

**Town of Mount Desert  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Room, Town Hall  
6:30 PM, December 3, 2018**

Present were Chairman John Macauley, Selectmen Rick Mooers, Matt Hart, Martha Dudman, and Wendy Littlefield.

Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Town Clerk Claire Woolfolk, Fire Chief Mike Bender, Treasurer Kathy Mahar, and Public Works Director Tony Smith were present.

Members of the public were also in attendance.

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

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

**II. 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. Department Reports: Highway, Wastewater, Public Works**

**B. MMA Workers' Compensation Value of Membership Report**

MOTION: Selectman Dudman moved, with Selectman Hart seconding, approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion approved 5-0.

**III. Selectmen's Reports**

Selectman Dudman shared a resident's concern regarding available overnight parking for those living in the downtown Northeast Harbor area. Overnight parking is already limited, and changes to the area that are intended to attract more downtown residents could exacerbate the problem.

**IV. Unfinished Business**

**A. Update on the Plastic Bag and Polystyrene Ordinances as presented by the Sustainability Committee**

Sustainability Committee member Gordon Beck reported that the committee has been canvassing Town businesses. He felt people were supportive overall. Many businesses are in the process of transitioning. Mr. Beck did not expect to see any significant changes to the draft ordinances. He hoped by the next Board of Selectmen's meeting a final draft of the ordinances would be ready for review.

Additionally, Mr. Beck reported that the Town of Bar Harbor will be taking up the issue this week, and the City of Ellsworth is working on a draft ordinance. It was noted that up to 18 towns in Maine are looking at such an ordinance.

Selectman Dudman inquired whether specifics such as weight are included in the ordinances. Mr. Beck noted that specifics such as weight were not included in the draft ordinances.

1        *B. Report from Chief Bender on the preparations for wildfire risk for the Town of Mount Desert*  
2        Fire Chief Bender reported on the preparations for wildfire risk for the Town of Mount Desert.  
3        He noted first that the consensus among local wildfire experts is that a fire such as the Fire of  
4        1947 is less likely to occur at this point in time. Firefighters are better trained, communication  
5        systems are better, and a mutual aid system is in place.

6  
7        Mount Desert worked with the Bar Harbor Fire Department to get a community wildfire  
8        protection plan done with the Maine Forest Service. The report is complete, and a public  
9        presentation of the findings is scheduled for the spring.

10  
11        Chief Bender noted there are steps homeowners can take to protect their property that have  
12        been effective.

13  
14        The Fire Department has done table-top fire simulations with the Maine Forest Service and  
15        other Town Fire Departments and other organizations. Chief Bender did caution that State and  
16        Federal Government entities can help fight a large fire, but it takes time for them to muster. For  
17        the first 24 hours of a large fire, Towns will be on their own.

18  
19        There is now a group of eight firefighters certified in wildland firefighting. Acadia National  
20        Park's firefighting crew is also a resource. Aerial support is also an available resource.

21  
22        The Town has taken advantage of grants over the years for firefighting equipment. The  
23        assessment conducted shows that Mount Desert has a good inventory of equipment. Hands-on  
24        drills with all departments, and other firefighting groups are done annually.

25  
26        Chief Bender acknowledged the Town will have its hands full if there is a sizable wildfire in the  
27        summer. All island Towns would fare similarly.

28  
29        Park land was not included in the report created by the Maine Forest Service. The Seal Harbor  
30        and Northeast Harbor areas and the Western part of the island are at higher risk. Evacuating  
31        the island will be difficult, with one road off the island, particularly in the summer. Various  
32        groups with boats have been contacted as potential evacuation vehicles.

33  
34        The stands of dead red pine were not deemed a threat to fire safety by Acadia National Park.  
35        Woods undergrowth has created ladder fuels that allow fires to climb into the tall trees and is  
36        deemed the highest threat.

37  
38        **V. New Business**

39        *A. Request approval and authorization for Public Works Director Tony Smith to execute an*  
40        *agreement of a structural evaluation of the Bait House by Hedefine Engineering at a cost of*  
41        *\$2,100.00 using funds from the Buildings & Grounds Reserve Account Number 4055200-*  
42        *24571 as outlined in the memo dated 11-29-18 to Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Jr.*

43        Public Works Director Tony Smith noted this need resulted from an MMA risk management  
44        assessment. Some problems were identified and taking no action could result in raising  
45        insurance rates. MMA is requesting a structural evaluation, which this request will fund. From  
46        this evaluation, a proposal can be created, and the work can be bid out. The resulting bid price  
47        will then be approved at Town Meeting.

48  
49        Director Smith noted the building in question is at the end of Dodge Point Road.

1 MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, amending the  
2 Agenda item so the Buildings and Grounds Reserve Account Number reads "4055200-24571".  
3 Motion approved 5-0.  
4

5 MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, approval and  
6 authorization for Public Works Director Tony Smith to execute an agreement of a structural  
7 evaluation of the Bait House by Hedefine Engineering at a cost of \$2,100.00 using funds from  
8 the Buildings & Grounds Reserve Account Number 4055200-24571 as outlined in the memo  
9 dated 11-29-18 to Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Jr. Motion approved 5-0.  
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11 **VI. Other Business**

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

13 There was no other business.  
14

15 **VII. Treasurer's Warrants**

16 *A. Approve & Sign Treasurer's Warrant AP1933 and AP1931 in the amounts of \$141,014.52 and*  
17 *\$(490.11), respectively*

18 MOTION: Selectman Hart moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, Approval and Signature  
19 or Treasurer's Warrant AP1933 and AP1931 in the amounts of \$141,014.52 and \$(490.11),  
20 respectively, as presented. Motion approved 5-0.  
21

22 *B. Approve Signed Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP1930, AP1932, and*  
23 *PR1911 in the amounts of \$1,132.75, \$3,865.36, and \$103,098.44 , respectively*

24 MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Hart seconding, Approval of Signed  
25 Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP1930, and AP1932 in the amounts of  
26 \$1,132.75, and \$3,865.36, respectively, as presented. Motion approved 4-0-1 (Littlefield in  
27 Abstention).  
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29 MOTION: Selectman Dudman moved, with Selectman Hart seconding, Approval of Signed  
30 Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants PR1911 in the amounts of \$103,098.44, as  
31 presented. Motion approved 4-0-1 (Littlefield in Abstention).  
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33 *C. Acknowledge Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrants 11 in the amount of*  
34 *\$184,337.73*

35 MOTION: Selectman Littlefield moved, with Selectman Hart seconding, acknowledgement of  
36 Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrants 11 in the amount of \$184,337.73, as presented.  
37 Motion approved 4-0-1 (Macauley in Abstention)  
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39 **VIII. Adjournment**

40 MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Dudman seconding, adjournment. Motion  
41 approved 5-0.  
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43 The meeting was adjourned at 6:59pm.  
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Respectfully Submitted,

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48 Wendy Littlefield, Secretary

