

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 June 2026 by adjournment from the nineteenth day of May 2026.

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

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

Public Forum

None present.

Minutes

May 19, 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 #55 in the amount of \$422,727.38 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 #2026-11 paid on May 29, 2026, in the amount of \$270,121.90 for approval. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Sheriff's Department

Jail Count – Sheriff Todd Brackett presented the jail count from this morning as follows: Lincoln 31, Sagadahoc 10, Knox 57, and Penobscot 42 for a total of 135.

Purchase Authorization – Motorola Solutions \$6,624.00 – Sheriff Brackett presented a Purchase Authorization to Motorola Solutions in the budgeted amount of \$6,624 for the third year of a five-year subscription for cloud storage for the car and body armor cameras. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

MDEA Resident Agent – Sheriff Brackett asked the Board for permission to explore a one-year contract with the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA) to assign a resident drug agent to Lincoln County. He said the county has invested heavily in treatment, prevention, and recovery efforts, but enforcement is also an important part of addressing the drug crisis. He explained that Lincoln County has been without a resident MDEA agent for about four to five years because of staffing shortages affecting both local law enforcement and MDEA. He presented data showing consistent drug investigative activity and a high number of overdoses,

arguing that the county continues to face serious drug trafficking and overdose problems, including activity connected to out-of-state traffickers. The Sheriff stated that under the proposed contract, a Lincoln County deputy would be assigned to MDEA, with salary and benefits reimbursed by the state. The County's added costs would be minimal, mostly limited to some specialized internal training or meetings. If a deputy is reassigned, the Sheriff would temporarily fill that vacancy within the Sheriff's Office. The Commissioners asked whether the arrangement would improve regional coordination and how the Sheriff's Office would maintain staffing coverage. The Sheriff responded that MDEA's statewide structure is designed for interagency coordination and intelligence sharing, and he agreed to return with a draft contract and a staffing plan for the Board to review before any final decision.

Communications

Phoenix Award Presentation – County Administrator Carrie Kipfer asked for this item to be tabled to the next meeting. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to table until the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

LCRPC

Introductions – Executive Director Emily Rabbe introduced Erin Quetell as the new Land Use and Transportation Planner. Ms. Quetell joined the LCRPC in April and has been working with communities on ordinance and transportation projects. Director Rabbe also introduced Lydia Pease, the summer intern from the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center Maine Summer Government Internship Program. Ms. Pease started last week and will be with the LCRPC through mid-August working on community engagement projects and some climate resiliency projects with Laura Graziano.

Update on the State Resilience Office Flood Plain Manager Program – Director Rabbe wanted to inform the Commissioners of updates to the new regional floodplain assistance program being developed by Maine's Office of Community Affairs through LD1. The State has hired a new Flood Plain Manager for the State who will be working with the staff at the regional planning organizations in the State. Under the program, each regional planning organization is expected to receive \$125,000 annually to support floodplain management work, including helping municipalities update ordinances, improve understanding of permitting and regulations, access mitigation funding, and participate in FEMA's Community Rating System, which can lower flood insurance costs. In Lincoln County, the plan is to hire or contract a dedicated staff person to carry out this work, with an emphasis on making the funding a long-term resource if state support continues. This program is both timely and necessary because Maine currently has very few certified floodplain managers. The new hire for Lincoln County would focus exclusively on local municipalities, while completing state-supported online training and certification during the first six months of employment. This role could help towns implement projects already identified in the county's updated hazard mitigation plan, making the program a practical tool for resilience planning, technical assistance, and long-term flood risk reduction. The Contract is expected to be received in July and Director Rabbe will bring it before the Commissioners at that time.

Preliminary Discussion on Regional Code Enforcement Idea – Director Rabbe informed the Commissioners of ongoing discussions with municipalities about exploring having a regional code enforcement program tied to new funding for a regional floodplain management position. LCRPC is considering housing code enforcement staff at the county level and contracting with municipalities, like the animal control model, to provide technical assistance, permitting support, floodplain compliance help, and backup coverage for towns with part-time or limited code enforcement capacity. Director Rabbe noted that many smaller communities struggle with certification requirements, succession planning, ordinance complexity, and maintaining consistent code enforcement services. She discussed the successful example of the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments’ regional code enforcement program, which has grown from six to nine towns and is already training additional staff. Lincoln County’s smaller geography could make a similar model workable, especially with software to manage applications, inspections, planning board referrals, fees, and communications. The LCRPC will continue meeting with municipalities to assess interest, needs, concerns, costs, and possible funding sources, with the goal of returning in the next few months with a more defined proposal.

Administrator

Payment Authorization – Granite step repairs \$3,500 – Administrator Kipfer presented a Payment Authorization for up to the amount of \$3,500 to Steele Landscaping for repairs to the granite steps between the upper and lower parking lots. The steps were patched up over the winter due to unstable conditions and need to be lifted, repairs done to the concrete and reset before the end of the summer. Commissioner Blodgett moved to approve the Payment Authorization for up to \$3,500, seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Letter of Opposition – MaineHealth closure of Lincoln Hospital Labor & Delivery Unit – Administrator Kipfer presented a proposed letter opposing MaineHealth’s closure of the LincolnHealth/Lincoln Hospital labor and delivery unit. The primary concern raised in the letter is that eliminating local labor and delivery services would require residents to travel outside Lincoln County for care, placing additional strain on EMS providers, ambulances, and public safety volunteers who would be tied up transporting patients instead of responding to other emergencies. The Commissioners acknowledged that MaineHealth faces difficult sustainability decisions due to lower delivery volumes, but emphasized the broader community impacts, including reduced access to care, potential effects on younger families considering moving to the county, and the loss of long-standing local services. The Commissioners agreed that while they cannot control MaineHealth’s decision, submitting the letter and sharing it with the legislative delegation could help elevate community concerns before a final decision is made. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved to sign the letter of opposition addressed to MaineHealth, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

LCHA Archive Project – Administrator Kipfer gave the Commissioners an update on the expanding relationship between the County and Lincoln County Historical Association (LCHA). She recently met with Shannon Gilmore, the Executive Director of LCHA, to discuss and view the documents they have in their archive, currently stored on the third floor of the old jail which is not a temperature, humidity or pest-controlled environment. They are looking for a long-term

solution to storage and accessibility for the records. Since the Superior Court records were moved from the County's archives to the State of Maine, the County has available space in our archives. They have been working on a project to get everything digitized and the Maine State Archivist recently dropped off four volumes of records which have been scanned. The digitized version will be accessible to the public and the originals will be stored in the County's archives room. The records that will be sent here for storage will be records, letters, and other older documents, but not artifacts such as old books and historically relevant artifacts which will be kept for display at the LCHA's properties.

E911 Advisory Council Membership – Carrie Kipfer MCCA Representative - The Maine County Commissioners Association was looking for a volunteer to serve on the E911 Advisory Council which is a State Council made up of different members of the emergency services community. Administrator Kipfer volunteered for this Council last year, and was recently confirmed by Governor Mills. She plans on taking an active role representing the Counties in the state.

Old Business

Public Safety Building Project – Administrator Kipfer let the Commissioners know that she is in the process of scheduling a site visit to talk to the owner of the property with Commissioner Levesque.

Abatement Hearings - The pending tax abatement application has been scheduled for a hearing on August 5, 2026, at 2 PM. This will be a double hearing for a new application for the 2026 tax year and a remanded application from the Superior Court for a 2025 tax year application from the same applicant.

Executive Session

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

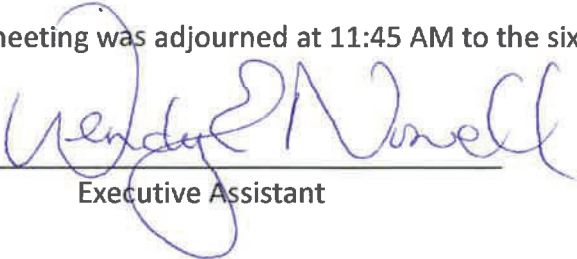
Commissioner Blodgett moved to come out of Executive Session for Discussion of Legal per 1 MSRA 405 (6) (E), seconded by Commissioner Goodkowsky; 3-0 vote approved.

Administrator Kipfer made a recommendation to offer an applicant the position of Records and Training Manager at the Sheriff's Office, pending a successful background check. Commissioner Goodkowsky moved Conditional Approval to offer employment to a candidate for Records and Training Manager for the Sheriff's Office, seconded by Commissioner Blodgett; 3-0 vote approved.

Finance Director, Michelle Kane joined the meeting to discuss a contract for payroll automation. Commissioner Levesque moved to authorize Director Kane to initiate a contract with Trio for these services at an initial cost of no more than \$25,000, which includes one-time set-up fees and on-going annual fees, 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 11:45 AM to the sixteenth day of June 2026 A.D.

ATTEST: 
Executive Assistant