 39, Oxford 02, and Federal 05 for a total of 175.

RFP Award – County Vehicle Maintenance – Sheriff Brackett reported back on the review of the two bids for County Vehicle Maintenance that were opened at the February 20, 2024 meeting. His recommendation is to award the contract to Hillside Collision of Waldoboro, with the effective dates of March 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025. The other bidder was Wiscasset Ford. Commissioner Blodgett moved to accept the recommendation and award the contract to Hillside Collision, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Chief Deputy Rand Maker presents a purchase request in the amount of \$3,990.00 from Scott's Recreation for a 2023 Utility Trailer 6'x14' to be funded with Homeland Security Grant dollars. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Out of State Travel Requests– Sheriff Brackett requests permission for out of state travel for Deputy Ethan Burns to travel to Florida in April to attend the two-week *Institute for Police Traffic Management Accident Reconstruction School*. Cost of \$3,691.00 includes airfare, lodging and incidental costs. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

A request for out of state travel for two employees – Detective Matthew Ryan and Victim Witness Advocate Abriana DeLena – was presented by District Attorney Office Supervisor Amanda Charlton and Sheriff Brackett. Both employees were selected by the Maine Prosecutors Association to attend the *Conference on Crimes Against Women* in Dallas, Texas from May 20-23. Expected costs (air, hotel, incidentals) of \$1,763.44 per employee will be reimbursed by grant funding through the Attorney General's office at the completion of the conference. Registration per employee has already been purchased by the AG's office. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Animal Control Contract – Sheriff Brackett presents Animal Control contract renewals for the Towns of Wiscasset and Boothbay Harbor. The contracts reflect an update in cost plus indemnification language changes. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Maine DOT grant purchase - Sheriff Brackett reports that Maine Department of Transportation has federal grant funding under the Traffic Incident Management System (TIMS) program to purchase a drone that could be used for mapping of accident scenes, plus traffic safety software. These resources are being offered to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office in preparation for future traffic incidents. Commissioner Blodgett moved to accept the drone and software, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Hybrid Cruisers - Sheriff Brackett informed the Board of ongoing repair issues with the Hybrid Cruisers in the fleet. The most current problem is a faulty wiring harness that has an expected repair cost of \$4,400 and is out of warranty. This is the fourth vehicle that has had the same fault, although previous repairs have been covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Future vehicle purchase decisions may be affected by this experience.

Finance Department

Warrants

Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented for approval accounts payable warrant #99 (2023) for \$33,940.83. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Accounts payable warrant #42 (2024) for \$740,348.93 was presented. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Payroll warrant #2024-04 for \$222,165.71 was presented for approval. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Emergency Management

Storage Facility Lease Renewal – On behalf of EMA Director Maury Prentiss, County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presents a two-year lease renewal with Just Right Storage for indoor storage in the amount of \$14,400 annually. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve renewal and to authorize Administrator Kipfer to sign on behalf of the Board, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission

Letter of Intent – Coastal Communities Grant– Executive Director Emily Rabbe presents a request to submit a Letter of Intent Commissioner for a Coastal Communities Grant as well as a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve both requests, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Payment Authorization – ARPA Broadband – Administrator Kipfer presents a payment authorization to Tidewater Telecom in the amount of \$80,000 for matching grant ARPA funds for the Town of South Bristol Broadband line extension project. This project was previously approved by the Board and the contract with Maine Connectivity Authority has recently been signed. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Also presented is a payment authorization to Tidewater Telecom in the amount of \$60,000 for matching grant ARPA funds for the Town of Newcastle Broadband fiber to the home connections. This project was previously approved by the Board and the contract with Maine Connectivity Authority has recently been signed. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Deeds Index Books – On behalf of Register of Deeds Rebecca Wotton, Administrator Kipfer presents a payment authorization to Info Quick Solutions in the amount of \$5,850.00 for digital conversion of Index Books 1761-1953 to be paid using funds from the Surcharge Account. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Tax Abatement Request – A tax abatement request for the Town of Newcastle was received for consideration by the Commissioners. Commissioner Blodgett moved to accept the application and directed Administrator Kipfer to schedule a hearing at a future meeting date, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved. The Assessors Agent for the town will be contacted to coordinate a mutually acceptable hearing date.

Courthouse Exterior Painting – A contract for painting services from TD&H Painting (Connor Graham) in the amount of \$18,235.00 was reviewed. The specs include painting the Courthouse cupola and exterior trim, with a scheduled timeframe of April 2024. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve authorizing the expenditure, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved. The Board requests a review of references prior to issuing payment.

Lease Renewal Department of Corrections – Administrator Kipfer seeks permission to renew the space lease with the Department of Corrections in the Sheriff’s Office building for use by Probation & Parole. The square footage is 712 square feet at a rate of \$14.50/sf beginning 5/1/24 – 4/30/28. The prior lease rate was \$10.75/sf. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the contract renewal and authorize Administrator Kipfer to sign on their behalf, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Executive Session: Discussion of Real Property-1MRSA 405 (6) (C)

Commissioner Blodgett moved to enter into Executive Session, second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved. Out of Executive Session, no votes taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the 19th day of March, 2024 A.D.

ATTEST: 
County Administrator