

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the seventh day of March 2023 by adjournment from the twenty-first day of February 2023.

Present: Hamilton W. Meserve
William Blodgett

Absent: Mary Trescot (medical leave)

Public Forum – Wiscasset resident, Jenny Gray, attended the meeting and asked how the County planned to spend ARPA funds received. She suggested a project that the County should consider and asked how to make the recommendation. County Administrator Carrie Kipfer offered to meet with Ms. Gray to discuss the actions taken to date as well as future projects.

Minutes

February 21, 2023 - Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Finance Department

Warrants

Michelle Richardson, Finance Director presented for approval 2023 payroll warrant #2023-04 for \$211,194.00. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Accounts payable warrant #41 for \$422,507.45 was presented for approval. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Accounts payable warrant #42 for \$74,993.28 was presented for approval. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Approval was requested for payment of a hiring incentive to Deputy Mark Fortin for a total of \$16,000 as summarized in a signed Memorandum of Understanding. The first payment of \$6,000 will be included in the next A/P warrant. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

The Commissioners reviewed a recommendation by Director Richardson to make a transfer of FY 2022 undesignated fund balance to various reserve accounts in Fund 1 and Fund 3 in the General Ledger. Remaining FY 2022 surplus funds will be used to offset FY 2023 County Tax Commitment. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

A draft copy of the 2023 Lincoln County Tax Commitment was presented for approval. The grand total of the tax commitment is \$12,309,500.00. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve as presented, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Department

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 26, Sagadahoc 27, Knox/Waldo 42, Penobscot 60, Cumberland 01, and Federal 04 for a total of 160.

Employee Resignation – Sheriff Brackett presented an employee resignation from Alfred “Willie” Simmons. He plans to retire effective Friday, March 10, 2023, but will be available as a reserve deputy through April 28, 2023. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve with regret, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved. The Board also approved Deputy Simmons’ offer to work as a reserve deputy.

Out of State Travel Request – Sheriff Brackett requested permission for Deputy Jerold Winslow to attend a Drug Recognition training in Jacksonville, Florida on April 4-7, 2023. The cost for the training, and associated travel total \$1,168.00, a budgeted amount. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Promotion Announcement – After a recent interview process, Deputy Matthew Ryan has been selected for the vacant Detective position within the Sheriff’s Office. He will begin his new position once Deputy Sam Alexander returns from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and can begin his patrol duties once again, likely in May 2023. Commissioner Meserve offers congratulations of the Board and moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization - Payment to MCJA for Deputy Alexander’s tuition for \$3,000.00 was presented for approval. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Replacement Vehicles – Chief Deputy Rand Maker requested permission to solicit bids for the next planned replacement of cruisers. The last two rounds of vehicle orders have seen significant delays and this is an attempt to get them ordered as soon as possible. The Board supports this effort and Chief Deputy Maker will bring the bids to be opened at a future Commissioners’ meeting.

Communications

Hiring Recommendation –Director of Communications, Tara Doe, presented an out of state travel request to travel to Denver, Colorado, to attend the IAED Navigator Conference in April 2023. The total cost of conference registration and travel is \$3,667.77. Tuition reimbursement grant funds will be sought by County Administrator Carrie Kipfer to offset some of the expense. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Correspondence Received – Marilee Harris, President of Stepping Stone Housing in Damariscotta send an ARPA funding request to the Board in the amount of \$250,000. Ms. Harris attended the meeting and gave some historical context to the request and informed the Board on their current needs. Commissioner Meserve asked if this project would fit into the upcoming Housing Study recommendations and suggested the request be referred to the LCRPC staff coordinating such requests. A decision was tabled pending the results of the housing study. Commissioner Meserve moved to table, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Fire Alarm System Quotes- Administrator Kipfer informed the Board that the Maintenance Supervisor has made inquiries to vendors for quotes to replace the Courthouse Fire Alarm system. The current system is obsolete and replacement parts are no longer available to purchase. Once three bids are secured, they will be presented to the Board for review.

Notice of Filing – Maine Land Use Planning Commission – Notice was received that an application was filed by a property owner on Louds Island (Maxfield Louds Island Trust) to replace and extend an existing dock and haul-out ramp. The Board acknowledged receipt of the notice.

Maine DEP tour – Two representatives of Maine Department of Environmental Protection toured the Recycling plant in preparation of the upcoming Producer Packaging law. Discussions focused on current operations and future support of efforts to increase recycling in support of this law.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the 21st day of March, 2023 A.D.

ATTEST: 
County Administrator