

**Town of Mount Desert  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Room, Town Hall  
6:00 PM, October 7, 2019**

Board of Selectmen Present: Chairman John Macauley, Rick Mooers, Matt Hart, Martha Dudman, and Wendy Littlefield

Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Police Chief Jim Willis, Public Works Director Tony Smith, Harbormaster John Lemoine, Treasurer Kathy Mahar, and Lieutenant David Kerns were also in attendance.

Members of the Public in attendance: Dennis Shubert, Jane Shubert, Jim Fuchs, Emily Fuchs, Matthew Hornburger, Ted Leisenring, Paul Murphy of the Island Explorer, Southwest Harbor Police Chief Alan Brown

**I. Call to order at 6:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Macauley.

**II. Executive Session**

A. *Pursuant to 1 MRSA §405(6) (F) Discussion of Confidential Records, Poverty Abatement Hearing per Title 36 MRSA§842*

MOTION: At 6:00 p.m., Selectman Mooers moved, seconded by Selectman Hart, to enter into Executive Session pursuant to the provisions of 36 MRSA§841(2) to consider a request for an abatement of taxes for reasons of poverty. The vote was unanimous in favor, 5-0.

MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, to leave Executive Session. Motion approved 5-0. The Board left Executive Session at 6:25PM.

**III. Public Hearing(s)**

A. *General Assistance Ordinance Amendments*

Chairman Macauley opened the discussion for Public Comment. There was none.

MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, to close the Public Hearing. Motion approved 5-0.

**IV. Post Public Hearing**

A. *General Assistance Ordinance Amendments, action if necessary*

MOTION: Selectman Littlefield moved, with Selectman Mooers seconding, that the Municipality of the Town of Mount Desert adopt the MMA model Ordinance GA Appendices A through B for the period of October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020, as presented.

Selectman Dudman inquired about the rent cited in the Ordinance. Town Manager Lunt noted the numbers cited apply to all of the county.

1 Motion approved 5-0.

2  
3 **V. Minutes**

4 *A. Approval of minutes from September 16, 2019 meeting*

5 MOTION: Selectman Hart moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, approval of the  
6 September 16, 2019 Minutes as presented. Motion approved 5-0.  
7

8 **VI. Appointments/Recognitions/Resignations**

9 *A. Confirm Appointment of Ninette Ferm as Warden for the November 5, 2019 State  
10 Referendum Election*

11 MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Dudman seconding, confirmation of  
12 appointment of Ninette Ferm as Warden for the November 5, 2019 State Referendum Election,  
13 as presented. Motion approved 5-0.  
14

15 *B. Recognize Elizabeth Yeo's accreditation as a Certified Tax Collector of Maine by the MMTCTA*

16 MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, recognition of  
17 Elizabeth Yeo's accreditation as a Certified Tax Collector of Maine by the MMTCTA, as presented  
18 and with congratulations. Motion approved 5-0.  
19

20 **VII. Consent Agenda** *(These items are considered routine, and therefore, may be passed by the Selectmen in one blanket motion.  
21 Board members may remove any item for discussion by requesting such action prior to consideration of that portion of the agenda.)*

22 *A. Town of Mount Desert awarded the Superior Award for its 2019 Annual report by the Maine  
23 Municipal Association Municipal Report Competition*

24 *B. Thank you letter from Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County*

25 *C. State Valuation Report & Sales Ratio Study*

26 *D. Hancock County Commissioners Meeting Minutes from September 3, 2019*

27 MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Dudman seconding, acceptance of the  
28 Consent Agenda as presented.  
29

30 Selectman Hart lauded the efforts of the Town of Mount Desert office staff and, in particular,  
31 Deputy Jennifer McWain for the work involved in creating the Annual Report each year.  
32

33 Motion approved 5-0.  
34

35 **VIII. Selectmen's Reports**

36 No Selectmen's Reports were presented.  
37

38 **IX. Unfinished Business**

39 *A. Presentation to the Selectmen of the MDIHS 2020 Yearbook ad for approval*

40 MOTION: Selectman Dudman moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding approval of the  
41 MDIHS 2020 Yearbook ad as presented. Motion approved 5-0.  
42

43 *B. Follow up on Island Explorer Inquiry*

44 Lt. Kerns noted the Town had received a complaint about Island Explorer buses turning around  
45 at the Seal Harbor fountain, and Lt. Kerns met with Larry Taylor at the site. An experienced bus  
46 driver was asked to try to maneuver a bus through the Seal Harbor parking lot, and was  
47 successful making it through, however it was very tight quarters and the bus drags across the  
48 pavement exiting the parking lot. It was suggested the bus could perhaps use the dirt parking

1 area across from the Seal Harbor Fire Station for turning, however Main Street's narrow width in  
2 the summer proved problematic.

3  
4 Turning around the fountain was observed. It appeared that as the summer progressed, bus  
5 drivers were improving at making the turn.

6  
7 Lt. Kerns was not sure what the Police Department could do to prevent turning at the fountain.  
8 Perhaps with Route 3 and Peabody Drive improvements, in conjunction with cooperation from  
9 Acadia National Park, a turnout lane closer to Stanley Brook could be considered.

10  
11 Island Explorer Representative Paul Murphy reported that Island Explorer became aware there  
12 was concern only after Chief Willis called. Island Explorer abandoned turning in the Seal Harbor  
13 parking lot because the buses were getting caught up. The parking lot has just enough room for  
14 a bus to turn only as long as every other vehicle in the lot is operating or parked appropriately.  
15 It's rare all vehicles are doing exactly what they should be at all times. Island Explorer began  
16 turning at the fountain as an alternate to the parking lot. Mr. Murphy hoped to work with the  
17 Town to find an appropriate solution.

18  
19 Island Explorer has tried using the Jordan Pond Road, which also proved problematic.

20  
21 Mr. Murphy suggested creating a stop just before the Stanley Brook Road turn (on the  
22 Northeast Harbor side of Route 3), as opposed to stopping past Stanley Brook Road. While the  
23 area is not built for a bus stop, no cars park there and there is a shoulder that will allow the bus  
24 to get partially off the road. Other issues that must be considered with this alternative would  
25 include ADA compliance and the fact that it's a State road and the DOT might have concerns  
26 about a stop there. Mr. Murphy felt this was a viable option, at least in the short term. Perhaps  
27 if modifications are planned for the road in that area, some bus access considerations can be  
28 made at that time.

29  
30 Seal Harbor resident Dennis Shubert stated that noise was also an issue.

31  
32 Seal Harbor resident Jim Fuchs wondered if a smaller bus could run a route just from Jordan  
33 Pond House to Seal Harbor. Mr. Murphy did not have a smaller bus available for such a route.  
34 The Jordan Pond House is one of the busier routes, so a smaller bus would be  
35 counterproductive. Seal Harbor resident Emily Fuchs stated the buses in the area often have  
36 few to no passengers. Mr. Murphy noted that while a particular section along a route might be  
37 lower in passenger numbers, the buses fill along the way. Overflow buses are often required for  
38 the heavy loads along this particular route. Ms. Fuchs maintained that the number of buses  
39 could be compromised on.

40  
41 Mr. Murphy noted that if the Town recommends a change to the bus stop area, Mr. Murphy will  
42 take that recommendation back to his planners and he would be ready to make such a change.

43  
44 Selectman Mooers asked if such a change to the bus stop would require coordination with the  
45 DOT. Mr. Murphy felt that if the bus stop were used and resulted in complaints, or the DOT felt  
46 the site was not working as a bus stop, then the situation would have to be revisited. The Island  
47 Explorer stops for those flagging it down along many roads, and in many circumstances. Chief  
48 Willis noted that to build a bus stop would require planning and money. Chief Willis has asked

Public Works Director Smith to look into accommodating a bus stop while reviewing the area for other work. Director Smith noted it was a public road and there was nothing forbidding the public to stop.

Such a change would also shorten the time of the route and would therefore be a benefit to the Island Explorer. There's less pedestrian traffic at this site than at the beach as well.

Selectman Dudman felt the solution was a good one, and she thanked Mr. Murphy for the Island Explorer service.

*C. Follow up on Sign Inquiry*

This discussion was regarding the question of a stop sign near Millbrook Rd., at the three-way intersection.

Lt. Kerns noted that due to it being the end of the season, traffic volume was probably lower than in summer. He assigned police to observe the area on several occasions. The intersection was unique. It was perhaps not right for a three-way stop. In talking with Mr. Wells who voiced concern, it was suggested that perhaps putting message boards out in the area next year might be beneficial. Additionally, there are speed signs that can be used. Starting early in the season might be helpful

Chief Willis felt that in talking with Mr. Wells, the concern was more about speeding and not stop signs. There are other ways than stop signs to slow traffic.

**X. New Business**

*A. Request authorization to replace a 425' faulty power cable and pedestal and for the release and expenditure of \$19,650.00 to MCM Electric for the purchase and installation to be paid from Northeast Harbor CIP line Acct. # 6410100-24680 that has a balance of \$148,772.22*

Harbormaster Lemoine reported that a major submersible power cable lost one of its three sets of wires. The wire that gave out was due for replacement in the next year or two. MCM has reviewed the situation. The type of wiring required is very limited in availability, therefore Harbormaster Lemoine requested to go outside the normal purchasing policy to retain the materials. The pedestal the cable ran was a 30 and a 50 amp. An extra 100-amp pedestal can be offered with this change. Bigger boats can be accommodated with the 100-amp pedestal.

MOTION: Selectman Dudman moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, authorization to replace a 425' faulty power cable and pedestal and for the release and expenditure of \$19,650.00 to MCM Electric for the purchase and installation to be paid from Northeast Harbor CIP line Acct. # 6410100-24680 that has a balance of \$148,772.22, as presented. Motion approved 5-0.

*B. Consideration of a request for a waiver of Section 4.04 of the Town's Sewer Ordinance requirement for a separate and individual sewer connection for individual structures*

Public Works Director Smith recommended approval. This will save cutting into the road and into the sewer.

1 MOTION: Selectman Dudman moved, with Selectman Hart seconding, approval of a request for  
2 a waiver of Section 4.04 of the Town's Sewer Ordinance requirement for a separate and  
3 individual sewer connection for individual structures, as presented. Motion approved 5-0.  
4

5 *C. Consideration of purchasing the Town's 2019-20 winter sand from Harold MacQuinn, Inc. at*  
6 *a unit cost of \$9.75 per cubic yard or, \$29,250 for the 3,000 cubic yards the bids were based*  
7 *on*

8 MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, approval of  
9 purchasing the Town's 2019-20 winter sand from Harold MacQuinn, Inc. at a unit cost of \$9.75  
10 per cubic yard or, \$29,250 for the 3,000 cubic yards the bids were based on, as presented.  
11 Motion approved 5-0.  
12

13 *D. Review of Emera Maine and CES Correspondence Related to the Northeast Harbor Village*  
14 *Improvements Project*

15 Public Works Director Smith reported that discussion has ensued between Emera Maine and CES  
16 on the process of the work in the Northeast Harbor Village Improvements Project. CES has  
17 reviewed the project and has reconfirmed that CES and the Town want the work to proceed as  
18 planned.  
19

20 It was reiterated the poles in the plans are those the Committee chose. All Committee  
21 members have seen the pole design and approved their use. Director Smith had meeting notes  
22 and other handouts showing the pole design and color approved by the Committee.  
23

24 Selectman Hart noted that growth potential was an important necessity. Director Smith  
25 confirmed the wiring proposed allows for ample capacity for all existing buildings, as well as for  
26 empty lots with future development potential.  
27

28 Director Smith requested the Board authorize the Town Manager to sign the Emera Maine letter  
29 presented. The Emera Maine representative asked specifically that the Town Manager sign the  
30 letter.  
31

32 MOTION: Selectman Hart moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, authorizing Town  
33 Manager Lunt to the letter presented to the Board to be sent to Emera Maine. Motion  
34 approved 5-0.  
35

36 *E. Consideration of MRC Board of Directors Nomination Form*

37 Public Works Director Smith noted his term on the MRC Board ends in December. Director  
38 Smith was part of the group to select Fiberight and would like to see it through to the end.  
39

40 MOTION: Selectman Dudman moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, nominating Public  
41 Works Director Tony Smith to the MRC Board of Directors, as presented. Motion approved 5-0.  
42

43 *F. Inquiry from Southwest Harbor regarding Overnight Dispatching*

44 Chief Willis noted that Southwest Harbor Police Chief Alan Brown was in attendance.  
45

46 The initial inquiry regarding this issue came this past summer. At that time Southwest Harbor  
47 was having trouble staffing their dispatch shifts. Staffing throughout all Police Departments is  
48 becoming an issue. Chief Willis asked whether the Town wanted to consider working with the

1 Town of Southwest Harbor, and what that would entail. Chief Willis noted that the City of  
2 Ellsworth was having the same issue and currently contract with Hancock County for overnight  
3 dispatching services. Ellsworth is paying \$31,000 a year for the service.

4  
5 A large amount of work would be involved for such a partnership to occur. Chief Willis was  
6 looking for direction. Selectman Dudman noted this was a question the Board would normally  
7 refer to Chief Willis for direction.

8  
9 Chief Willis felt there was merit in having the conversation, however his plate was full. Dispatch  
10 consolidation has been an ongoing question through the work Chief Willis has done for both  
11 Mount Desert and Bar Harbor. What consolidation has occurred has been limited to Bar Harbor  
12 and Mount Desert. The next logical step would be to consolidate dispatch sites, however both  
13 Bar Harbor and Mount Desert prefer to keep their dispatch offices. Southwest Harbor probably  
14 prefers to keep their dispatch office as well. It's unclear how long separate offices can be  
15 sustained. Short-term help could of course be offered, but more structure is required if the  
16 Town wants to pursue creating a more permanent system. Phone system work and radio  
17 system work would be required. Budgeting will have to be planned for.

18  
19 Chairman Macauley felt there already was momentum in the direction of consolidation. It  
20 would make sense to review and evaluate the situation and put together a collective plan for  
21 consolidated dispatch.

22  
23 Selectman Littlefield noted it sounded like overnight dispatch was the immediate concern for  
24 Southwest Harbor.

25  
26 Chief Brown noted the Southwest Harbor Select Board has discussed potential consolidation  
27 with the Southwest Harbor Town Manager and himself. Chief Brown felt that if dispatch was  
28 going to consolidate it made sense that Mount Desert Island was self-sustaining. The Town of  
29 Mount Desert Police Department is a logical partner for Southwest Harbor. Mount Desert is  
30 slightly larger a department than Southwest Harbor and receives slightly more calls per year  
31 than Southwest Harbor, but otherwise the two departments are similar. Chief Brown estimated  
32 that Southwest Harbor receives 130 overnight calls per year. It would make sense to start with  
33 overnight dispatch.

34  
35 Overnight is the more difficult shift to fill.

36  
37 Chief Willis noted that Bar Harbor recently had an overnight dispatcher resign. The overnight  
38 shifts are entry-level shifts. The newest Bar Harbor dispatcher is driving in from Brooklin.

39  
40 Chief Willis agreed with Chief Brown that long term, Dispatch for MDI towns should remain on  
41 Mount Desert Island, and there was probably a way to work together with other towns. The  
42 smaller an agency is, the more difficult it is when there's a gap in staffing. A benefit of  
43 combining Mount Desert and Bar Harbor police forces has been the ability to create more  
44 attractive work schedules. Perhaps the same can be done with dispatchers.

45  
46 Selectman Mooers felt there were two issues at hand: Dispatch consolidation across Mount  
47 Desert Island, and Southwest Harbor's immediate need for assistance with overnight dispatch.  
48 Providing assistance could become a microcosm of what the big picture will look like. Chief

Willis estimated the cost of connecting with Southwest Harbor to be at \$50,000 to \$100,000. If the Town was entertaining the expense involved in assisting Southwest Harbor, then the bigger picture should be looked at now, rather than that cost becoming a temporary fix.

Chief Brown noted that at the moment, he is fully staffed. Having the conversation now is prudent for future planning.

The potential for rollover calls was discussed. Selectman Hart wondered if such a thing could be done as a quick fix when necessary with Southwest Harbor. Chief Willis noted implementing rollover calling is technologically complex. Too many rollovers could produce a system fail when dispatchers at remote locations use the same channel systems.

It was noted that Southwest Harbor also covers Tremont Fire, the Southwest Harbor volunteer Ambulance Service, and Southwest Harbor Fire and Police. There are numerous entities involved when discussing consolidation or just spot coverage with Southwest Harbor.

Chief Willis noted that if the systems expand further, another staffperson will be required, and hiring will have to be part of the plan.

Selectman Littlefield felt communication between other Boards and Councils needs to be the next step. Chief Willis noted that a further definition of dispatch consolidation needs to happen.

Chairman Macauley felt that in the short term helping Southwest Harbor should happen. Chief Willis thought handling Southwest Harbor's overnight calls could be accomplished with existing staff. The same records systems and phone companies are currently used by both towns. Chief Willis worried about administrative oversight. He would not have the availability to handle the additional calls and questions such changes would generate.

Public Works Director Smith wondered if there were consultants who could handle some of the change and growth. Chief Willis noted the State has pushed for statewide regional dispatch. He felt remaining on Mount Desert Island was the best option.

Selectman Dudman would like to see information on a long-term plan describing what an island-wide dispatch would look like, including cost and personnel. The Board needs an idea of what is needed.

There is an Elected Officials meeting on October 17. It was agreed this was a good topic for discussion at that meeting.

#### *G. Update on Shared Chief of Police Goals*

Chief Willis referred to his memo. He felt he'd accomplished the goals requested by the Town. To combine things further will take political will.

Selectman Hart complimented Chief Willis on what he's accomplished thus far.

## **XI. Other Business**

### *A. Such other business as may be legally conducted*

There was no other business.

**XII. Treasurer's Warrants**

**A. Approve & Sign Treasurer's Warrant AP2021 in the amount of \$6,398,661.83**

MOTION: Selectman Littlefield moved, with Selectman Hart seconding, Approval and Signature of Treasurer's Warrant AP2021 in the amount of \$6,398,661.83, as presented. Motion approved 5-0.

**B. Approve Signed Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP2018, AP2019, AP2020, PR 2006, PR2007 in the amounts of \$2,072.00, \$3,900.31, and \$3,931.50, \$114,855.03, and \$108,171.78 respectively**

MOTION: Selectman Dudman moved, with Selectman Hart seconding, approval of signed Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP2018, AP2019, AP2020, PR 2006, PR2007 in the amounts of \$2,072.00, \$3,900.31, and \$3,931.50, \$114,855.03, and \$108,171.78 respectively, as presented. Motion approved 4-0-1 (Littlefield in Abstention).

**C. Acknowledge Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrants 04 and 07 in the amounts of \$341,707.79 and \$165,241.31, respectively**

MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, acknowledgement of Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrant 04 in the amount of \$341,707.79, as presented. Motion approved 5-0.

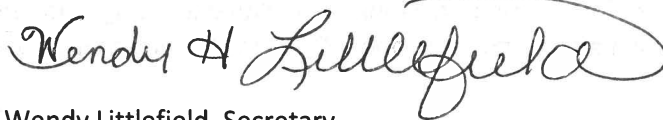
MOTION: Selectman Dudman moved, with Selectman Hart seconding, acknowledgement of Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrant 07 in the amount of \$165,241.31, as presented. Motion approved 5-0.

**XIII. Adjournment**

MOTION: Selectman Dudman moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, adjournment. Motion approved 5-0.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Wendy Littlefield, Secretary