

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 January 2026 by adjournment from the sixth day of January 2026.

Present: David Levesque, Chair
William B. Blodgett
Evan Goodkowsky

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

Public Forum

None present.

Minutes

January 6, 2026 – Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Finances

Warrants – Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented Accounts Payable Warrant #35 in the amount of \$974,632.51 for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll Warrant – Director Richardson presented Payroll Warrant #2026-01 paid on January 9, 2026, in the amount of \$ 280,506.22 for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Payroll Warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Director Richardson presented a Purchase Authorization for the TRIO Annual Subscription/Maintenance Agreement in the amount of \$6,835.61. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

FY2026 Tax Commitment – Director Richardson presented the FY 2026 Tax Commitment in the amount of \$15,039,218, the final amount to be taxed to the towns after use of the 2025 surplus of \$285,000. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the FY2026 Tax Commitment in the amount of \$15,039,218, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Office

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett presented the current jail count as follows: Lincoln 39, Sagadahoc 17, Knox 53, Penobscot 51, Somerset 1, Federal 3, Border Patrol 1, and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) 5, for a total of 170.

Animal Control Contract Renewals –

Town of Alna – Sheriff Brackett recommends a renewal of the annual contract with the Town of Alna with the only changes being an increase in the Animal Control Officer rate and the dates of the contract. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the new contract for FY2026, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Town of Newcastle – Sheriff Brackett recommends a renewal of the annual contract with the Town of Newcastle with the only changes being an increase in the Animal Control Officer rate and the dates of the contract. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the new contract for FY2026, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Town of Edgecomb – Sheriff Brackett recommends a renewal of the annual contract with the Town of Edgecomb with the only changes being an increase in the Animal Control Officer rate and the dates of the contract. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the new contract for FY2026, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Town of Jefferson – Sheriff Brackett recommends a renewal of the annual contract with the Town of Jefferson with the only changes being an increase in the Animal Control Officer rate and the dates of the contract. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the new contract for FY2026, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Bryne State Crisis Intervention Program Weapon Storage Grant Award \$18,893 – Sheriff Brackett recommended acceptance of the grant for \$18,893 awarded by Bryne State Crisis Intervention Program for expansion of the weapons storage facility at the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the weapons storage grant from Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Marine Law Enforcement Services Contract Renewals – Sheriff Brackett recommends a renewal of the Marine Shellfish Law Enforcement Services Contract for the towns of Newcastle and Damariscotta jointly with the only changes being an increase in the wages for the Shellfish Warden and the dates. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve renewal of the contract for FY2026, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Authorization to Receive Bids for Replacement Vehicles – Sheriff Brackett requested permission to have bids submitted for four new replacement cruisers. Bids will be due by March to be presented to the Commissioners at that time. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the receiving of bids, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Lexis Nexis TRAX Contract Renewal \$3,000 – Sheriff Brackett presented a budgeted purchase authorization for Lexis Nexis TRAX Contract Renewal in the amount of \$3,000 which allows data to be obtained from cell phones which are involved in crimes. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the renewal, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – CentralSquare Easy Street Draw \$16,679.40 – Sheriff Brackett presented a non-budgeted purchase authorization for CentralSquare's Easy Street Draw program in the amount of \$16,679.40 which would come from Sheriff's Office IT Capital Reserve

funds. This is a companion program for the CentralSquare software and allows pictures and diagrams to be drawn for accident reports. This is a one-time purchase with an annual maintenance renewal. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the purchase, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Dirigo Safety, Policy & Accreditation Renewal \$4,200 – Sheriff Brackett presented a budgeted purchase authorization for renewal of our contract with Dirigo Safety in the amount of \$4,200 as we continue to work through the accreditation process. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the renewal, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved. There was a question regarding a discount through the MCCA Risk Pool for agencies that complete the Accreditation process. The Sheriff has not received an answer from the Risk Pool currently. Commissioner Goodkowsky will follow up at the Risk Pool meeting on January 30th, 2026.

Communications

Payment Authorization – I Am Responding Annual Contract Renewal \$15,088.00 – Communications Director Tara Doe presented a payment authorization for a budgeted annual renewal of the I Am Responding Contract in the amount of \$15,088. This is the software that is used for fire or EMS calls which provides location and the CAD number associated with the call. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the renewal, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Payment Authorization – Annual ZETRON Radio Maintenance Agreement \$44,091.85 – Director Doe presented a payment authorization for a budget annual renewal with ZETRON Radio Communications Management, which includes the ZETRON annual licensing in the amount of \$44,091.85. This agreement allows our Communications issues to be prioritized in case of breakdown and covered by preemptive maintenance to avoid disruptions. By paying the full year in advance, we are saving 3% on the overall bill. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the renewal, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Contract Renewal – Blinn Hill Radio Tower (Litchfield Tower) \$10,395 – Director Doe presented a contract renewal for the space that we rent on Blinn Hill Tower for our radio equipment in the budgeted amount of \$10,395. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the renewal, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

In Memoriam – Director Doe spoke about the recent passing of Dispatcher Sonia Lilly on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Sonia had been a Dispatcher for the County for many years and will be greatly missed. The Comms Center did a final sign off for Sonia on Monday, January 19th, Sonia's birthday. A final sign off is customary in emergency services when someone passes and is an end of watch sign off for that individual which goes out to all of the law enforcement, fire and EMS teams acknowledging the passing and thanking her for her service and letting her know that the team has it from there and for her to rest easy. Black ribbons are on the signs at the Communications Center in her honor as well. The Commissioners expressed their sympathy and condolences to Sonia's family and colleagues.

LCRPC

LCRPC FY26 Coastal Land Use Technical Assistance Contract with MOCA – In the absence of Director Emily Rabbe, County Administrator Carrie Kipfer presented FY26 Coastal Land Use Technical Assistance Contract with Maine Office of Community Affairs. This funding allows LCRPC to work with communities on coastal issues such as waterfront planning, ordinance updates, flood plain discussion as well as other needs. The contract runs from January 2026 through December 2026, and the funding is \$10,539. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Coastal Land Use Contract with MOCA, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

District Attorney

Out of State Travel Request - Administrator Kipfer presented a request on behalf of the District Attorney's Office. Brie Edwards, Paralegal, is asking for permission to travel to Louisville, Kentucky, May 31st to June 2nd, 2026, to attend the National Association of Extradition Officials National Annual Conference. This is a training conference and has many different training opportunities related to Ms. Edward's newly assigned duties. The total amount of the conference and travel (overnight stays and airfare) would be \$1,821.43 and would be covered by the DA's department budget and has been approved by DA Natasha Irving. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the out of state travel request for the DA's Office, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

Payment Authorization – Siemens Annual Courthouse HVAC Contract \$44,584 – Administrator Kipfer presented the annual heating and ventilation air conditioning contract with Siemens. They provide all the maintenance and repairs to our boiler and AC units, and the contract includes many of the different parts they commonly replace. The contract is for \$44,584 which is budgeted and is for the Courthouse only. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the payment authorization, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Contract Renewal Cummins Sales & Service – Courthouse Generator \$3,176.73 and Sheriff's Office Generator \$3,657.42 – Administrator Kipfer presented the annual contracts with Cummins Sales & Service for the two generators, one at the Courthouse and one at the Sheriff's Office. The contract is for service and inspection and is a three-year agreement which is billed annually. The Courthouse annual cost for the contract is for \$3,176.73 and the Sheriff's Office is \$3,657.42. They are different generators, hence the difference in pricing. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Draft Job Description – Human Resources - Administrator Kipfer presented the draft job description for the new Human Resources position. Upon further review after the last meeting, the job duties would qualify the position under the administrative exempt designation by the Department of Labor and when run through the grading process for County positions, it

qualifies for a grade 16 and would be titled Human Resources Manager. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the job description, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved. Administrator Kipfer asked for permission to post the position for hiring. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the posting, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Old Business

Public Safety Building Project - Administrator Kipfer asked LCRPC Director Emily Rabbe to review the DOT restriction on the property that is being considered. Director Rabbe is reaching out to the DOT directly for clarification.

Opioid Settlement Funding Grant Application – The application is still pending for the rehabilitation residence project as they have not been granted non-profit status yet.

The County Opioid Settlement Report was due on January 15th, 2026, and has been submitted to the Moss Center. It did not include a report on the grant to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of MidMaine as we are still waiting for their status filing with us. Administrator Kipfer is continuing to work on connecting with them as they have not responded.

Tax Abatement Hearings – Administrator Kipfer distributed the final decisions on the three recent Tax Abatement Hearings for final approvals.

Eugene McKeever v. Town of Nobleboro - Hearing date of January 6, 2026. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the final decision as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Joseph and Jacqueline Keller v. Town of Nobleboro – Hearing date of January 15, 2026. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the final decision as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Caroline Hardman v. Town of Nobleboro – Hearing date of January 15, 2026. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the final decision as presented, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Commissioners' Updates

CCWI – Commissioner Goodkowsky let the Commissioners know that the next meeting is Friday, January 23rd, 2026, at 8:45 AM.

LCRPC – Commissioner Goodkowsky let the Commissioners know that the next executive committee meeting is Tuesday, January 27th, 2026, at 6 PM via Zoom.

MCCA – Commissioner Goodkowsky let the Commissioners know that the Annual Meeting for MCCA will be in Somerset County on Friday, January 30th, 2026, at 9 AM. He will be attending that meeting and the Risk Pool meeting on behalf of Commissioner Levesque.

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

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

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM to the third day of February 2026 A.D.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wally Howell", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Executive Assistant