



TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT WARRANT COMMITTEE

**Minutes from:
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:00PM**

Northeast Harbor Meeting Hall and via Zoom

Members Present: Phil Lichtenstein, Katrina Carter, Tim Murphy, Mike Olsen, Lauren Kuffler, Jesse Hartson, Jamie Blaine, Blakeslee Bell, Owen Craighead, Rosemary Matchak, Donna Beals, Carmen Sanford, Alan Kimmerly

Zoom: Craig Roebuck, Jerry Miller, Kathy Miller, Stephanie Reece, Megan Bailey

Excused: Bill Ferm, Jesse Hartson

Absent: Marina McGarr

Guests: Claire Woolfolk, Town Clerk; Lisa Young, Tax Collector; Kyle Avila, Tax Assessor; Mae Wyler, Treasurer/Finance Director; Durlin Lunt, Town Manager

1. 6:00pm Call Meeting to order, announcements, schedule revisions
2. 6:10pm Claire Woolfolk discussed small revisions to her budget. She fielded a few questions concerning stipends for the planning board and election volunteers.
3. 6:25pm Lisa Young briefly discussed her budget and fielded a couple of line item questions,
4. 6:30pm Kyle Avila described his budget as mostly flat except a rise in postage in anticipation of answering many inquiries concerning projected increases in valuations. He stated that a significant number of valuations updated in 2022 “undershot” by as much as 20%. Kyle

also described how the tax rate would likely drop to offset the increases in valuation.

5. 6:40 Mae Wyler briefly discussed her budget, of note were increases in funding for personnel training.
6. 7:00pm Durlin Lunt began by describing the history of the Capital Improvement Plan which will, as of 2024 begin to be fully funded on a year over year basis. The CIP was created to replace and centralize the various reserve accounts held by all the various deponents within the Town. In discussing the general budget, Durlin fielded questions regarding contingency funds, healthcare expense fluctuations and salaries needing to stay in step with cost of living and inflation.
7. 7:50pm Adjournment

Upcoming Meeting: Tuesday, January 30 at 6:00pm at the meeting hall and by Zoom. Focus: Public Safety Budget Review with Police Chief Dave Kerns and Fire Chief Mike Bender

Respectfully submitted,

Owen Craighead Recording Secretary