

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 September 2026 by adjournment from the eighteenth 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 18, 2026 – Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Finances

Warrants – Finance Director, Michelle Kane, presented Warrant #71 in the amount of \$499,614.65 for approval. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Director Kane presented Warrant #72 in the amount of \$351,151.58 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 #2026-17, paid on August 21, 2026, in the amount of \$285,999.06 for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Office

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett presented the inmate count for Two Bridges Regional Jail from this morning as follows: Lincoln 27, Sagadahoc 14, Knox 49 and Penobscot 46 for a total of 136.

Payment Authorization – Island Tech Services - \$8,387.15 – Sheriff Brackett presented a Payment Authorization in the budgeted amount of \$8,387.15 to Island Tech Services for equipment and installation of a lightbar, sirens and public safety features for the new vehicle. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Payment Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Motorola Solutions - \$5,745.40 – Sheriff Brackett presented a Payment Authorization in the budgeted amount of \$5,745.40 to Motorola Solutions for the

installation of two in car camera systems and one body camera. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the Payment Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Absolute Software - \$4,800.00 – Sheriff Brackett presented a Payment Authorization in the budgeted amount of \$4,800.00 to Absolute Software for the annual renewal of the subscription for NetMotion software which enables our mobile data units to communicate between each other. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Payment Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Sale of Surplus Property – Sheriff Brackett requested permission to sell or auction off surplus vehicles, a 2018 Dodge Charger, a 2017 Dodge Charger, a 2018 Dodge Durango and a 2021 Ford Explorer. These are all vehicles that are coming out of CID or patrol and have been replaced or are being replaced before the end of the year. They will be auctioned at publicsurplus.com. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the sale of the four surplus vehicles, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Highway Speed Safety Grant Submissions – Sheriff Brackett requested permission to apply for a grant for speed enforcement in the amount of \$15,000 which will allow overtime and two new radar units to continue speed enforcement around the County. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the submission of the grant for speed enforcement in the amount of \$15,000, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff Brackett requested permission to apply for a grant for \$11,400 for an Electronic Citation System. This is a statewide automated ticketing system program which will replace handwritten tickets and allows for tracking. There will be printers installed in the service vehicles to print out tickets. It does come with side expenses of around \$8,500 for installation which could come from the Sheriff's Office Capital Expense budget line. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the submission for the grant for the Electronic Citation System, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Out of State Travel – Sheriff Brackett requested permission for Chief Deputy Rand Maker and himself to travel to Denver, CO, October 14-16, 2026, for an Echelon Front Extreme Ownership Muster. They had attended initial training previously and this is a two-day intensive leadership training to reinforce what they had learned. The cost will be \$3,000 each for registration, but they received one full scholarship and are hoping to have half of the other paid through the Alford Foundation. The travel costs will be approximately \$6,300. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the out of state travel for Sheriff Brackett and Chief Deputy Maker, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Recap of Recent Events in the County – The Commissioners asked Sheriff Brackett and EMA Director Emily Huber for a recap of the events on Thursday, August 20, 2026, in Lincoln County. There was significant emergency activity, including an armed standoff in Whitefield and a fatal plane crash in the ocean off Bristol. Emergency Management, the Sheriff's Department,

communications staff, local fire departments, EMS, State Police, and community partners coordinated resources including the mobile command post, drones, tactical communications, traffic control support, cones and barricades, a barge, and hangar space.

The Sheriff and EMA Director noted that the incidents demonstrated the value of strong interagency relationships, community partnerships, and existing emergency response resources. The Whitefield stand-off incident, which Sheriff Brackett noted for the record may have been avoided if the County had a more aggressive District Attorney, was ultimately resolved peacefully with assistance from State Police negotiators. The plane crash survivor was assisted by residents and transported by EMS to the local hospital. The plane and the pilot were successfully recovered and secured through local coordination. Staff and responders were commended for stepping up during simultaneous incidents and maintaining public safety coverage. A formal after-action review was recommended to identify lessons learned and strengthen future response coordination.

EMA

Introduction of Todd Phillips, Deputy Director – Director Emily Huber introduced the new EMA Deputy Director, Todd Phillips who started August 10, 2026. Mr. Phillips, from Nobleboro, began his career as a paramedic, advanced through nursing roles including mobile intensive care and field-based operations, and worked overseas as a United Nations chemical weapons inspector. Since moving to Maine in 2015, he has continued working primarily as a nurse and served as a law enforcement officer for six years. Director Huber said that he was able to jump right in during the August 20th events and help her manage the dual situations.

Bid Opening – 2026 SUV – There were two bids received for the Request for Proposal for the new SUV Command Vehicle. The RFP requested a full-sized SUV similarly build to the Sheriff's vehicles but tailored to EMA needs. The first bid was from O'Connor GMC, Buick, Chevrolet in Augusta and second from McGovern Auto Group in Marlborough, MA. Commissioner Levesque opened the McGovern Auto Group bid which started out noting an exception to the specifications in the RFP not including the factory installed skid plates for off-road protection. Director Huber noted that that was a preferred feature given winter storms in our area. The bid included a PVV Tahoe for \$50,212 and an SSV Tahoe for \$49,151, both 2026 vehicles and including a trade in value for the current EMA truck for \$5,000. Commissioner Blodgett opened the bid from O'Connor GMC which had 2027 Chevy Tahoe Special Service Vehicle with no exceptions for \$48,758 including a \$9,000 trade in value. It would take 90-120 days to be delivered. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to table further discussion to allow Director Huber and Deputy Director Phillips to review the bids and make a recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett, 3-0 vote approved.

District Attorney

Job Description update – Office Supervisor – In the absence of District Attorney Natasha Irving or Assistant District Attorney Kent Murdick, County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented a revised Job Description for the DA's Office Supervisor. The County Staff in the DA's office is, most recently, a Paralegal, two Victim Witness Advocates, and two Legal Secretaries. One of the

Legal Secretary positions has been vacant for some time and recently the office made a recommendation to convert that position into an Office Supervisor position to oversee the whole department. The new Job Description, a grade 13, has been approved by the DA and the ADA's and the County Administrator. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the updated Job Description for the Office Supervisor, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Hiring Recommendation – Jennifer Brookes, Office Supervisor – Administrator Kipfer informed the Commissioners that the position had been posted with several qualified applicants. The interviews were conducted about two weeks ago and a second interview round happened last week. The final recommendation was to hire Jennifer Brookes, Jefferson. With verbal permission from Commissioner Levesque, the position was offered to her, and she has accepted with a start date of September 8th, 2026. Her background check has been completed. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the hiring recommendation for Jennifer Brookes, Office Manager, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky, 3-0 vote approved.

There is still one open position in the DA's office for the Victim Witness Advocate position previously held by Ronda Randall who resigned. The position will be posted and filled once the new Office Supervisor has begun so she can be part of that process.

Administration

Payment Authorization -Siemens HVAC \$35,638.00 Boiler Repairs – Administrator Kipfer let the Commissioner know that Siemens was here last week for repair of the leak in the Courthouse boiler. They replaced three sections of the boiler and re-gasketed it entirely. A commercial rigger was needed to move the 500 lb. panels. All the repairs are completed, and the boiler is back together and running. The boiler runs year-round as it controls the archive's temperature in addition to the heat for the Courthouse. This is the third boiler repair, and it is nearing the end of its life expectancy, so it is time to start thinking about where we will go from here. Administrator Kipfer is planning a meeting with Siemens in the next couple of months to get recommendations on what the future of our heating/cooling system is. Administrator Kipfer presented a Payment Authorization to Siemens in the amount of \$35,638.00 for the repairs. This amount has also been submitted to the Risk Pool as we have boiler coverage insurance through them. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the Purchase Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky, 3-0 vote approved.

Old Business

EMA Vehicle Bid – Director Huber would like to recommend acceptance of the bid from O'Connor GMC. It meets all the specifications listed in the RFP, including the color, the built-in skip plates and the towing capacity needed for EMA usage. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the bid from O'Connor GMC for the 2024 Chevy Tahoe SS with an original price of \$57,758, a trade in offer of \$9,000 for a net of \$48,758, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Laptops - \$16,041.60 – Administrator Kipfer presented a Purchase Authorization to Gov Direct in the amount of \$16,041.60 for five Toughbook mobile laptops for cruisers. These are replacements for older laptops and are processed through the County so that equipment stays on the replacement schedule. Burgess will handle the decommissioning of the older laptops and install security systems on the new ones. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the Purchase Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Text to 9-1-1 – Administrator Kipfer informed the Commissioners of the public rollout of *Text-to-9-1-1*, a statewide emergency communications option that allows people to text 9-1-1 when calling is not possible or safe. The press release emphasizes that users should enter 9-1-1 as the recipient and include their location and the nature of the emergency so dispatchers can respond effectively. The Text-to-9-1-1 initiative is a priority of the 9-1-1 Council which Administrator Kipfer is a member of. Local officials are helping spread awareness through press releases, newspaper coverage, and website postings. The service automatically routes texts to the appropriate emergency communications center and allows two-way communication between callers and dispatchers. Texting can be especially useful when voice calls fail because of connectivity problems, when callers cannot speak clearly, or when speaking could create a safety risk. The Commissioners expressed interest in hearing about call volume and usage data over time, as well as learning more about how the system supports accurate location identification for first responders.

Public Safety Building Project – Administrator Kipfer informed the Commissioners that the owner of the land the County had been interested in called and informed her that he is no longer interested in selling the property. The County is back to the beginning again with no current land possibilities.

Commissioners Updates

Two Bridges Regional Jail Authority – Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners of the next meeting on September 9th, 2026, at 3 PM at the Jail.

County Budget Advisory Committee – Commissioner Goodkowsky reminded the Commissioners of the County Budget Advisory Committee Caucus on Thursday, September 10th, 2026, at 3 PM. The County Budget Public Hearing will be on September 17th, 2026, at 3 PM.

CCWI – Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners of the CCWI Annual Meeting and Award Banquet at the Hilton Gardens Inn, Freeport, on Friday, September 11th, 2026.

Knox County Jail Discussion Meeting – Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners of the next Knox County Jail Discussion Meeting on Thursday, September 17th, 2026, at 2 PM. Administrator Kipfer let the Commissioners know that at the last meeting, they had reviewed a facilitation scope of work and she has sent out an RFP for facilitation services and she has gotten a good amount of interest from potential vendors. The group is made up of

County Administrators, Jail Administrators, Commissioners and Knox County community members and is a very serious and dedicated group looking to find a long-term solution to the jail situation in Knox County.

LCRPC – Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners that the next LCRPC Executive Committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 22, 202, at 6 PM.

MCCA – Commissioner Goodkowsky reminded the Commissioners that the Annual Convention for MCCA will be at Sunday River from September 22nd to 25th, 2026.

Sheriff's Association Candidate Forum – Commissioner Levesque informed the Commissioners that he attended the Sheriff's Association Candidate Forum in Brewer to listen to the Gubernatorial Candidates. He did not learn anything new about the candidates and none of them said they were against or that they didn't support law enforcement.

Executive Session

Discussion of Personnel – 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A) – Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to enter Executive Session for a Discussion of Personnel per 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A), seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved. Finance Director Michelle Kane joined the Executive Session.

Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to come out of Executive Session for Discussion of Personnel per 1 MSRA 405 (6)(A), seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the education request as presented by Finance Director Michelle Kane, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Discussion of Legal – 1 MRSA 405 (6)(E) - Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to enter Executive Session for a Discussion of Legal per 1 MRSA 405 (6)(E), seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved. LCRPC Executive Director Emily Rabbe joined the Executive Session.

Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to come out of Executive Session for Discussion of Legal per 1 MRSA 405 (6)(E), seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

There were no votes taken.

Discussion of Personnel – 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A) – Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to enter Executive Session for a Discussion of Personnel per 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A), seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved. Sheriff Todd Brackett joined the Executive Session.

Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to come out of Executive Session for Discussion of Personnel per 1 MSRA 405 (6)(A), seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

There were no votes taken.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM to the fifteenth day of September 2026 A.D.

ATTEST:


Executive Assistant