

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holdenin Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the eighteenth day of August 2026 by adjournment from the fourth day of August 2026.

Present: David Levesque, Chair
William B. Blodgett
Evan Goodkowsky

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Commissioner Levesque, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

None present.

Minutes

August 4, 2026 – Commissioner Blodgett moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Finances

Warrants –Finance Director, Michelle Kane, presented Warrant #69 in the amount of \$77,706.04 for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll Warrant – Director Kane presented Payroll Warrant #2026-16, paid on August 7, 2026, in the amount of \$281,969.61 for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett;3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Order – RHR Smith Annual Audit Engagement – \$16,100 - Director Kane presented a Purchase Order for \$16,100 for the Annual Engagement for the FY 2026 Audit by RHR Smith. This is only \$100 over the prior year. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Order to RHR Smith in the amount of \$16,100 for the Annual Engagement for the FY2026 Audit, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Order – Lincoln County Historical Association -\$5,163.21 – Director Kane presented a Purchase Order for \$5,163.21 for Lincoln County Historical Association to upgrade their security system at the Pownalborough Courthouse. This was a secondary request submitted for the FY2027 budget, but the County has funds available in the FY2026 Capital Budget that could cover this one-time capital expense since the system needs repairs now. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Order to cover the repairs to the Pownalborough Courthouse security system in the amount of \$5,163.21, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Office

Introduction of Holly Harris, Records and Training Manager – Sheriff Todd Brackett introduced the new Records and Training Manager, Holly Harris who started August 3, 2026. Ms. Harris spent the last 12 years as a Vice President and Agent at Cheney Insurance, and prior to that over a decade working at the Maine State Prison. She has a degree in Criminal Justice and spent her first internship working at the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. She is getting oriented and up to speed quickly.

Jail Count – Sheriff Brackett presented the jail count from this morning as follows: Lincoln 30, Sagadahoc 16, Knox 45, Penobscot 45, and Kennebec 1 for a total of 136.

Communications

Promotion Recommendation – Michael Johnson, Dispatch Supervisor – Director Tara Doe presented a Promotion Recommendation for Michael Johnson from Reserve Dispatcher to full-time Dispatch Supervisor effective August 10, 2026. Mr. Johnson, who was previously a full-time Dispatcher, moving part-time for family obligations, would like to return to a full-time position. Mr. Johnson was previously in the military, serving as an air traffic control officer and training, overseeing employees and enlisted men. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the promotion recommendation for Michael Johnson to Dispatch Supervisor, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Employee Resignation – Reserve Dispatcher Sabrina Poulin – Director Doe presented an Employee Resignation for Reserve Dispatcher Sabrina Poulin. Ms. Poulin was a part-time Dispatcher while studying to attain her nursing license. She has accepted a full-time position as a nurse and needs to resign her position with Communications. Commissioner Blodgett moved to accept the Resignation of Sabrina Poulin with regrets, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

LCRPC

Approval to apply to the MOCA Housing Opportunity Program Service Provider Grant – Executive Director Emily Rabbe presented a proposal to the Commissioners to apply for the Maine Office of Community Affairs Housing Opportunity Program service provider grant, which was released on August 4, 2026, and due on August 28, 2026. The proposed use of the grant is to build local capacity for housing development in Lincoln County. Because the county has already completed several key planning steps—such as housing needs assessment, site inventory, and sewer and water feasibility studies, the next priority is creating a central, easy-to-use digital resource that brings this information together for communities and developers.

The proposed project would hire a consultant to develop an interactive mapping database showing growth areas, zoning and density opportunities, sewer and water infrastructure, feasibility study results, potential housing sites, broadband access, transit routes, Brownfield properties, and other development-relevant layers. The goal is to reduce pre-development costs, make Lincoln County more attractive and accessible to developers, and help guide housing development toward locations that communities have identified as appropriate.

The digital resources tool would also include a community input component using crowdsourcing software, allowing residents or municipalities to suggest potential development sites or identify areas where housing is desired. Staff would review and cross-check submissions against local comprehensive plans, so the map remains focused on planning and housing goals rather than becoming a general real estate listing. The grant request is expected to be somewhere between \$50,000 and \$100,000, depending on consultant cost estimates and staff time needs.

Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the LCRPC application for the MOCA Housing Opportunity Program Service Provider Grant, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

EMA

Hiring Recommendation – Todd Phillips, Deputy EMA Director – In the absence of Director Emily Huber, Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented a hiring recommendation for Todd Phillips as Deputy EMA Director effective August 10, 2026. After an extensive interview process which included a mock press conference, the unanimous decision was to hire Mr. Phillips. He lives in Nobleboro and has varied emergency services experience, having served as an EMT, reserve police officer and being a registered nurse. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the hiring recommendation of Todd Phillips as the Deputy EMA Director, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

District Attorney

Employee Resignation – Ronda Randall, Victim Witness Advocate - In the absence of District Attorney Natasha Irving, Administrator Kipfer presented an employee resignation for Ronda Randall, Victim Witness Advocate, effective August 24, 2026. Ms. Randall has been with the District Attorney's office for a little over 6 years and has been a great Victim Witness Advocate working with the adults as well as having worked to organize the restitution accounts and pursuing some outdated cases. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the Employee Resignation of Ronda Randall with regret, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator Kipfer requested permission to post the Victim Witness Advocate position. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the posting of the open position, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Purchase Authorization – Heat Pump replacement at LCRPC - \$8,108.00 – Administrator Kipfer presented a Purchase Authorization to MidCoast Energy in the amount of \$ 8,108.00 to replace the current heat pump located at the LCRPC building which is beyond repair and is over 20 years old. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the Purchase Authorization for the new heat pump installation at LCRPC, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Old Business

Public Safety Building Project – No update but hopefully will have more information at the next meeting.

Commissioner Updates

LCRPC – Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners of the next full LCRPC meeting this evening, Tuesday, August 18, 2026, via Zoom due to the heat pump issue.

Jail Authority – Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners that there will be a meeting with Knox County tomorrow, August 19, 2026, at 2 PM to continue the discussion. Also, the next meeting full Jail Authority meeting will be September 9, 2026, at 3 PM.

CCWI – Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners of the Annual Awards Banquet for breakfast to be held on September 11, 2026, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport. He will be attending on behalf of the Commissioners.

MCCA Risk Pool – Commissioner Levesque attended the recent Risk Pool meeting where he informally raised his concern about Risk Pool coverage related to the Commissioners in Washington County, though the issue did not appear to receive much attention. Commissioner Levesque plans to continue monitoring the situation.

Guest Speaker - Andre Cushing, President, Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA) –

Andre Cushing, President of MCCA, opened his annual visit to the Lincoln County Commissioners Meeting by describing the Maine County Commissioners Association's efforts to strengthen relationships with county and municipal partners across the state. Recent in-person meetings in Lincoln County, Waldo County, and Somerset County have helped commissioners and administrators better understand one another's challenges and the geographic realities of county government. MCCA is also preparing for its upcoming convention at Sunday River in Bethel in September, where proposed legislation, jail funding, rural patrol support, modernization of county statutes, and opportunities for collaboration with state leaders will be major topics.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on ways counties can support municipalities that are struggling with staffing shortages, limited expertise, and service demands. Lincoln County's Community Navigator Program was highlighted as a successful ARPA-funded effort that connects residents with food, fuel, rent, transportation, and other assistance while reducing pressure on municipal general assistance offices. Other collaborative service models were also discussed, including planning, code enforcement, animal control, solid waste, regional communications, and behavioral health support connected to the sheriff's department.

Commissioner Levesque recognized several achievements and leadership transitions. Lincoln County's Register of Probate received the John Ballou Award from the Maine State Bar Association, and the Planning Department received national recognition for its work. MCCA also plans to honor departing veteran administrators and commissioners at the convention. In addition, MCCA is considering adding an executive director position to strengthen legislative advocacy, provide more training and model resources, support county organizations, and raise awareness of the role counties play in Maine.

The final part of the discussion centered on jail funding, correctional facility design, and the need for counties to learn from modern corrections models. Mr. Cushing and the Commissioners discussed candidate forums, the importance of educating state leaders, and experiences visiting facilities and vendors that specialize in modular jail systems. There was particular emphasis on designing facilities that can better handle mental health, substance use, medical care, ADA

compliance, and regional needs while reducing costly outside hospital transports. Penobscot County's possible move of its jail operations from Bangor to Hampden was also discussed, along with the need to educate the public about why modern jail facilities differ substantially from those built decades ago.

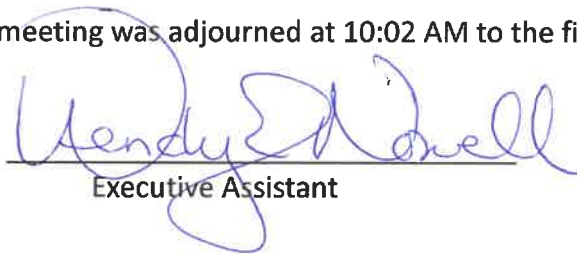
Executive Session

Discussion of Personnel – 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) - This session is no longer needed.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 AM to the first day of September 2026 A.D.

ATTEST:


Executive Assistant