

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the twentieth day of July 2021, by adjournment from the sixth day of July 2021.

Present: Hamilton W. Meserve  
Mary Trescot  
Excused: William Blodgett

Two guests from the Maine Department of Labor, Steven Greeley, Director of Workplace Safety & Health, and Michael LaPlante, Program Manager of SafetyWorks, attended to present Lincoln County with the Safety and Health Award for Public Employers (SHAPE). This award is given to employers who meet all of the program requirements to provide a safe and healthful workplace. HR Coordinator, Carol Thibeault, who coordinated the SHAPE project, accepted the award on behalf of the County. The Lincoln County Commissioners commended Ms. Thibeault for her role in facilitating the process.

Commissioner Trescot moved to approve minutes from the July 6, 2021 meeting; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2 – 0 vote approved.

Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented for approval:

Warrant #38 \$286,402.65

Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2 – 0 vote approved.

Payroll Warrant #2021-15 \$181,360.12

Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2 – 0 vote approved.

Chief Deputy Rand Maker reported a current Jail count at Two Bridges Regional Jail (TBRJ): 24 Lincoln County inmates; Sagadahoc County holds 27 inmates at TBRJ; Federal 2; Oxford 25; Cumberland 2; Penobscot 8; Knox 4; Waldo 1, for a total of 93.

Contract renewals for Animal Control Officer service were presented for the Towns of Newcastle, Nobleboro, Bremen, Whitefield and Bristol. Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Authorization to accept forfeited funds in the amount of \$670.50 from a court case (State v. Perkins) was presented. The funds will be deposited in the forfeited funds account. Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

An authorization for payment for 25 Springfield Saint Victor 5.56 SBR rifles purchased from Witmer Public Safety Group in the amount of \$19,100.00 was presented. An allocation of budgeted dollars was made in 2020 for this purchase, but delivery was delayed due to inventory shortages. Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2 – 0 vote approved.

EMA Director Casey Stevens presented bids that were received for equipment for the Rescue Task Force. A total of seven bids were received from five companies:

Spartan Armor Systems	\$20,262.50
Spartan Armor Systems	\$28,214.50
Admiral Fire & Safety	\$27,537.50
Cosain Group	\$30,142.50
Body Armor Outlet	\$16,445.23

Witmer Public Safety Group	\$25,815.00
Witmer Public Safety Group	\$21,065.00

The Board tabled a decision until Director Stevens can review the bids with the Rescue Task Force team. Once a recommendation is determined, Director Stevens will review with County Administrator Carrie Kipfer to award the bid. A purchase order will be prepared and presented at a future Commissioners meeting. Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Administrator Kipfer presented the draft FY-2022 Budget calendar. The Board had no objections to the dates selected or the locations of the meetings. Motion to approve as presented by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

The contract for fuel oil with M.W. Sewall was discussed. The contract expired on 6/30/2021 and had a rate of \$1.84/gallon. The Board authorized Administrator Kipfer to renew the contract when the rate is \$2.18 or below. Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

Communications Director Tara Doe presented a recommendation to establish a "Reserve Communications Officer" policy and pay rate. Lincoln County has not had Reserve ECOs in several years and the pay policy has changed since then. Her proposal is that a Reserve ECO that has all the appropriate training and credentials would earn \$25.00 per hour, with no discretionary benefits. An employment agreement would be required in which the employee commits to working at least two shifts per month. This arrangement would benefit Lincoln County as it would keep employees current in trainings and policy changes, plus the hourly wage would be less than the lowest overtime rate currently being paid. Motion to approve developing a draft policy by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

District Attorney Natasha Irving joined by telephone to present a hiring recommendation for the Legal Secretary. An interview panel convened on July 15<sup>th</sup> to interview several applicants. DA Irving recommends hiring Christine Essler of Waldoboro effective July 21, 2021, pending a successful background check. Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved.

A memorandum of understanding between Lincoln and Sagadahoc County for temporary help in the DA's office was discussed. Two Sagadahoc County employees are willing to work in the Lincoln County DA's office until the staffing shortage that exists can be resolved and the backlog of work is caught up. Lincoln County will pay the overtime rate of these employees, plus mileage for the days they work for us. Motion to approve by Commissioner Trescot; second by Commissioner Meserve; 2-0 vote approved. A similar agreement was explored between Lincoln County and Knox County, but DA Irving has requested to hold off on that for now.

Director Doe returned to the meeting with two Emergency Communications Officers, ECO Josiah Winchenbach and ECO Jennifer Gosselin. Both employees were recognized by Maine EMS with a "Stork Award", in response to their roles as 9-1-1 Dispatchers that delivered babies over the phone. This a special event in the career of a Dispatcher and the Board offers their congratulations to each ECO!

Dr. Allan "Chip" Teel, President of the Board of Directors of ElderCare Network of Lincoln County made a presentation to the Board in regards to the funding needs for ElderCare housing. He was joined by

Kathe Cheska and Tom Mahoney, also of ElderCare Network. Because of their organization's inadequate funding from Federal, State and private insurance sources, a request to fund \$250,000 annually through the County budget was suggested. The Board asked many questions in reference to their operations and funding sources and agreed to consider the request. All parties agreed that the services provided by ElderCare network are essential to many families in Lincoln County.

At 11:00 am, Commissioner Meserve made a motion to enter executive session with Administrator Kipfer according to 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) to discuss a personnel issue; second by Commissioner Trescot; 3-0 vote approved.

Out of executive session; no votes were taken.

There being no further business, the Commissioners adjourned to meet on the third of August A.D. 2021.

ATTEST:   
County Administrator