

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the eighteenth day of February 2025 by adjournment from the fourth day of February 2025.

Present: William B. Blodgett
David Levesque
Evan Goodkowsky

Public Comment

None

Minutes

February 4, 2025- Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Finance Department

Warrants – Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented for approval accounts payable warrant #39 for \$420,310.81. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll warrant #2025-03 for \$237,521.93 was presented for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Director Richardson will have the 2024 account balance transfer recommendation prepared for a future meeting.

District Attorney

Restitution Account - District Attorney Natasha Irving attended the meeting remotely to discuss the DA Restitution Account. Deputy DA Kent Murdick attended in person to join the conversation. The Commissioners voiced their concerns about a recent credit card chargeback that resulted in a deficit of \$780 in the restitution account.

A lengthy conversation included what steps can be taken to try to recoup the funds from the defendant that caused the chargeback, changes that can be made in the County's policy around accepting credit card payments, whether or not the defendant's attorney can secure payment, whether or not supervision fees can be used to offset the deficit, and if third party payments should be allowed with credit cards.

The Commissioners requested the DA return to their March 4th meeting to discuss recommendations to move forward with the situation.

Sheriff's Department

Deputy of the Year Award – Sheriff Todd Brackett presented the 2024 Deputy of the Year Award to Deputy Jeffrey Rogers. Deputy Rogers' wife and co-workers were in attendance to hear of his many accomplishments and the high praise of his performance. The Commissioners offered their thanks and congratulations.

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 24, Sagadahoc 26, Knox 24, Penobscot 52, Waldo 24, and Federal 06 for a total of 156.

ACO Contract Renewal – The Animal Control Officer contract renewal for the Town of Damariscotta was presented by Chief Deputy Rand Maker for renewal. The new term is from January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Marine Shellfish Warden Contract Renewal – The joint Shellfish Warden contract for the Towns of Damariscotta and Newcastle was presented for approval. The term of the new contract is from January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Hiring Recommendation – Sheriff Brackett presents a recommendation to appoint Reserve Deputy Ryan Chubbuck to the position of full-time Transport (Special Services) Deputy effective February 22, 2025 at step 10 on the Collective Bargaining Agreement pay scale. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Promotion Announcement – Sheriff Brackett presents a promotion recommendation for Deputy Justin Drake to the position of Detective, effective March 1, 2025. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the change in status and pay, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Out of State Travel Request – Sheriff Brackett requests permission to send Detective Drake to the National Criminal Justice Training Center in Minnesota for a one-week training in March 2025 related to Child Abuse Investigations. The total cost is estimated at \$2,164.00. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Replacement Vehicle Bids – Chief Deputy Maker requested permission to solicit bids to replace one unmarked vehicle and three patrol vehicles. Bids will be due in April and opened by the Board. Commissioner Levesque moved to advertise and receive bids, second by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Emergency Management

Storage Unit Rental Agreement - EMA Director Emily Huber presented a rental agreement for a storage unit in Damariscotta at an annual cost of \$14,400 from Just Right Storage. This is a renewal of the existing rental agreement. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the agreement, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Communications

Employee Hiring Recommendations – Communications Director Tara Doe presented recommendations for hiring three Emergency Communications Officers effective March 10, 2025. Victoria Williams, Arlie Frahmann, and Sarah MacLennon have all successfully completed all of the requirements to start employment. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the hiring all three applicants, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Tax Abatement Application – Administrator Kipfer presented to the Board a tax abatement appeal application from Bremen property owner JLLD Trust, Jerry Ogle Trustee. The applicant’s legal counsel has conceded to a delay in scheduling the appeal hearing, due to a pending FOAA request with the Town. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the application and proceed with the scheduling process, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved. Administrator Kipfer will contact all of the parties.

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

Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to enter Executive Session, second by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved. Out of Executive Session, no votes were taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM to the 4th day of March 2025 A.D.

ATTEST:  _____
County Administrator