

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 June 2021, by adjournment from the eighteenth day of May 2021.

Present: William B. Blodgett, Chair
Hamilton W. Meserve
Mary Trescot

In response to the Executive Order from the Governor's Office, the meeting was held at the Lincoln County Planning Office to maintain the social distancing requirements of the individuals participating. The meeting agenda reflects this change in protocol. Two members of the press participated, in addition, two State Legislators and several County departments were present.

Commissioner Meserve moved to approve minutes from the May 18, 2021 meeting; second by Commissioner Trescot; 3 – 0 vote approved.

Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented for approval:

Warrant #31 \$710,815.70

Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 3 – 0 vote approved.

Payroll Warrant #2021-11 \$196,062.07

Motion to approve by Commissioner Meserve; second by Commissioner Trescot; 3 – 0 vote approved.

Director Richardson advised the Board that the first half of Federal *American Rescue Plan* funds have been received in the amount of \$3,363,624.00. She is meeting later in the morning with our bank manager to identify ways the funds can be placed in interest-bearing certificates of deposit that will yield a larger interest rate than our general fund.

Sheriff Todd Brackett reported a current Jail count at Two Bridges Regional Jail (TBRJ): 14 Lincoln County inmates; Sagadahoc County holds 28 inmates at TBRJ; Federal 2; Oxford 24; Cumberland 4; York 1; Androscoggin 2, for a total of 75.

Authorization to hire Michael Cory Livers as a part-time Animal Control Officer was presented.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 3 – 0 vote approved.

A termination of employment for probationary Patrol Deputy, Eze VanBuckley, was presented by Chief Deputy Rand Maker. The effective date is May 22, 2021. Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 3 – 0 vote approved.

An employee resignation was received from Patrol Deputy Michael Moody, effective May 29, 2021.

Motion to accept by Commissioner Meserve; second by Commissioner Trescot; 3 – 0 vote approved.

Sheriff Brackett presented a draft Lincoln County policy – Sheriff's Office Hiring/Recruitment Incentives, as a follow-up to information discussed at the May 4th and May 18th meetings. Commissioner Meserve requested Sheriff Brackett discuss some details in Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

Director Tara Doe presented a hiring recommendation for Derek Cole of Newcastle, as an Emergency Communication Officer, pending a successful background check. Motion to approve by Commissioner Meserve; second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 approved.

District Attorney Natasha Irving presented an employee resignation from Legal Secretary Paige Rollins, effective May 28, 2021. Motion to accept by Commissioner Meserve; second by Commissioner Trescot; 3 – 0 vote approved. DA Irving requested the internal posting of the vacancy effective immediately. Motion to accept by Commissioner Meserve; second by Commissioner Trescot; 3 – 0 vote approved.

A request to increase the weekly schedule of Victim Witness Advocate Abriana DeLena was presented. DA Irving suggest changing the 30 hour per week position to 40 hours per week due to the increased court schedule. The cost of this increase has not been calculated, so the budget impact is unknown at this time. The Board agreed to make this a temporary change in hours while the Legal Secretary position is vacant and reconsider the proposal once more information is available. Motion to approve by Commissioner Meserve; second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 approved.

In reference to the internal job posting for the Legal Secretary, DA Irving requested a change to the job descriptions for the Legal Secretary, Victim Witness Advocate, Juvenile Victim Witness Advocate and Paralegal. The change would redirect the supervision of each position to the District Attorney instead of the Office Supervisor position. The DA cited different Bar Association requirements to support this request. Commissioner Trescot asked to have this information presented in writing to have time to review. Commissioner Blodgett requested an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

At 9:41am, Commissioner Meserve made a motion to enter executive session with District Attorney Irving and County Administrator Carrie Kipfer according to 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) to discuss a personnel matter; second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved. Out of executive session at 9:51am. The Board agreed to move forward with the internal posting of the Legal Secretary position and to revisit the request to make changes to the job descriptions after reviewing the information requested by Commissioner Trescot.

State Representative Holly Stover was encouraged to share an update on the progress at Lincoln County Dental. The Commissioners were invited to tour the facility in the next couple of months. Rep. Stover also shared some suggested uses of the *American Rescue Plan* funds that could benefit Lincoln County; they include low-wage earner housing, child care services, transportation, and broadband services. The Board plans to hold workshops that will include representatives from Lincoln County towns and other stakeholders to collect additional ideas and the Legislative Delegation as a whole will be invited.

Administrator Kipfer notified the Board that a Payment In Lieu of Taxes was received from the State of Maine on behalf of Loud's Island property owned by a land trust. The payment will be forwarded to the Town of Bristol as has been the practice in recent years.

A Tax Abatement Hearing has been scheduled on June 8th at 9:30 for *Billings v. Town of Southport* and on June 15th for *Chase b. Town of Bristol*. All parties have been notified.

At 11:40am, Commissioner Meserve made a motion to enter executive session with Sheriff Brackett, Chief Deputy Maker and Administrator Kipfer according to 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) to discuss a personnel matter; second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Out of executive session; Commissioner Meserve motioned to adopt the proposed *Hiring and Recruitment Incentive Policy* on a trial basis through December 31, 2021. An additional incentive proposal template for an overall staffing solution will be prepared by Sheriff Brackett and presented to the Board at their first meeting in July 2021. Motion seconded by Commissioners Trescot; 3-0 approved.

The Commissioners made note that a workshop will be held at 1:30pm to discuss the *American Rescue Plan* funding with County Department Heads.

There being no further business, the Commissioners adjourned to meet on the 15th of June A.D. 2021.

ATTEST: 
County Administrator