

**Town of Mount Desert  
SelectBoard Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Room, Town Hall  
6:30 PM, January 6, 2020**

Board Members present: Chair John Macauley, Martha Dudman, Matt Hart, Wendy Littlefield.

Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Town Clerk Claire Woolfolk, Police Chief Jim Willis, Fire Chief Mike Bender were present.

Members of the Public were also in attendance.

**I. Call to order at 6:30 p.m.**

Chair Macauley called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**II. Minutes**

**A. Approval of minutes from December 16, 2019 meeting**

MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, approval of December 16, 2019 Minutes as presented. Motion approved 4-0.

**III. Appointments/Recognitions/Resignations**

**A. Appointment of Megan M. Lunt as a Part-Time Accounting/CEO Assistant at \$22.75/hour effective January 7, 2020**

Town Manager Durlin Lunt noted Ms. Lunt was not a close relation.

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, appointment of Megan M. Lunt as Part-Time Accounting/CEO Assistant at \$22.75/hour, as presented. Motion approved 4-0.

**B. Appointment of Craig M. Roebuck to the Warrant Committee**

MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, appointment of Craig M. Roebuck to the Warrant Committee as presented. Motion approved 4-0.

**C. Appointment of Tate Bushell to the Warrant Committee**

MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, appointment of Tate Bushell to the Warrant Committee as presented. Motion approved 4-0.

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

**A. Hancock County Commissioners Meeting Minutes from December 5, 2019**

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion approved 4-0.

**V. SelectBoard Reports**

There were no SelectBoard reports.

1     **VI. Unfinished Business**

- 2     A. *Discussion of a resolution to support the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for*  
3       *Packaging law as endorsed by legislature in 2019 to Support Municipal Recycling Programs*  
4       *(LD 1431)*

5       Mr. Hart thought the final wording was due December 16, 2019. He was unable to find the  
6       wording on the Maine GRB website. Chair Macauley reported that the website asserts  
7       legislation would be forthcoming by mid-December.

8  
9       Ms. Dudman wondered if that meant the wording would not change substantially.  
10      Sustainability Committee Member Phil Lichtenstein thought the National Resources Council  
11      was doing the work and will be creating the bill. Plans for implementation still need to be  
12      worked out. Mr. Lichtenstein did not believe there was work required by the Municipalities  
13      at this time. Mr. Hart stated he would feel more comfortable knowing how it would be  
14      implemented before formally supporting the bill.

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16      MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, to support the Extended  
17      Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by legislature in 2019 to  
18      Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431), as presented.

19  
20      Motion was not voted on.

21  
22      Chair Macauley agreed that it's something the Board would support. But it is concerning  
23      that there is no text to go with the bill. The Board is being asked to support something that  
24      does not yet exist. Perhaps the issue should be tabled.

25  
26      MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, to table the Item until more  
27      information is available. Motion approved 4-0.

28  
29     **VII. New Business**

- 30     A. *Gulf of Maine Research Institute presentation*

31       Gary Friedmann, Board Member of A Climate to Thrive, reported on the Gulf of Maine  
32       Research Institute project.

33  
34       The project will cost the Town nothing. The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) and the  
35       Sewell Company approached *A Climate to Thrive* proposing a partnership to assist towns in  
36       dealing with mitigation of the effects of sea level rise in coastal communities due to climate  
37       change. GMRI has worked on this in communities in southern Maine and some educational  
38       outreach has been done in the high schools. This is a way to bring the latest in geographic  
39       information systems technology to Mount Desert Island. The Sewell Company will provide  
40       to the Town their GIS data, and they can produce maps showing various models of sea level  
41       rise, potential coast erosion, and storm-event impact on roads and other infrastructure. The  
42       intent is to stage some public outreach and education events, and to create potential  
43       mitigation plans.

44  
45       Mr. Friedmann stated that in meeting with the Island's Town Managers, all Town Managers  
46       were willing to sign a letter of commitment, subject to approval of their respective boards.  
47       A grant for the project is currently under consideration. If approved, the work will begin in  
48       August. The Grant would cover any necessary reimbursement of Town employee hours due

1 to meeting participation or data review and presentation. Each Town would have up to  
2 \$5000.00 to pay for the meetings. The goal is for Towns to have a better idea of the  
3 processes that will have to be undertaken to mitigate sea level rise.

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5 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, approval of the proposal, as  
6 presented. Motion approved 4-0.

7  
8 Mr. Friedmann felt that each Town would choose which personnel would be involved in the  
9 project. He has requested a copy of the grant and will share it once he receives it.

- 10  
11 B. *Request Authorization for release and expenditure of \$13,940.00 from Historic Preservation*  
12 *Reserve Account #1220220-57800 which has a balance of \$15,000.00 for the Preservation*  
13 *and Digitalization of Town Records from 1897-1916, and Vital Records including marriages*  
14 *from 1975-1994, and deaths from 1963-1987*

15  
16 Chair Macauley noted an inaccuracy in the Agenda Item. The word "Reserve" should not  
17 describe the account. It is a Budgetary Account.

18  
19 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, authorization for release and  
20 expenditure of \$13,940.00 from Historic Preservation Account #1220220-57800 which has a  
21 balance of \$15,000.00 for the Preservation and Digitalization of Town Records from 1897-  
22 1916, and Vital Records including marriages from 1975-1994, and deaths from 1963-1987,  
23 as presented and amended. Motion approved 4-0.

- 24  
25 C. *Review of FY 2021 Budgets: Public Safety*

26 The board first reviewed the Police Department Budget.

27  
28 Police Chief Jim Willis noted the budget was relatively unchanged, with the exception of  
29 salary increases previously approved. A new cruiser is planned for purchase. The line item  
30 has increased because the cost of a cruiser has increased.

31  
32 Chief Willis noted there was a change on the way mutual aid billing is done. It will not affect  
33 the budget bottom line. It will, in effect, pre-pay the mutual aid rather than wait for an  
34 invoice. The specifics of how it will operate is being worked out now. A new budget line  
35 item will have to be created.

36  
37 Ms. Littlefield asked how benefits between the towns work. Chief Willis stated it was a goal  
38 to equalize the benefits between the towns. One possibility is to have all police officers  
39 work for one town and invoice the other town the cost of benefits.

40  
41 The Fire Department Budget was reviewed.

42  
43 Fire Chief Bender noted there was a requested increase of \$50,000 in the Vehicle Repair line  
44 item. Chief Bender hopes to refurbish the 2009 ladder truck. The purchase price of the  
45 ladder truck was \$750,000.00 in 2009. Chief Bender expects that price to have risen to over  
46 a million since then. Chief Bender hopes the refurbishment will give the Town 20 - 25 years  
47 of life out of the truck. The truck has been owned by the Town for 11 years.

48

1 Currently there is not a CIP Account for a replacement ladder truck. Chief Bender estimated  
2 the cost to save for a new one would be \$25,000 - \$30,000 per year. Ms. Dudman felt  
3 setting money aside for the eventual purchase would be wise, rather than wait to see  
4 whether an island-wide fire department collaboration would affect the future need. Various  
5 options of how to buy a ladder truck in the future were discussed.  
6

7 Ms. Dudman asked about the line item for the firefighter on call. Chief Bender noted the  
8 increase is due to a request to raise on-call pay 2%. If volunteer firefighters cover for paid  
9 firefighters who are out, they also get paid the same rate. Chief Bender hopes to raise the  
10 rate for volunteer firefighters to a more equal level with full-time firefighters. Chief Bender  
11 hopes to find firefighters willing to be on call from 5PM to 5AM. This would be charged at a  
12 flat rate, unless they are called out, in which case they would be paid for the call. This has  
13 been a span of time traditionally hard to find firefighters for. Chief Bender hoped that the  
14 increases will result in more shifts covered.  
15

16 Chief Bender pointed out the overtime line item. Town Manager Lunt believed it to be  
17 included in the budget, but the line item itself was inadvertently deleted. The amount is  
18 \$652,831.00. This figure is lower than last year.  
19

20 Chief Bender pointed out an increase in Building Repair Maintenance. The increase will  
21 cover a building's paint job.  
22

23 It was noted Holiday Pay is up for Public Safety Communications. This increase is due to an  
24 increase in wages.  
25

26 **VIII. Other Business**

27 *A. Such other business as may be legally conducted*  
28 There was no other business.  
29

30 **IX. Treasurer's Warrants**

31 *A. Approve & Sign Treasurer's Warrant AP2039 in the amount of \$1,209,223.52*

32 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Hart seconding approval and signature of  
33 Treasurer's Warrant AP2039 in the amount of \$1,209,223.52, as presented. Motion  
34 approved 4-0.  
35

36 *B. Approve Signed Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP2037, AP2038, and*  
37 *PR2014 in the amounts of \$3,631.10, \$3,278.40, and \$107,179.71, respectively*

38 MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, approval of signed Treasurer's  
39 Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP2037, AP2038, and PR2014 in the amounts of  
40 \$3,631.10, \$3,278.40, and \$107,179.71, respectively, as presented. Motion approved 3-0-1  
41 (Littlefield in Abstention).  
42

43 *C. Acknowledge Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrants 13 and 14 in the amounts of*  
44 *\$162,320.55 and \$69,120.29, respectively*

45 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, acknowledgement of  
46 Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrants 13 and 14 in the amounts of \$162,320.55 and  
47 \$69,120.29, respectively, as presented. Motion approved 4-0.  
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**X. Adjournment**

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, adjournment. Motion approved 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wendy Littlefield". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Wendy Littlefield, Secretary

