

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the seventeenth day of September 2024 by adjournment from the third day of September 2024.

Present: William B. Blodgett
Hamilton Meserve
Mary Trescot

Minutes

September 3, 2024- Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Finance Department

Warrants - Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented for approval accounts payable warrant #77 for \$282,680.59. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Presented for approval was accounts payable warrant #78 for \$292,672.76. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Director Richardson presented payroll warrant #2024-18 for \$218,946.05. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

County tax payments have started to arrive, so Director Richardson will reach out to First National to inquire on current CD rates for municipal accounts.

Sheriff's Department

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett reported the jail count as follows: Lincoln 19, Sagadahoc 23, Knox 32, Penobscot 52, Waldo 21, Androscoggin 08, and Federal 10 for a total of 168.

District Attorney

Purchase Authorization – Office Supervisor Amanda Charlton presented a purchase authorization in the amount of \$6,844.89 to Symquest to purchase a new copier. The current copier has over 500,000 copies on it and has exceeded its life expectancy. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Purchase Authorization – Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented a request to replace the Registry of Deeds plotter at a cost of \$12,372.47 using Surcharge Account funds from Symquest. The current plotter does not print in color and many users have requested an upgrade. The current model will be relocated to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Trescot moved to approve, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Administrator Kipfer presented a request to replace the Registry of Deeds copier at a cost of \$3,153.72 using Surcharge Account funds from Symquest. The current is larger than is needed since many customers now print remotely. The current model will be relocated to the Sheriff's Patrol Office. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Courthouse Plumbing Repairs – Administrator Kipfer informed the Commissioners of a recent plumbing failure in the Courthouse. A sewer line from the first floor restrooms developed a crack in the cast iron pipe. The county's plumber responded quickly and made the necessary repairs. An invoice for the services has not yet been received.

Digital Equity Plan – On behalf of Mary Ellen Barnes, Administrator Kipfer presented two Letters of Commitment for consideration by the Board. Both letters are providing support for grant applications to NTIA for funding to continue providing Digital Equity services to the citizens of Lincoln County. One application is in partnership with the National Digital Equity Center and one application is in a regional partner role across the State of Maine. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve submitting both grant applications, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

TBRJ Jail Authority Funding Request - The Jail Authority of Two Bridges Regional Jail recently met and voted to ask both Lincoln County and Sagadahoc County to participate in a loan agreement if up to \$2.5M for capital improvement costs, not to exceed 10 years. The Board discussed the ramifications of taking on such a liability and the consequences of not completing the capital improvement projects. No vote was taken at this time; the matter was tabled.

Tax Abatement Application – A poverty tax abatement application has been received. Additional information is needed before a hearing date can be scheduled. Commissioner Blodgett moved to accept the application and directed Administrator Kipfer to take the necessary steps to proceed with the hearing; second by Commissioner Meserve; 3-0 vote approved.


Executive Session: Discussion of Labor Negotiations-1MRSA 405 (6) (D)

Commissioner Blodgett moved to enter Executive Session, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved. Sheriff Todd Brackett joined the Session. Out of Executive Session, Commissioner Trescot moved to approve a Collective Bargaining Agreement for the years 2025-2027 with the Sheriff's Office employees (Fraternal Order of Police) as presented and discussed, second by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with FOP for an adjustment to the current CBA wage rates, effective September 1, 2024-December 31, 2024, second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

TBRJ Jail Authority Funding Request- The Board discussed the Jail Authority request. Commissioner Blodgett moved to reply to the TBRJ Jail Authority with a recommendation that \$2M total is borrowed for capital improvements at TBRJ for a maximum of 10 years and both Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties share equally in the repayment of the principal on the loan, with both counties co-signing on the loan agreement. TBRJ will be responsible for the payment of the interest through its annual budget process. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meserve; 3-0 vote approved. Administrator Kipfer was directed to notify the TBRJ Jail Administrator of their recommendation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the 2nd day of October 2024 A.D.

ATTEST: 
County Administrator

A FY 2025 Budget Workshop was held immediately after the conclusion of the Commissioners meeting.