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**Town of Mount Desert
Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Monday, February 14, 2022**

Board Members Present: Chair John Macauley, Geoff Wood, Wendy Littlefield, Martha Dudman, Matt Hart

Town Officials Present: Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Public Works Director Tony Smith, Fire Chief Mike Bender, Finance Director Jake Wright, Tax Assessor Kyle Avila, Town Clerk Claire Woolfolk

Members of the Public were also in attendance.

I. Call to order at 4:00 p.m.

Chair Macauley called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

II. Selectmen's Reports

None Presented.

III. Old Business

A. Consideration of Municipal Review Committee special meeting to discuss present status of Coastal Resources of Maine located in Hampden Maine

Public Works Director Smith reported members are invited to a special "State of the Union" meeting conducted primarily in Executive Session. Director Smith will be attending as a Board Member; this leaves an invitation available if a Selectboard member were interested in attending via Zoom.

Chair Macauley agreed to attend the meeting.

Discussion of the meeting can occur with other Selectboard members in Executive Session. An appropriate time to do so was considered.

B. Consideration of Public Works Director Tony Smith's request for additional funding in the amount of \$125,000 for Construction Contract Administration and Inspection services being provided by our project engineer Haley Ward for the Main Street improvements project as described in his February 10, 2022 memo to Town Manager Durlin Lunt with said funds being taken from the savings in costs between the original design approved at the May 2018 town meeting and the one presently under construction resulting from the September 2018 special town meeting with a current balance of \$665,189 which, if authorized, will leave a remaining balance of \$540,189 in the savings

1 Director Smith reported that weather, easement issues, Versant's scheduling, and
2 coordinating the work with the availability of an inspector for the work impacted the
3 timing of the project.
4

5 Mr. Hart asked when old poles would be removed and how? Director Smith did not have
6 a date for removal; he hoped before Memorial Day. Poles are removed by lifting them
7 out of the ground. Mr. Hart believed pole removal would help improve the look of the
8 project. Director Smith agreed. The project included a sizable amount of work in a very
9 concentrated area. When landscaping and final cleanup begins, Director Smith was
10 confident the look would improve greatly.
11

12 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, approval of Public
13 Works Director Tony Smith's request for additional funding in the amount of \$125,000
14 for Construction Contract Administration and Inspection services being provided by
15 project engineer Haley Ward for the Main Street improvements project as described in
16 his February 10, 2022 memo to Town Manager Durlin Lunt with said funds being taken
17 from the savings in costs between the original design approved at the May 2018 Town
18 Meeting and the one presently under construction resulting from the September 2018
19 Special Town Meeting with a current balance of \$665,189 which, if authorized, will leave
20 a remaining balance of \$540,189 in the savings, as presented.
21 Motion approved 5-0.
22

23 *C. Update on Boston Cane*

24 Town Clerk Woolfolk reported the cane presented at the last meeting can be engraved.
25 The company engraving the cane have estimated the cost to be \$50.00. The cane will be
26 ready in time for the March Special Town Meeting. Clerk Woolfolk has been in touch
27 with nominee Mrs. Nolf who is arranging for transportation to the meeting. Weather
28 permitting, she should be in attendance. Mount Desert Elementary School Principal
29 Gloria Delsandro granted permission to allow them parking in the School Bus pull-in
30 area for close access to the meeting place.
31

32 Clerk Woolfolk shared the certificate to be presented.
33

34 It was agreed to purchase six additional canes for future awards.
35

36 **IV. New Business**

37 *A. MDES Budget Review*

38 Principal Gloria Delsandro reported on the Budget. Covid vaccination numbers among
39 students and staff are high, as is pool testing.
40

41 A number of statistics were presented to the Board.

- 42 - 148 students in school.
- 43 - 18% of the student population is identified as special education students.
- 44 - 9% of students have 504 plans.
- 45 - 4% of the student population is identified as gifted and talented.

- 1 - The school has a Response and Intervention Team, consisting of the literacy and math
- 2 specialists on staff, RTI coordinator, counselor, tech integrator, and behavior
- 3 coordinator. The group meets bi-weekly to work with students and teachers to
- 4 provide support as necessary.
- 5 - Free breakfast and lunch program continues.
- 6 - There are two open ed tech positions, and one open ASL educational interpreter
- 7 position.
- 8 - Two one-year teaching positions currently in the budget have been extended to next
- 9 year.
- 10 - Students in this past year scored over 50% in literacy and over 65% in math, with
- 11 regard to reaching their target goals.

12 Items requested in the budget include:

- 13 - An early childhood learning center. The school is trying to move forward with a pre-
- 14 K program at the school. Due to covid restrictions, the program will be occurring at
- 15 the school.
- 16 - The addition of universal design classroom setups for Kindergarten and Pre-K. The
- 17 second grade is currently using the design.
- 18 - Fencing on the Gilpatrick Road side of the school for additional safety for the Pre-K
- 19 students using that entrance.
- 20 - An additional \$20,000.00 in the Special Education reserve account, bringing the total
- 21 to \$80,000.00. The goal is to reach a reserve level of \$100,000.00.
- 22 - Painting the gym.
- 23 - Creating a web-based clock system to keep time uniform across all classrooms.
- 24 - Two water bottle filling stations.
- 25 - Ventilation system enhancement. What's being proposed is sanitizing the air,
- 26 involving a UV system that will prevent pathogens from entering the school via the air
- 27 system.
- 28 - A garage and storage plan has been removed from the budget. The school hoped to
- 29 build a new garage, as well as outdoor bathrooms and a water bottle filling station.
- 30 The garage would allow for sheds on the grounds to be removed. Currently the school
- 31 vans are stored at the Town Garage due to snow removal needs. Equipment and gear
- 32 could be stored in the garage as well. It was decided to delay the project for a short
- 33 time to better focus on appropriate planning.
- 34

35 Other big projects on the horizon include:

- 36 - Insulation and window replacement.
- 37 - Debt service is retired next year.
- 38 - Maintenance projects have been delayed due to the pandemic.
- 39

40 It was confirmed the children's librarian in the budget is for the Northeast Harbor Library.

41 Funding is for that position.

42

43 Mr. Wood asked about the open ed tech positions. It was confirmed one was for the pre-

44 K classroom. Ms. Delsandro confirmed needs change year to year. Additionally, the

45

1 current kindergarten teacher will be retiring after this year. There is a one-year position in
2 Grade 2 and a one-year position in grades 5 and 6.

3
4 Ms. Littlefield inquired about Kindergarten and pre-K signup. Ms. Delsandro noted
5 signup usually occurs in April. It would be a full-day Pre-K. Ms. Delsandro noted this
6 would impact bussing as well. There is an available classroom for Pre-K, and there is
7 currently classroom space in the cafeteria. The budgeted amount for Pre-K includes
8 equipment and seating.

9
10 *B. Authorize the sale of the surplus equipment on behalf of the Fire Department by the*
11 *competitive bid process*

12 Manager Lunt had a list the surplus equipment to be sold. Funds raised will go into the
13 Fire Department.

14
15 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, authorizing the sale of the
16 surplus equipment on behalf of the Fire Department by the competitive bid process as
17 presented.

18 Motion approved 5-0.

19
20 *C. Authorize the Fire Chief to determine the acceptance or rejection of bids and disposal*
21 *of items that do not sell on behalf of the Town*

22 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, authorizing the Fire Chief to
23 determine the acceptance or rejection of bids and disposal of items that do not sell on
24 behalf of the Town as presented.

25 Motion approved 5-0.

26
27 **V. Other Business**

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

29 There was no Other Business.

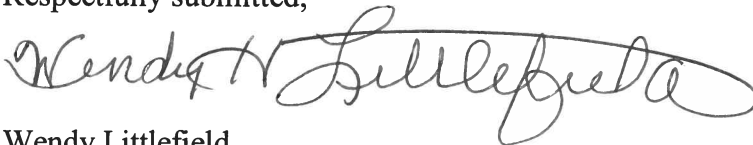
30
31 **VI. Adjournment**

32 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Hart seconding to adjourn.

33 Motion approved 5-0.

34
35 The Meeting adjourned at 4:36PM.

36
37 Respectfully submitted,

38 
39
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41

Wendy Littlefield