

**Town of Mount Desert
Selectboard Minutes
December 4, 2023**

Selectboard Members Present: Martha Dudman, Wendy Littlefield, Rick Mooers, Chair John Macauley, Geoffrey Wood

Town Officials Present: Tax Assessor Kyle Avila, Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Public Works Director Brian Henkel, Fire Chief Mike Bender, Police Chief Dave Kerns

Members of the Public were also present.

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

Chair John Macauley called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes from November 20, 2023 meeting

MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, approval of Minutes of November 20, 2023 as presented.

Mr. Mooers clarified that Item VII.B of the November 20, 2023 Minutes should state that a new position is not being created. The position is being created internally, and there will not be a public search.

MOTION: Mr. Mooers moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, approval of the November 20, 2023 Minutes as amended.

Motion approved 4-0-1 (Littlefield abstention)

III. Appointments/Recognitions/Resignations

A. Consider appointment of David Kerns as Chief of Police

MOTION: Mr. Mooers moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, appointment of David Kerns as Chief of Police, with enthusiasm.

Motion approved 5-0.

B. Consider appointment of Katrina Carter to the Comprehensive Planning Committee

MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, appointment of Katrina Carter to the Comprehensive Planning Committee as presented.

Motion approved 5-0.

C. Appointment of selectboard liaison to the Comprehensive Planning Committee

Ms. Littlefield stated she was willing to serve as the Selectboard Liaison to the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Mooers moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, appointment of Wendy Littlefield as the Selectboard liaison to the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

Motion approved 5-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Memorandum from Public Works Director, Brian Henkel, regarding the Mount Desert Island High School wastewater disposal system upgrades

1 *B. Hancock County Commissioners Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2023*

2 MOTION: Mr. Mooers moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, acceptance of the Consent Agenda as
3 presented.

4
5 Public Works Director Henkel reported he's consulted with Wastewater Superintendent Ed Montague and
6 Engineer Bill Olver regarding the Mount Desert Island High School wastewater disposal system
7 upgrades. There are three alternatives to consider. The current system can be rehabilitated.
8 Rehabilitation was estimated at \$250,000.00. A second, more expensive option is to convert to an
9 underground septic system. The tanks currently there can continue to be used, but a below-ground system
10 would have to be built. A third option is installing a forcemain to direct the flows from the highschool to
11 the Somesville treatment plant.

12
13 The forcemain is the option the high school is currently looking at. The line would connect to a gravity
14 sewer line near Babson Creek. There's a pump station at Babson Creek that pumps to the pump station at
15 the Somesville Library which pumps to a third pump station before reaching the Somesville plant. The
16 high school would require their own pump station. They've inquired whether the system could handle the
17 flow. There is adequate capacity. Additionally, wastewater flows from the high school and flows from
18 the residents in the area do not occur at the same time. The current peak flow times would not be
19 impacted by adding the highschool's wastewater flow.

20
21 The flow could be directed to the Town system either by using the settling tanks on site and decanting just
22 the top. This would mean the school would be required to pump the tanks and empty them on a regular
23 basis. Or they could pump the entirety of the effluent at a higher flow rate. Doing so, impact to the pump
24 stations would have to be considered, but with careful timing it could be accommodated. More
25 information is needed.

26
27 The high school has relatively high PFAS levels. The high school is trying to determine where the PFAS
28 is originating from. Once that's determined, they can then try to bring their levels down to the baseline
29 numbers.

30
31 The high school will need to consider issues like ownership and operation, and they'll need to reach out to
32 the DOT, and consider funding. The issue is still in the early stages but Director Henkel wanted to
33 apprise the Board of the issue.

34
35 Ms. Dudman noted Somesville is experiencing the most residential growth. She hoped that would be
36 taken into consideration. Director Henkel agreed, residential growth will be considered. The fact that
37 residential flows occur at a different time than the high school flows is fortunate.

38
39 Mr. Wood inquired about the high school's timing. Director Henkel reported they have a permitted
40 operational system in place for the next two years. He was unaware of their timing. They still need to
41 figure out the funding for this work. He did not believe it would move quickly.

42
43 Chair Macauley suggested timing to coincide with the bridge work proposed. Director Henkel reported
44 the flow would reach the gravity system to the east of the bridge and flow via gravity under the bridge to
45 the pump station. Bill Olver is involved in the bridge work to be done and would be knowledgeable of
46 the issue and able to take into consideration issues such as line sizing. Director Henkel believed the
47 sizing of the line was adequate.

48
49 Motion approved 5-0.

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51 **V. Selectboard's Reports**

1 Mr. Mooers reported hearing from the Somesville Village Improvement Society. There are times when
2 the flag at the corner of Route 102 and Route 198 must be lowered to half-mast. During the winter they
3 have a difficult time getting to it because of the snowbanks. Could the sidewalk plow make an inroad to
4 manage the flagpole? Director Henkel agreed to do so.

5
6 Ms. Littlefield inquired about the lighting at the Town Offices parking area. Director Henkel reported on
7 an upcoming project to rehabilitate the parking lots. The work will incorporate lighting improvements.
8 Ms. Littlefield hoped a temporary solution could be found in the meantime, particularly during the winter
9 months.

10
11 Chair Macauley congratulated Fire Chief Bender on the new station and the good job done on the new
12 facility. The Fire Station Open House was a wonderful event.

13
14 **VI. Unfinished Business**

15 No Unfinished Business was presented.

16
17 **VII. New Business**

18 *A. Request authorization Town Manager to sign the updated police sharing agreement*

19 MOTION: Mr. Mooers moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, authorizing the Town Manager to sign the
20 updated police sharing agreement as presented.

21 Motion approved 5-0.

22
23 *B. Request authorization to pay for the replacement of Northeast Harbor Mooring Floats top and
24 bottom chains and mooring staple by Alvah B. Barge Service Inc. for \$7,988.00. The Northeast
25 Harbor Mooring/Floats CIP 6410100-24681 has a balance of \$368,742.79*

26 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Mooers seconding, authorization to pay for the replacement of
27 Northeast Harbor Mooring Floats top and bottom chains and mooring staple by Alvah B. Barge Service
28 Inc. for \$7,988.00. The Northeast Harbor Mooring/Floats CIP 6410100-24681 has a balance of
29 \$368,742.79 as presented.

30 Motion approved 5-0.

31
32 *C. Review and approve the acceptance of Patterson Hill Way as a public road in the Town of Mount
33 Desert as approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting and in accordance with the
34 Public Road Acceptance Ordinance*

35 MOTION: Mr. Mooers moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, approval of the acceptance of Patterson
36 Hill Way as a public road in the Town of Mount Desert as approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual
37 Town Meeting and in accordance with the Public Road Acceptance Ordinance as presented.

38 Motion approved 5-0.

39
40 *D. Consideration of accepting an unconditional gift in the form of an anonymous donation to the Mount
41 Desert Fire Department in honor of Steve Montminy, in the amount of \$1,000.00. Said donation will
42 be placed in account #4040300-24470, Fire Equipment/Engine Reserve Fund*

43 MOTION: Mr. Mooers moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, accepting an unconditional gift in the
44 form of an anonymous donation to the Mount Desert Fire Department in honor of Steve Montminy, in the
45 amount of \$1,000.00. Said donation will be placed in account #4040300-24470, Fire Equipment/Engine
46 Reserve Fund as presented.

47 Motion approved 5-0.

48
49 *E. Consideration of waiving the rental fee for use of the Seal Harbor fire station community room by the
50 Hancock County District of American Legion Posts on the date of December 12, 2023*

1 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, waiving the rental fee for use of the Seal
 2 Harbor fire station community room by the Hancock County District of American Legion Posts on the
 3 date of December 12, 2023 as presented.
 4 Motion approved 5-0.

5
 6 *F. Consideration of approving the revised agreement with Hedefine Engineering & Design, Inc. for
 7 Construction Administration services on the Northeast Harbor fire station project and, if approved,
 8 authorizing the Fire Chief to sign and execute said agreement*

9 MOTION: Mr. Mooers moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, approval of the revised agreement with
 10 Hedefine Engineering & Design, Inc. for Construction Administration services on the Northeast Harbor
 11 fire station project and authorizing the Fire Chief to sign and execute said agreement as presented.
 12 Motion approved 5-0.

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 14 **VIII. Other Business**

15 *A. Such other business as may be legally conducted*
 16 No Other Business was presented.

17
 18 **IX. Treasurer's Warrants**

19 *A. Approve & Sign Treasurer's Warrant as shown below:*

Town Invoices	AP#2435	12/05/2023	\$1,051,669.02
Total			\$1,051,669.02

20 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Mooers seconding, approval and signature of Treasurer's
 21 Warrant as shown above.
 22 Motion approved 5-0.

23
 24 *B. Approve Signed Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants as shown below:*

State Fees & PR Benefits	AP#2433	11/22/2023	\$3,560.00
	AP#2434	11/29/2023	\$93,325.06
Town Payroll	PR#2413	11/22/2023	\$163,376.23
Total			\$260,261.29

25 MOTION: Mr. Mooers moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, approval of Signed Treasurer's Payroll,
 26 State Fees, and PR Benefit Warrants as shown above.
 27 Motion approved 4-0-1 (Littlefield in Abstention).

28
 29 *C. Acknowledge Treasurer's Town Voided Disbursements & School Board AP/Payroll Warrants as
 30 shown below:*

School Invoices			
School Payroll	PR#11	11/24/2023	\$189,490.83
Voided Disbursements			
Total			\$189,490.83

31 MOTION: Mr. Mooers moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, acknowledgement of Treasurer's Town
 32 voided Disbursements and School Board AP/Payroll Warrants as shown above.
 33 Motion approved 5-0.

Grand Total			\$1,501,421.14
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 36 **X. Adjournment**

1 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, to adjourn the meeting.
2 Motion approved 5-0.

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4 Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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7 Respectfully Submitted,

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9
10 
11 Geoffrey Wood