

STATE OF MAINE

At a meeting of the County Commissioners, begun and holden in Wiscasset, within and for the County of Lincoln, on the second day of December 2025 by adjournment from the eighteenth day of November 2025.

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

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

Administrator Carrie Kipfer requested amendments to the agenda for the 2026 County Budget Vote and a Purchase Authorization for Recycling Waste Oil Disposal. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve the amendments, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Public Forum

Peter Bruun, Executive Director for Studio B in Damariscotta, thanked the Commissioners for their financial support in 2025 through the opioid settlement grants. He had seen an article regarding the Moss Center performing evaluation oversight on the dispersal of the settlement funds and was wondering if there will be future opportunities for additional grants for their multi-year program. Administrator Kipfer let him know that the Moss Center is gathering information from the organizations who were recipients of the settlement funds, not the non-profits who received grants from those organizations. Mr. Bruun asked if there would be an RFP if funds became available so the local groups could work together to find ways of helping the community. The Board has no immediate plans to issue another round of grants.

Minutes

November 18, 2025 – Commissioner Levesque moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Finances

Warrants – Finance Director Michelle Richardson presented Accounts Payable Warrant #90 in the amount of \$204,915.37 for approval. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Payroll Warrant - Director Richardson presented Payroll Warrant #2025-24 paid out on November 30, 2025, in the amount of \$255,931.54 for approval. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Payroll Warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

FY 2026 Budget Vote – Director Richardson presented the final FY2026 Budget for approval. There were no changes since the last meeting with the budget coming with a 3.42%

increase over last year at \$15,314,218 for FY 2026. Commissioner Levesque moved to approve the FY 2026 Budget as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; discussion followed.

Commissioner Levesque asked about the District Attorney's Office salaries and if a study on the competitiveness with other counties had been done. Administrator Kipfer stated that there were comparisons for the Victim Witness Advocate's position with the recent opening where our range for this position is \$24.76-\$33.99. In looking at a 10-county wage study, the low end is Franklin County with \$16.91, and York County is the high end with \$37.95. Our pay range is based on a multi-step pay scale accounting for experience and length of employment, also being compared to other positions and responsibilities. We have tried to stay competitive with our increases, and this position is in the range of the other Maine Counties.

Commissioner Levesque made a motion to recommend an increase to the non-profit lines, increasing the funding of the Eldercare Network from the \$25,000 recommended by the Budget Advisory Committee to \$35,000, an increase of \$10,000 to the budget. Seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

With no other discussion on the FY2026 budget and one modification approved, 3-0 vote approved. The new total is \$15,324,218, an increase of 3.48% over FY2025.

Sheriff's Office

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett presented the current jail count as follows effective December 2, 2025: Lincoln 30, Sagadahoc 18, Knox 34, Penobscot 50, Waldo 24, Federal 3, and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) 8, for a total of 167.

Animal Control Contract Renewals –

Town of Bremen – Sheriff Brackett recommends a renewal of the annual contract with the Town of Bremen with the only changes being an increase in the Animal Control Officer's salary and the dates of the contract. Commissioner Levesque approved the new contract for FY2026, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Town of Whitefield – Sheriff Brackett recommends a renewal of the annual contract with the Town of Whitefield with the only changes being an increase in the Animal Control Officer's salary and the dates of the contract. Commissioner Goodkowsky approved the new contract for FY2026, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Town of Boothbay Harbor – Sheriff Brackett recommends a renewal of the annual contract with the Town of Boothbay Harbor with the only changes being an increase in the Animal Control Officer's salary and the dates of the contract. Commissioner Goodkowsky approved the new contract for FY2026, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Town of Nobleboro – Sheriff Brackett recommends a renewal of the annual contract with the Town of Nobleboro with the only changes being an increase in the Animal Control Officer's salary and the dates of the contract. Commissioner Levesque approved the new contract for FY2026, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Town of Dresden – Sheriff Brackett recommends a renewal of the annual contract with the Town of Dresden with the only changes being an increase in the Animal Control Officer's salary and the dates of the contract. Commissioner Levesque approved the new contract for FY2026, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Hiring Authorization Request – Sheriff Bracket presented a proposal to the Commissioners for the conditional hiring of two candidates for one open position. There are currently two promising candidates for one open patrol position. There are retirements pending soon and, with the possibility of other openings and the length of time it takes to confirm a candidate through the hiring process, the Sheriff would like to extend conditional hiring offers to two candidates, Zachary Smith and Nicholas Greenleaf. Both would need to pass background checks and polygraph tests before the hiring process is complete. The hiring offer would be contingent on there being an open position at the end of the process. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to allow the conditional hiring of Zachary Smith and Nicholas Greenleaf based on there being an open position at the end of the process, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

LCRPC

Approval for serving as Local Development Director for Northern Borders Regional Commission - Alex Zipparo, Economic & Community Development Planner, presented a request for approval to opt-in to serve as a Local Development Director for Lincoln County for the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC). As of 2025, Lincoln County entities are newly eligible for these grants. The grants focus on economic development, with projects ranging from planning and design to infrastructure improvements like water and sewer systems. Mr. Zipparo is seeking formal approval to accept this role and its associated funding of \$15,000 for January-September 2026, emphasizing that this will allow for more active support in helping Lincoln County secure additional economic development grants, in partnership with the executive director, Emily Rabbe. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve LCRPC to opt in as Local Development Director for the NBRC, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

District Attorney

Hiring Recommendation – Victim Witness Advocate – Isabella Gatti - In the absence of the District Attorney Natsha Irving, Administrator Kipfer presented a unanimous recommendation for the hiring of Isabella Gatti, Woolwich, as the new Victim Witness Advocate Coordinator with a December 8, 2025, start date. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the hiring of Isabella Gatti as the new Victim Witness Advocate Coordinator, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Purchase Authorization – Paralegal Certificate Training for Brianna Edwards \$2,687.00 - Administrator Kipfer presented a Purchase Authorization in the amount of \$2,867 for Brianna Edwards to enroll in the Paralegal Certificate program through Southern Maine Community College. Administrator Kipfer is also exploring funding opportunities through the Harold Alfond Center which could offset up to half of this amount. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization for up to \$2,687 for the SMCC Paralegal Certificate training program, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator

MCCA Board & Risk Pool Representatives – Administrator Kipfer requested a representative be appointed for FY 2026 to the MCCA Board & Risk Pool Representative. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to recommend Commissioner Levesque to continue in that capacity with Administrator Kipfer as his proxy, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Abatement Received – Keller vs. Nobleboro – Administrator Kipfer presented a new tax abatement appeal from Joseph and Jacqueline Keller, Lily Drive, vs. the Town of Nobleboro. Once the Commissioners accept the appeal, the Administrator will work to get a date scheduled for the hearing. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to accept the appeal for Keller vs. Nobleboro, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Abatement Scheduled – McKeever vs. Nobleboro – Administrator Kipfer let the Commissioners know that the Hearing for the Eugene McKeever vs. Town of Nobleboro Tax Abatement Appeal has been scheduled for January 6, 2026, at 11 AM.

Purchase Authorization for disposal of waste oil for \$2,874.02 – Administrator Kipfer presented a Purchase Authorization for engaging Safety Kleen, a waste disposal company, to dispose of waste oil with contaminants in it. We pick this up from our transfer facilities but do not have the ability to separate the contamination from the oil and properly dispose of it. This is a budgeted annual request. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to approve the Purchase Authorization as presented, seconded by Commissioner Levesque; 3-0 vote approved.

Old Business

Public Safety Building Project – Administrator Kipfer let the Commissioners know that there is a Zoom meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 1 PM to review the parcels currently available and to begin the process of putting a footprint on the landscape of the locations.

Commissioners' Updates

MCCA – Commissioner Levesque reminded the other Commissioners that the December MCCA meeting will be at the Two Bridges Regional Jail on December 9 and 10, 2025, with a reception on the evening of December 9.

LCRPC – Commissioner Goodkowsky let the Commissioners know that the next full Board meeting is December 18, 2025, in person at the LCRPC offices.

CCWI – No updates.

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 Levesque, 3-0 vote approved.

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

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 10:35 AM to the sixteenth day of December 2025 A.D.

ATTEST:



County Administrator