

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the fourth day of November 2025 by adjournment from the twenty-first day of October 2025.

Present: William B. Blodgett
Evan Goodkowsky
David Levesque

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

Public Forum

Annie Blair, Walpole, spoke in support of restorative justice. Speaking as a parent and grandparent, she stated she values the approach for helping young people learn from mistakes, take responsibility, and grow empathetically. She believes in its effectiveness in involving all parties, supporting brain development, and offering better outcomes than traditional court systems.

Nigel Calder, Newcastle, shared a story about a troubled teen in Maryland who was harshly prosecuted instead of being offered support. He argues that restorative justice could have prevented the teen's descent into lifelong incarceration and saved taxpayer money.

Jenny Began, Damariscotta, spoke of her support of restorative justice, citing her experience using it in high school settings. She believes it leads to better outcomes for both victims and offenders and saves taxpayer money.

Samantha McGow, unknown residence, shared her frustration with the district attorney's office after her abuser received a lenient sentence through a plea deal. She questioned the lack of accountability in the justice system, especially for violent offenders, and expresses concern over the explanations given by the DA in a recent meeting. She called for greater oversight and accountability, particularly through audits of justice departments.

Minutes

October 17, 2025 Budget Work Session – Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

October 21, 2025 - Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Finance Department

Warrant – Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented Accounts Payable Warrant #84 in the amount of \$ 255,376.89 for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll Warrant – Director Richardson presented Payroll Warrant #2025-22 paid out on October 31, 2025, in the amount of \$ 272,604.91 for approval. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve the Payroll Warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Department

Jail Count - Sheriff Todd Brackett presented the current jail count as follows effective November 4, 2025: Lincoln 32, Sagadahoc 19, Knox 22, Penobscot 55, Waldo 30, Kennebec 1, Federal 3, and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) 10, for a total of 171.

Notice of Retirement – Sheriff Brackett announced the receipt of a letter of retirement from Detective Sergeant Ron Rollins who will be retiring effective December 12, 2025. Sergeant Rollins has been with the Sheriff's Office for many years, working his way up from patrol to Detective and is an incredible investigator. He will be sorely missed. Commissioner Levesque moved to accept the notice of retirement for Detective Sergeant Ron Rollins, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Communications

Hiring Recommendation – Emergency Communications Officers – Director Tara Doe received verbal approval from the Commissioners for moving forward in the process of hiring two new Emergency Communications Officers. They are currently undergoing background checks before being employed. Director Doe requests formal approval for the hiring of the two new Emergency Communications Officers (names withheld until background checks are completed). Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the hiring recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Administration

Out of State Travel Request - Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented a request for the Register of Deeds, Rebecca Wotton, to travel out of state in February 2026 to Virginia Beach for a conference for the Property Records Industry Association Winter Symposium. The Registers from York, Cumberland, Hancock, Penobscot and Oxford Counties are also attending. This is a budgeted event at approximately \$1,400. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the out of state travel request for the Register of Deeds, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

IT Services Contract Renewal – Burgess Technology Services – Administrator Kipfer presented the new contract for IT Services with Burgess Technology Services. The County has used Burgess for several years and it has been a good relationship that continues to grow with our needs. The contract includes additional costs for identified cybersecurity updates which adds an additional cost of \$11,000 per year for a total contract amount of \$130,885.30 which includes all our needs including help desk and in-person services as well as training and upgrades. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to renew our contract with Burgess Technology Services, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

FEMA Standards Update – Administrator Kipfer announced that the Federal lawsuits regarding the additional language recently added to FEMA grants were ruled in our favor. FEMA issued a directorate information bulletin stating that they have revised the grant terms with the new standards removed and will reissue them as soon as the government shutdown ends. Administrator Kipfer recommends that we reapply for the federal grants we passed on due to the language changes as soon as they are reissued.

Grant Application – Maine Semiquincentennial Commission Grant Program – Administrator Kipfer informed the Commissioners of a grant application to the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission for \$10,000. Mary Ellen Barnes, former LCPRC Director, compiled the grant and will administer it if approved by the Commission. Ms. Barnes reached out to local Historical Societies to see if they would be interested in participating in a collaborative grant with events planned which will focus on Lincoln County history and forming of the County. The announcement of the grant will be in December, and the grant work would begin in January 2026.

Old Business

Public Safety Building Project – Administrator Kipfer, along with Sheriff Brackett and Finance Director Richardson conducted a field trip with consultants to evaluate additional potential sites for a public safety building. Several locations on Route One and in Nobleboro were reviewed. They eliminated several sites due to proximity to fuel storage facilities and a school due to safety and zoning concerns as well as a site with poor terrain and location and one with challenging sight lines and a steep gully. There are still a couple viable sites – a parcel for sale on Route One spanning Nobleboro and Damariscotta and one previously visited site is still on the list, pending confirmation of owner willingness to sell. The consultants will prepare blocking diagrams (basic layouts showing building placement, parking, and storage) for the remaining two parcels using topographical maps and zoning requirements. The goal is to compare options considering factors like location, terrain, neighbor conflicts, zoning, DOT curb cuts, and potential tower construction.

Recycling

Purchase Authorization – New England Baling Wire \$18,081.42 – Administrator Kipfer presented a Purchase Authorization for New England Baling Wire in the amount of \$18,081.42 for seven spools of 11 gage galvanized baling wire at the cost of \$1.43 per pound. This is at least a year's supply of wire for wrapping bales of compacted recycling products. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization for New England Baling Wire in the amount of \$18,081.42, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Maine Commercial Tire \$3,575.04 – Administrator Kipfer presented a Purchase Authorization for Maine Commercial Tire in the amount of \$3,575.04 for purchase and mounting of winter tires and rims for the new to us packer truck, the 2019 Freight Liner. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve the Purchase Authorization for Maine Commercial Tire in the amount of \$3,575.04, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Commissioner Updates

MCCA – Commissioner Levesque stated that the next meeting is next Wednesday and hopefully there will be some more information about the plans for the December meeting.

LCRPC – Commissioner Goodkowsky stated that the Executive Meeting is Wednesday, November 19th at 6 PM via Zoom. The full LCRPC meeting will be in person on December 18th at 6 PM.

CCWI – Commissioner Goodkowsky submitted the names of two new possible representatives to the committee.

District Attorney

The District Attorney, Natasha Irving, stated she was presenting a bare-bones operational budget for the upcoming year. Most budget lines remain stable, with reductions in some areas; however, medical insurance costs increased by \$47,000, resulting in an overall budget increase of \$36,000. The request includes no new positions or programs, focusing solely on maintaining essential operations.

DA Irving's key points included the staffing challenges. Two county positions are vacant, a paralegal and a Victim/Witness Advocate Coordinator, causing unsustainable workloads. The office is "hanging on by a thread" until hires are completed. The Strategic Goals/long-term priorities include adding additional attorneys to handle heavy caseloads across the four counties. Additionally, having specialized prosecutors for domestic violence and sexual assault cases and improved pay for victim advocates to reduce turnover. DA Irving would like to have support for restorative justice programs, which would require external nonprofit funding.

According to DA Irving, the District Attorney's Office has current limitations due to a lack of resources for restorative justice facilitation and cannot house such programs internally due to ethical constraints. Turnover Issues are in part due to low pay compared to other counties contributes to staff departures; a salary study is planned to review disparities as requested by the County Commissioners. DA Irving's operational focus is primarily on having the budget cover salaries, benefits, office supplies, and statutory requirements. Any significant reduction would compromise the office's ability to function.

Recycling (continued)

Supervisor Tim Richardson Sr. joined the meeting to give the Commissioners an overview of the status of the Recycling program. His staff is back to full capacity and has the equipment that they need. They also discussed the state of recycling and how things have changed over the years.

Executive Session

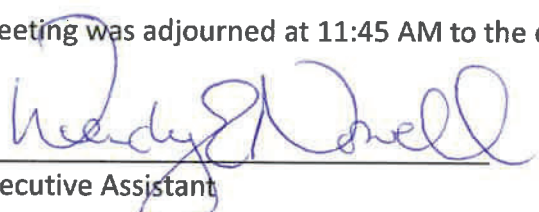
Discussion of Personnel – 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) – Commissioner Levesque moved to enter Executive Session for Discussion of Personnel per 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A); seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky, 3-0 vote approved.

Commissioner Levesque moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved. No votes were taken.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM to the eighteenth day of November 2025 A.D.

ATTEST:


Executive Assistant