

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the first day of July 2025 by adjournment from the seventeenth day of June 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

None.

Minutes

June 17, 2025 – Commissioner Levesque moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Finance Department

Warrants – Bookkeeper Caitlin Tardif presented for approval Accounts Payable Warrant #61 for \$571,726.83. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll Warrant #2025-13 for \$273,203.28 was presented for approval, noting that the overtime is high but should balance out over the rest of the year. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

FY24 Unorganized Territory, Hibberts Gore Audit – Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented the separate audit for the Unorganized Territory, Hibberts Gore, which is done annually. The audit shows the fund balance has grown, which is deliberate due to planned projects coming up, including the replacement of the culvert. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the FY24 Unorganized Territory, Hibberts Gore Audit, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Department

Introduction of Behavioral Health Liaison – Danielle Pierce – Sheriff Todd Brackett introduced Danielle Pierce, the new Behavioral Health Liaison for Lincoln County from Sweetser along with Tonya Thurlow. Ms. Pierce, of Jefferson, will be the first person in this role, which is part of a new response model that will help with triaging individuals in crisis to determine if they need treatment/hospitalization or should be referred elsewhere. This is a new model for Sweetser but not for the State of Maine. The interactions will be tracked to determine the effectiveness of the program. The Sheriff is very optimistic that this will help his staff in their work. Ms. Pierce will also be working with Mike Andrick, Sweetser, to develop an approach to

bring all the community partners to the table to work together on handling individuals who are frequently in the system. The Commissioners expressed their hopes for a successful program.

Jail Count - Sheriff Brackett presented the current jail count as follows: Lincoln 19, Sagadahoc 30, Knox 16, Penobscot 51, Waldo 22, Federal 5, Border Patrol 0, and Immigration Customs Enforcement 25 for a total of 168.

Renewal of Maine Pretrial Contract – Sheriff Brackett presented for approval the annual Maine Pretrial contract. Pretrial provides case management for individuals who are charged but have not gone to trial and helps speed the process through the courts. There is a 10% increase in the \$94,941 contract cost, but it should be close to what we budgeted and is still an overall savings for our programs. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the renewal of the Maine Pretrial Contract, Commissioner Levesque seconded; 3-0 vote approved.

Surplus Property Auction Results – Chief Deputy Rand Maker presented the results of the online auction of surplus property. The auction raised \$16,025. The Box Truck sale fell through and has been placed back in the auction.

LCRPC

Purchase Authorization – Conference room tables \$3,927.81 – LCRPC Executive Director Emily Rabbe presented for approval a Purchase Authorization to National Business Furniture for purchase of a set of six new nesting conference tables for the Planning Department meeting room. The ones that they are currently using are older and not easy to shift around. These will allow the Planning Department to have more efficient meetings in their space. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

EMA

Monhegan Island Electrical Outage Response - EMA Director Emily Huber gave an update on the ongoing situation on Monhegan Island. On Thursday, June 19th, 2025, EMA was contacted by Monhegan Island due to a failure of their power equipment on Tuesday, June 17th. The EMA team was able to connect with the Boothbay Harbor Coast Guard and transported two household generators along with water out to the Island late that night. They were able to provide a larger generator on Saturday, June 21st, on a Monhegan Boat Lines ferry from Port Clyde. The Island managed with rolling brown outs for their residents until Sunday, June 22nd when they were able to get power restored with generators. They are still working on getting the equipment fully functional. Director Huber and Communications Director Tara Doe will be heading out to Monhegan Island on Wednesday, July 2nd to assess the situation and work with the Island government to develop an after-action review and prepare for future issues due to the age of the electrical system on the island utilizing potential grants. It is also recommended that the Island needs to have a more proactive agreement with their fuel utility company for delivering gas more frequently. This timely response was a tribute to the good relationships that have been developed between EMA, the Island and the Coast Guard and other Marine Agencies.

Administrator

Purchase Authorization – Courthouse Handrail Fabrication \$5,690 – Administrator Kipfer presented a Purchase Authorization with Modern Edge Metal Fabrication for fabrication and installation of a handrail identical to the current one at the main entrance that will extend it to the curb. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

LD 1287 – Decrease in Real Estate Transfer Tax Revenue – Administrator Kipfer advised the Commissioners about LD 1287, a bill that was approved late in the session last week which will decrease the portion of transfer taxes that the Counties will receive. In the past, the split between the State and the Counties was 90/10 and decreased to 90.8/9.2, in theory for the next two years, with the estimated \$1 million annually going to fund emergency housing. The decrease is supposed to be offset by an increase in the tax on properties sold for over \$1 million. From an analysis of our taxable properties that have sold recently, it looks like we should be stable with the change but there will be other Counties who do not have as many high-priced properties that could be suffering from this change. Another bill was approved that will change the transfer filing fees to a flat rate, that is unlikely to have a significant effect on our revenues.

Purchase Authorization for repairs to Recycling Truck \$4,206.30 – Administrator Kipfer presented a Purchase Authorization for repairs of springs and the AC unit on the 2018 Kenworth Recycling Truck in the amount of \$4,206.30. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Old Business

DA's Office Outstanding Restitution - Kent Murdick of the District Attorney's Office let the Commissioners know that the Restitution Trial was moving forward. The Defendant is pleading regarding the Restitution on July 11th, 2025, and there will be more details about the amount of restitution after that date. Mr. Murdick will attend the July 15th meeting to give another update.

LCTV Proposal – No updates.

Public Safety Building Project - Three of the four owners of the proposed parcels are receptive to having their properties viewed and assessed as possible locations for the Public Safety Building. One property does have a tenant, so they are checking with the consultants before viewing. Another possible property has been suggested by the owner in the Damariscotta area close to Route One, this will be assessed if the other properties do not present as good locations.

Tax Abatement Hearings - The Hillstrom v. Whitefield Tax Abatement Hearing has been scheduled for July 15th, 2025, at 11 AM and the JLLD Trust v. Breman Tax Abatement Hearing has been rescheduled for August 5th, 2025, at 11 AM.

Commissioner Updates

MCCA – Commissioner Levesque let the other Commissioners know that there will be a MCCA Meeting in Farmington on July 9th, 2025, at the new Franklin County Emergency Operations Center. The Commissioners are encouraged to attend this as well as the September 18-20th, 2025 Convention of Maine Counties.

LCRPC – Commissioner Goodkowsky attended the June 18th, 2025, LCRPC meeting, and the attendance at these meetings continues to increase.

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.

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM to the 15th day of July 2025 A.D.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wendy E. Noel", is written over a horizontal line.

Executive Assistant