

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the seventeenth day of January 2023 by adjournment from the third day of January 2023.

Present: Hamilton W. Meserve

William Blodgett

Absent: Mary Trescot (medical leave)

Minutes

January 3, 2023 - Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Finance Department

Warrants

Finance Director, Michelle Richardson, presented for approval 2023 accounts payable warrant #34 for \$682,385.52. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Presented for approval 2023 payroll warrant #2023-01 for \$238,890.20. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Finance Director Richardson requested approval for the annual jail assessment payment to Two Bridges Regional Jail in the amount of \$201,736.58 per month. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Approval also requested for the annual budgeted community program funding to Lincoln County Historical Association, Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water and Know-Lincoln Extension. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve annual payments, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Communications

Payment Authorization - Director of Communications, Tara Doe, presented the annual maintenance agreement for the Zetron MAX dispatch console system. This is the second year of a multi-year contract and the 2023 cost is \$9,514.80, payable to Radio Communications Management (RCM). Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Also presented for approval was the annual maintenance agreement with RCM for tower sites and related radio equipment in the amount of \$29,943.81. This is a newly budgeted expense that will take the place of fee for service maintenance. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Emergency Management Agency

EMA Director, Casey Stevens, shared an update on the AM Radio transmission location on Hunt Hill in Newcastle. The location operates off-grid using solar panels and currently cannot be connected to a traditional internet connection. Director Stevens made a request to RedZone Wireless to make their service available at this location under their Public Safety

arrangement. This would allow wireless access provided free of charge to connect the on-site equipment. RedZone has agreed to this request and the Board offers their thanks for making the service available.

Administrator

Communication from Senator Susan Collins' office – Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented a letter received in regards to the federal funding request from the Town of Alna for replacement of the Egypt Road Bridge in the amount of \$570,000. The Board previously submitted a letter of support for this project. Senator Collins shared that the request was included in the FY 2023 appropriations bill and was awaiting a final approval from the US House of Representatives.

Employee Resignation –A resignation from Recycling Assistant, Derek Cole, was presented to the Board. Mr. Cole's last day of work was January 6, 2023. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved. The vacant position is currently being advertised for a replacement.

Payment Authorization – Administrator Kipfer presents an invoice for 2 Dell laptop computers in the amount of \$3,431.19 for the Communications Center. These are planned replacements for aging equipment and the funds are included in the IT Reserve Account. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Administrator Kipfer presents the 2023 Heating/Air Conditioning maintenance contract renewal with Siemens in the amount of \$37,968.00. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Contract Authorization – A contract to purchase replacement telephones for the Communications Center in the amount of \$6,140.00 was presented. This is the next phase in converting all of the County telephones to a VOIP system. The installation is scheduled for early February. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission

Executive Director Mary Ellen Barnes presented information on the Midcoast CA\$H program offered through the United Way. Free IRS income tax prep will be offered to eligible residents. The LCRPC office will host volunteers providing services in February, March and April.

Merrymeeting Adult Education & Two Bridges Regional Jail

Director Allen Lampert arrived and presented a cost breakdown of educational services provided since 2018 at TBRJ. HiSET learning, college transitions, directed book clubs and workforce development have been the focus of the services. Director Lampert asked the Commissioners to consider a funding proposal to supplement the limited grants that currently support this mission. He also shared some ways that his organization can expand their offerings to those individuals who are impacted by the justice system, but who are not incarcerated.

The Board took the request under consideration and also requested that Sagadahoc County be contacted for a similar request for TBRJ.

Sheriff's Department

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 18, Sagadahoc 27, Knox/Waldo 28, Penobscot 68, Cumberland 01, York 01, and Federal 04 for a total of 147.

Animal Control Contracts – Sheriff Brackett updated the Commissioners on the outstanding Animal Control Contracts. Two towns have submitted signed contracts – Alna and Jefferson - and four additional towns are still pending. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve renewing the two contracts presented, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Sheriff Brackett requested permission to renew the annual subscription to Power DMS software in the amount of \$7,422.07. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Sheriff Brackett requested permission to purchase equipment for a 2023 Chevy Tahoe from Coastal Electronics in the amount of \$5,067.44 using 2022 funds. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Employee Resignation – Reserve Deputy Trevor Roche submitted his resignation effective 1/13/2023 to move to another state. Commissioner Meserve moved to accept the resignation, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Conditional Offer of Employment - Sheriff Brackett informed the Board of an applicant that is progressing in the hiring process for the School Resource Officer position. The hiring is conditional on a successful completion of the necessary background checks and exams. Commissioner Meserve moved to conditionally approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Employee Retirement – Sheriff Brackett has requested permission to allow Detective Terry Michaud to be gifted his service pistol upon his retirement in February. Detective Michaud has been a respected member of the Sheriff's Office for many years and this is an act of appreciation for his service to the county. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

Executive Session: Discussion of Legal-1MRSA 405 (6) (E)

Commissioner Meserve moved to enter into Executive Session, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved. Out of Executive Session.

Commissioner Meserve moved to approve a payment of legal fees, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the 7th day of February, 2023 A.D.

ATTEST: 
County Administrator