

League of Towns

A Collaborative Unit of Government Serving
Bar Harbor, Cranberry Isles, Ellsworth, Lamoine, Mount Desert,
Southwest Harbor, Swans Island, Tremont, Trenton, and
Acadia National Park
P.O. Box 248 Northeast Harbor, Maine 04662

Monthly Meeting Minutes February 26, 2019 Trenton Town Office 10:00 a.m.

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:03am, Present: Durlin Lunt, Christopher Saunders, Cornell Knight, Fred Ehrlenbach, Mike Madell, Stu Marckoon, Carol Walsh, David Cole, Justin vanDongen, Scott Adkins, Dick Broom.
- II. **Adoption of Agenda.** Moved and seconded to adopt as presented. Vote: unanimous.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
January 22, 2019: Moved Ehrlenbach, seconded Knight. Vote: unanimous.

Regular Meeting

- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** Review of the financial statements and possible adoption of a Motion "to accept the financial statements as sent". Moved Knight, seconded Ehrlenbach, vote: unanimous.
- V. **Old Business:**
- VI. **Regular Business:-**
 - a. **County Government (Charter)** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018).

Lunt reported that County meetings have moved to two all-day sessions per month. Ehrlenbach attended public hearing on proposal for unorganized territories to ban East-West corridor. General sentiment was against corridor. Proposal would have encompassed water quality issues as well as the East-West highway. Current East-West Highway proposal is to use Stud Mill Road. However, consensus is that it doesn't appear like this issue is going anywhere at the moment.

Conversation moved to charter. Ehrenbach described two possible routes to this. First is the Commissioners establishing a Charter Commission. Second way is via a citizen petition. Adkins is willing to bring it up for a conversation. Lunt points out that League of Towns has a mandate from elected officials to advocate for a charter, so LOT can be a partner. Lunt suggests having LOT representative appear before Commissioners. Walsh suggests having a letter signed by LOT members to go to Commissioners. In the mean-

time, Adkins will test the waters with this topic. Adkins suggests before writing a letter, it might be better to test the waters to see the reaction. If there's a positive response, then LOT will write a letter. LOT will wait to hear back from Adkins.

- b. **Affordable Housing.** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018). Knight reports that Bar Harbor is having a Planning Board workshop regarding changing densities, dormitories, vacation rentals. Lunt reports that in Mount Desert, least dense areas don't want to become more dense. VanDongen reports that efforts to grow population need to be balanced with retiree population growth. Increasing the population of school-age children increases the mill rate due to rising education costs.
- c. **Municipal Collaboration** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018). Lunt reports that due to breakdown in growing police collaboration arrangement between Bar Harbor and Mount Desert, there needs to be more community outreach and research. Get a better sense of what the community as a whole feels. Unclear whether it's just certain pockets of dissent or whether this is a broader sentiment. Knight reports that the proposal was to create an Interlocal Agreement under which new aspects of the collaboration could be included, with the approval of Council/BOS. However, that agreement will not be on the 2019 Warrant in Mount Desert due to expressed public opposition. Lunt reports that expressed opposition was to a perceived loss of identity and local control. There was worry that some of the Mount Desert department would become a subsidiary of Bar Harbor. Lunt further reports that the value of such an agreement is to augment the labor pool in the event that staff needs support. VanDongen reports that he has a directive from his BOS to look for new dispatch. He has reached out to Mount Desert and Bar Harbor to explore shared services. He would like to explore a shared dispatch center for the island. He discussed the potential opposition and suggests that the argument in favor of shared dispatch is by championing the unified identity of MDI. Knight agrees that dispatch makes sense as a first step toward collaboration, but with things as they are in Mount Desert, it probably isn't advisable to pursue it there right now. Adkins also points out that RCC is an option. Currently, 30+ towns in Hancock County are using RCC. Saunders reports that any towns interested in having a textile bin should contact Apparel Impact.
- d. **Opiates and other addictive substances** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018) No reports.
- e. **Solarization** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018). Tremont had their ribbon-cutting on February 23.

Members Reports – (Other topics of interest and importance to League members)

a. **League Budget 2019**

Marckoon reports that last year's budget was \$4000, we spent ~\$3500. HHW was \$2600, elected official was \$900, transportation was \$200, and no miscellaneous expenses. Dues adjustments are dependent on state valuation. Knight moved to adopt same budget as last year, Walsh seconded. Vote: unanimous.

f. **Future Meetings**

March 26, 2019 ANP Headquarters

April 23, 2019 Tremont town Office

VII. **Next Agenda:** Suggested discussion items for the next Agenda

VIII. **Adjournment.** Walsh seconded, Ehrlenbach seconded. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 11:26am.