

## 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 April 2023 by adjournment from the eleventh day of April 2023.

Present: Hamilton W. Meserve  
William Blodgett  
Absent: Mary Trescot (medical leave)

### Minutes

**April 11, 2023** - Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

### Finance Department

#### Warrants

On behalf of Finance Director Michelle Richardson, County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented for approval accounts payable warrant #49 for \$223,650.63. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

### Sheriff's Department

**Jail Count** – Chief Deputy Rand Maker reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 11, Sagadahoc 23, Knox 23, Penobscot 66, Waldo 25, Cumberland 01, Kennebec 01, and Federal 07 for a total of 157.

**Bid Opening (Cruiser Replacement)** – Two bids were received in response to the request for cruiser replacement vehicles: Quirk (Augusta) submitted two bids – one for a gas model and one for a hybrid model Ford Interceptor SUV. The prices submitted were for the 2023 models because the 2024 prices are unavailable until later in the year.

The second bid was received from Key Motors (Damariscotta) for a 2023 Dodge Durango. The price was also for the 2023 model, with a TBD 2024 price. Commissioner Meserve moved to table awarding the bids, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

A conversation with Darling's Ford in Bangor revealed two 2023 Ford Interceptors are currently available in their stock – one gas model, one hybrid. After consideration, the Commissioners indicated their support to purchase these two available vehicles and to continue tabling the 2024 submitted bids. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

### LCRPC (joined by Susan Corbett, Executive Director, National Digital Equity Center)

Executive Director Mary Ellen Barnes introduced Susan Corbett (who attended the meeting via Zoom) to the Board. Ms. Corbett requests the Commissioners support an application from NDEC to apply for \$100,000 in funding from a Community Development Block Grant to provide funding for 200 scholarships for Digital Equity training for low-income citizens

in Lincoln County. Ms. Corbett further explained how this training would be made available and that the funds would allow for an investment in the skills of Lincoln County residents who may also be eligible to receive digital devices through another funding source. The Commissioners voted to approve the request and take action to submit the application. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

A public hearing will be scheduled on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to present this application at the next Commissioners' meeting.

**Hiring Recommendation** – ED Barnes offered an update on the hiring process for a summer intern through the MC Smith Policy Center. Katherine Simmons, who attends U Maine Orono, will be offered temporary employment from May 30 – August 18, 2023 as a Climate Resiliency and Planning Assistant under the terms of the Internship Program. Commissioner Meserve moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 2-0 vote approved.

**Reach ME Broadband Grant Awards** – Two of the Reach ME Broadband grant applications submitted on behalf of Lincoln County towns were approved by the Maine Connectivity Authority. South Bristol and Newcastle are working with LCI Fiber to build out fiber optic infrastructure. The proposals for Nobleboro and Bremen did not receive funding during this round.

#### **Administrator**

**Special Meeting at TBRJ** – A special meeting of the TBRJ Jail Authority will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> with representatives from Knox County and Waldo County invited. The District Six Jail Collaboration project will be discussed and a proposal to formalize the partnership will be considered.

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

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the 2nd day of May, 2023 A.D.

ATTEST:   
County Administrator