

## STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the nineteenth day of May 2026 by adjournment from the fifth day of May 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

Peter Walsh, Dresden, addressed the Commissioners to update them on the new Committees and events in the Town of Dresden. Dresden, the original County Seat in the 1700's, is a small town with very active committees. The local Union Meeting House, built in 1832 and used for public concerts and events, is being renovated through a local Friends group. The Recreation Committee has printed a new pamphlet describing many local hiking trails in Dresden. They also are sponsoring Bird Walks which have been well attended. An old tennis court near the Bridge Library was renovated into a pickleball court with equipment available. A Clean-up Day was organized to clean up the roads after the winter, and plans are well underway for the annual Summerfest in July. The new Digital Equity Committee is providing computer and internet training to residents as well as making computers, phones and tablets available to those who do not have resources to purchase their own.

### Minutes

**May 5, 2026** – Commissioner Blodgett moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

### Finances

**Warrant** – Finance Director, Michelle Kane presented Warrant #53 in the amount of \$130,918.78 for approval. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

**Payroll Warrant** – Director Kane presented Payroll Warrant #2026-10 paid on May 15, 2026, in the amount of \$272,521.69 for approval. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

### Sheriff's Department

**Jail Count** – Chief Deputy Rand Maker presented the jail count from this morning as follows: Lincoln 23, Sagadahoc 15, Knox 60, Penobscot 39, and Federal 1 for a total of 138.

**Maine Behavioral Health agreement for Recovery Coach/SUD Counseling** – Chief Deputy Maker presented a contract for renewal with the Maine Behavioral Health for recovery coaching and a substance abuse disorder counselor as part of our jail diversion programs. This

is a long-standing contract and is budgeted for. The increase from the previous year is about 11% with the contract running from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, in the amount of \$221,844. Chief Deputy Maker will reach out to see if the contract dates can be changed to coincide with the County's fiscal year of January to December. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve Chief Deputy Maker to sign the contract with Maine Behavioral Health, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

**Transfer of 2020 Ford SUV** – Chief Deputy Maker let the Commissioners know that a deputy was rearended by a distracted driver while driving the 2020 Ford SUV on Route 1 in front of the Courthouse. The insurance company has determined that the accident was not his fault, and the vehicle has been listed as a total loss. The insurance company has offered \$15,789.13 for the vehicle which had about 134,000 miles on it. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the transfer of the 2020 Ford SUV to the insurance company, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

#### **LCRPC**

**DACF Coastal TA Contract Amendment** – Executive Director Emily Rabbe presented a contract amendment to our Coastal TA Contract with the Municipal Planning Assistance Program, managed by Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA). This amendment will provide us with additional funding to allow us to host a shoreline workshop sometime this fall which is being put on by DEP, Maine Coastal Program and Maine Municipal Planning Assistance Program. The second part of the contract will be funding to allow us to do outreach and engagement to regional partners, municipalities and community members who work on coastal issues to find out what data gaps are missing. If there is funding left over, we can use that to start working on implementation. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the DACF Coastal TA Coastal Contract Amendment, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Director Rabbe asked the Commissioners for approval of the new Inland TA Contract which will be at about \$1,200 and permission for the County Administrator to sign on behalf of the Commissioners. The contract has not been received yet but must be signed and returned by next week in order to have the funding begin July 1, 2026. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve County Administrator Carrie Kipfer review and sign the contract for the Inland TA Contract and bring it to review at the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

**National Association of Regional Councils Conference: Panelist and Awardee Update:** Director Rabbe informed the Commissioners that the proposal for a session, which she had submitted to the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Conference held in Tulsa, OK in June, was accepted. She will be presenting with the Mid Ohio Region Council of Governments, and they will be presenting about sustainability at different levels. She will be focusing on the social resilience project as well as other community projects.

Director Rabbe also let the Commissioners know that she had submitted a nomination for an award for the Site Inventory Project which was released last year and the project was chosen by NARC to receive the Regional Planning Award for this year. She was asked to prepare a short speech sharing what the project means to everyone at the conference.

### **Administrator**

**Register of Probate Catherine Moore recipient 2026 John W. Ballou Award –** Commissioner David Levesque explained that the John W. Ballou Award, given by the Maine State Bar Association (MSBA), is named for a Bangor lawyer and founder of the Board of Overseers of the Bar. The award, the Bar's most prestigious, is presented annually at the summer Bar Conference to the Maine resident or native who demonstrates qualities in keeping with the aims and purposes of the Bar Association to promote the honor, dignity and professionalism to advance the knowledge, skills and interest of the MSBA members in supporting the public interests in a fair and effective system of justice and who exemplifies the examples set by John Ballou. The emphasis is on non-lawyers. Some of the notable recipients have been Governor James B. Longley, The Honorable Margaret Chase Smith, Judge Edward T. Gignoux, The Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, Senator Olympia Snow, Senator George Mitchell, and George Hale. County Administrator Carrie Kipfer read a letter sent to the County on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from Angela Armstrong, Executive Director of the MSBA. The letter informed Catherine Moore, Lincoln County Register of Probate, that she is the recipient of the 2026 John Ballou Award for her many years of service to the Maine Probate Court system and the citizens of Maine. The letter went on to say that Registrar Moore had dedicated her career to the Maine legal community and reinforces a positive image of the probate court system through her interactions with lawyers and the public with unwavering respect and compassion. Registrar Moore was nominated by Megan Bergbank, David Leveque, William Avenagio and Carrie Kipfer. The Commissioners extended their appreciation and congratulations to Registrar Moore.

### **Communications**

**New Hire Recommendations – ECO Elias Page, Jahmiyo Gillis, Garrett French –** In the absence of Director Tara Doe, Administrator Kipfer presented three new hire recommendations for the position of Emergency Communications Officers. Elias Page and Jahmiyo Gillis will be starting on May 21, 2026, and Garrett French will be starting on June 1, 2026. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the hiring of ECO's Elias Page, Jahmiyo Gillis and Garrett French, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

### **Administrator (continued)**

**Healthy Kids Opioid Grant Usage Report January-March 2026 –** Administrator Kipfer presented first quarter report from Healthy Kids regarding their usage of the \$30,000 Opioid Grant they received which needs to be spent by the end of December 2026. They have currently spent \$28,500 doing some very innovative events and outreach programs.

**US 250 Celebration –** Administrator Kipfer updated the Commissioners on the planning within Lincoln County for the US Semiquincentennial Celebration. She is on the committee working with Bigelow Labs regarding the Declaration of Independence statewide travel this

summer. The dates it will be in Lincoln County are Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026. There are several different community partners who are developing programming to be presented in coordination with the visit. Some needs for traffic control and other security measures have been identified. The County's website will be updated with a page detailing the activities for all the local organizations participating in the celebration.

Administrator Kipfer presented the Commissioners with a proposal called "250 Minutes of Service" where the County will be encouraging staff to provide community service in Lincoln County to non-profits and public service agencies to get them out in the community to talk about what we do here in Lincoln County and encourage more volunteerism throughout our community. There are still details to be determined before rolling it out to staff but, with the permission of the Commissioners, she would like to bring it to the Department Heads for their input. The Commissioners are in favor of the proposal moving forward with the suggestion of a Habitat for Humanity project or some way to link staff with organizations. Administrator Kipfer will keep the Commissioners updated on the progress.

### **Commissioner Updates**

**Jail Authority Meeting** – Commissioner Goodkowsky informed the Commissioners that a working group made up of members of the Two Bridges Regional Jail Authority and Knox County representatives held an initial meeting about expanding regionalization and cooperation efforts. The discussion was collaborative and constructive, with participants focused on mutual benefit rather than competition. The group sees possible long-term stability from these efforts, though any cost savings are still uncertain. They plan to continue meeting and hope to determine by December 2026, or January 2027 whether to pursue legislation in the next session, which could require an amendment related to the jail.

**LCRPC** – Commissioner Goodkowsky let the Commissioners know that the Executive Committee of the LCRPC will be meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

**Risk Pool** - Commissioner Levesque let the Commissioners know that he had participated in the Risk Pool meeting and one of the main topics was the increasing cost to the counties due to repeat offenders and what might be done to handle the situation with possibly having more driver training requirements in those situations.

### **Old Business**

**Tax Abatement Hearing** – Administrator Kipfer asked if the date of August 4, 2026, worked for scheduling the upcoming Tax Abatement Hearing. It does not work for Commissioner Levesque so she will find other dates to propose.

**Community Resource Center Navigator (Boothbay Peninsula) Update** - Holly Stover, Director of the Boothbay Region Community Resource Council (BRCRC), and Hannah Corkum, Community Navigator, presented an overview of the organization's work serving Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Southport, and Edgecomb. Ms. Stover explained that the organization formally incorporated in 2012, though it had been operating earlier under the Congregational Church of

Boothbay Harbor. The agency was created in response to the need for better coordination of assistance for residents facing housing, fuel, food, and other basic needs challenges.

The BRCRC has expanded from one initial program to eight programs, including community navigation, fuel assistance, the Woodchucks wood bank, Food for Thought weekend food delivery, the Community Fridge, Boothbay Rides, Set for Success school support, and addiction outreach. The organization is locally funded, does not rely on state or federal money, and is supported by three full-time staff members and close to 100 volunteers.

Ms. Corkum described her role as providing a holistic assessment of residents' needs and helping them connect resources, referrals, and practical support. She noted that assistance may range from medical paperwork and benefits screening to transportation help, vehicle-related needs, fuel, and emergency housing-related support. In the past year, the organization provided approximately \$166,000 in goods and services, delivered about 90 cords of wood, and distributed roughly \$36,000 in fuel assistance. They highlighted the value of the organization's in-kind space at St. Andrews Hospital and the Town of Boothbay's support for the Woodchucks program, noting that these arrangements allow more funds to go directly to residents rather than overhead.

Housing-related requests make up at least half of Ms. Corkum's work, with many residents facing long waitlists for subsidized housing and few options on the peninsula, especially for those under age 60. They highlighted the role of temporary assistance such as rental support, tax payments, transportation, and referrals to shelters, as well as the difficulty of persuading residents to leave the peninsula for available shelter options.

The Commissioners asked questions about collaboration with towns on general assistance, referrals to Tedford Shelter, partnerships with other community organizations, and board membership. The presenters explained that they work closely with local towns, schools, medical providers, police departments, and partner agencies to coordinate support and reduce administrative burden on municipal offices. Ms. Stover concluded with appreciation for continued financial support and interest in sharing additional board information.

### **Old Business**

**Public Safety Building Project** – Administrator Kipfer stated that are updates but deferred to the Executive Session.

### **Executive Session**

**Discussion of Real Property – 1 MRSA 405 (6) (C)** – Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to enter Executive Session for Discussion of Real Property per 1 MSRA 405 (6) (C); seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

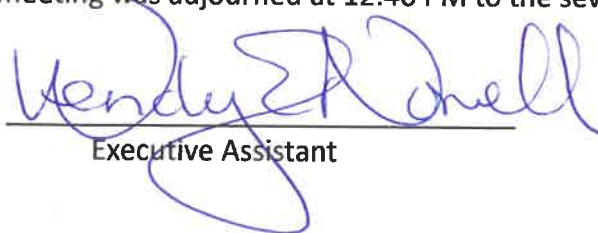
Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to come out of Executive Session for Discussion of Real Property per 1 MSRA 405 (6) (C), seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the Two Bridges Regional Jail Study Report provided by SMRT date April 27, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

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 12:40 PM to the seventh day of June 2026 A.D.

ATTEST:



Executive Assistant