#### **Town of Mount Desert** 1 **Selectboard Meeting Minutes** 2 Monday, August 2, 2021 3 4 5 6 Selectboard Members Present: Chair John Macauley, Wendy Littlefield, Matt Hart, Martha 7 Dudman 8 9 Board Member Geoff Wood was not in attendance. 10 11 Town Officials Present: Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Finance Director Jake Wright, Tax Assessor Kyle Avila, CEO Kimberly Keene, Fire Chief Mike Bender, Public Works 12 13 **Director Tony Smith** 14 15 Members of the public were also in attendance. 16 I. 17 Call to order at 6:30 p.m. Chair Macauley called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. 18 19 20 II. **Minutes** 21 A. Approval of the minutes from July 19, 2021 22 MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, approval of the July 19, 23 2021 Minutes as presented. Motion approved 3-0-1 (Littlefield in Abstention). 24 25 26 III. **Appointments/Recognitions/Resignations** 27 A. Consideration of the appointment of Craig Ridley to the vacant Packer Truck Driver 28 position effective August 4, 2021 and, that he be appointed at the mandatory sixmonth probationary rate of pay of \$20.54 per hour increasing to the regular rate of 29 30 \$21.62 per hour upon successful completion of his probationary period, with this 31 appointment being subject to a current Town employee not coming forward on or 32 before end of day August 3, 2021 with a request to be considered for the vacant 33 position thereby rendering the appointment being considered here, if approved, void. 34 MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, appointment of Craig 35 Ridley to the vacant Packer Truck Driver position effective August 4, 2021 and, that he be appointed at the mandatory six-month probationary rate of pay of \$20.54 per 36 37 hour increasing to the regular rate of \$21.62 per hour upon successful completion of 38 his probationary period, with this appointment being subject to a current Town employee not coming forward on or before end of day August 3, 2021 with a request 39 40 to be considered for the vacant position thereby rendering the appointment being 41 considered here, if approved, void, as presented. 42 Motion approved 4-0. 43 44 IV. **Consent Agenda** 45 A. Thank you letter from the Mount Desert Nursing Association B. Hancock County Commissioners Meeting Agenda for July 20, 2021 46

Town of Mount Desert Selectboard Minutes of August 2, 2021 1 C. Hancock County Commissioners Meeting Agenda for August 3, 2021 2 D. Hancock County Commissioners Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2021 3 E. MRC bypass update -PERC operational again 4 F. Summer Residents Association Annual Meeting Minutes for July 21, 2021 5 G. MRC Newsletter 6 H. Damage Assessment Determination for June 9, 2021 with July 30, 2021 follow-up 7 I. Letter from David Loeb thanking Jennifer Buchanan for excellent customer service 8 J. DOT's November 2020 Brookside Road Bridge Inspection Report dated July 29, 9 2021, a copy of the report is available at the Town Office 10 K. Thank you from Shannon Westphal for the crosswalk at Mount Desert Elementary 11 School 12 MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, acceptance of the Consent 13 Agenda as presented. 14 Motion approved 4-0. 15 16 V. Selectmen's Reports 17 Chair Macauley reported that the Sustainability Committee is considering the creation of 18 a position of Sustainability Coordinator, to be shared by the island communities. The 19 item would have to go on an agenda for official discussion and vote. 20 Ms. Dudman reported on the issue of bicyclists riding on the sidewalks. Additionally, 21 22 bikes are being left lying on the sidewalks. This leaves the sidewalks congested or 23 blocked completely. Manager Lunt noted it was an issue for the Police Department. He 24 would apprise Police Chief Willis of the concerns raised. 25 26 Ms. Littlefield reported on hearing concerns from residents about the parking by the fleet. 27 Cars are parking on the side of the road there, making it narrow for traffic and difficult to 28 safely pass. There are No Parking signs in the area. After hearing the concerns from 29 residents Ms. Littlefield has driven past several times and the parking there is always 30 congested. Manager Lunt agreed to mention it to Chief Willis. 32 Mr. Hart added that vegetation around some of the stop signs near the fleet has grown 33 enough to make them hard to see.

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Chair Macauley mentioned the bicycles left piled on the sidewalk near the Knowles Company, near the steps going up to the church. Ms. Littlefield noted there is a bicycle rack there, but rarely used.

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It was agreed to take Item VIII. A out of order.

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#### VI. **Unfinished Business**

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A. Review and discussion of latest schematic designs for the proposed addition/renovation of the Northeast Harbor fire station (Station 1)

Fire Chief Bender stated the renovation process is at the point of moving into the design development phase. Moving further into the design development phase will mean making alterations to the project will become more difficult.

Nothing in the design has changed, other than some rooms have been rearranged. The footprint remains the same. The first floor will be expanded, which will enable the second floor to be expanded as well. There is a fourth bay planned for the west side of the building. It was noted a firepole was added at the request of the firefighters; in deference to the firefighting tradition.

Mr. Hart noted the back driveway will be lost with the renovation. Chief Bender confirmed. Space would be looked for elsewhere to make up any parking spaces lost.

There is little option for further expansion with this plan, unless the fire station was to take up some of the Cranberry parking lot space. There are four bunk rooms. Two firefighters will remain on site for duty. Firefighters are given their own bed and bring their own linens. The plan provides what is necessary now, as well as provides space should more space be needed in the future.

B. Presentation of preliminary cost estimates for an addition to the Somesville fire station (Station 3)

Chief Bender presented the Somesville plans. The plans have not changed since previously presented. He's been in discussion with the architect. The cost of adding a community room and storage space to the Somesville Fire Station, approximately 1600 extra square feet, will raise the price by 480k to 560k – essentially doubling the construction price. Extra cost in additional site work and foundation work and other expenses will bring the project to an estimated total of \$800k to \$900k.

Town Manager Lunt reported there was concerns among the residents about the loss of a community room, but it did not appear that the concern was specific to the fire station. He hoped an alternative could be found.

Chief Bender noted that the addition will extend the construction time as well. This skews the timing of the two fire station projects occurring in conjunction with each other. The Fire Department can't have two stations under construction simultaneously. Additionally, community room use by the public might not be conducive to a station where staff will be living onsite during their shift. Mr. Hart suggested that with the timing being critical, perhaps it was best to move ahead with the fire station as currently planned. Other options will continue to be explored in the meantime.

Chief Bender asked if a November Town Meeting might still be the intent regarding the project. If approval can be gained in November, the work can begin over the winter and completed by summer 2022. It was noted there might be other items for a November Town Meeting as well.

The Board agreed the project should move forward.

C. Consideration of accepting the recommendations provided by Public Works Director Tony Smith in "Part F. Recommendations" of his July 26, 2021, memo, from him to

1	Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Jr., referenced as "Pump Station and Treatment Plant
2	Improvements Project (2021 Project)", which, in brief:
3	1) Provides that total project funding for the 2021 Project of \$518,848 be as
4	described in TABLE A: 2021 Project Costs and Proposed Funding using the

- and 22 of Table A of the memo as: a. \$332,279 which is the remaining balance of two prior wastewater projects SRF funds in Account Number 3000048-57710 and,
  - b. \$32,566 which is the remaining balance of the FY-22 Sewer Capital-Pump Stations Budget Appropriations Line Number 1550551-57051 and,
  - c. \$154,003 which is the Wastewater Capital Reserve Account Number 4050500-24501 with a current balance of \$284,777,

funding and associated account numbers described below and shown on Lines 19, 21

- d. For total 2021 Project funding of \$518,848.
- 2) Awards the construction of the 2021 Project to TBuck Construction at a negotiated cost of \$460,848 and
- 3) Retains the services of Olver Associates to provide CCA-I services for the 2021 Project at a cost of \$38,000 and
- 4) Authorizes the use of up to \$20,000 for contingency funding for the 2021 Project and,
- 5) Authorizes Public Works Director Tony Smith to execute all contracts and documents and do all things necessary or convenient to accomplish the 2021 Project on behalf of the Town.
- MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, acceptance of the recommendations of Public Works Director Tony Smith in "Part F. Recommendations" of his July 26, 2021, memo, referenced as "Pump Station and Treatment Plant Improvements Project (2021 Project)", which:
- 1) Provides that total project funding for the 2021 Project of \$518,848 be as described in TABLE A: 2021 Project Costs and Proposed Funding using the funding and associated account numbers described below and shown on Lines 19, 21 and 22 of Table A of the memo as:
- a. \$332,279 which is the remaining balance of two prior wastewater projects SRF funds in Account Number 3000048-57710 and,
- b. \$32,566 which is the remaining balance of the FY-22 Sewer Capital-Pump Stations Budget Appropriations Line Number 1550551- 57051 and,
- c. \$154,003 which is the Wastewater Capital Reserve Account Number 4050500-24501 with a current balance of \$284,777,
- d. For total 2021 Project funding of \$518,848.
- 2) Awards the construction of the 2021 Project to TBuck Construction at a negotiated cost of \$460,848 and
  - 3) Retains the services of Olver Associates to provide CCA-I services for the 2021 Project at a cost of \$38,000 and
    - 4) Authorizes the use of up to \$20,000 for contingency funding for the 2021 Project and,
  - 5) Authorizes Public Works Director Tony Smith to execute all contracts and documents and do all things necessary or convenient to accomplish the 2021 Project on behalf of the Town.

As presented.

Motion approved 4-0.

D. In conformance with our Capital Improvement Plan, consideration be given to the authorization of the purchase of a new 2022 International truck and chassis from Daigle & Houghton at their bid price of \$85,400 and the purchase of a new plow, wing, and mounting equipment from H.P. Fairfield at their bid price of \$94,230 for a total purchase price of \$179,630 using funds from the Public Works Equipment Reserve account number 4050100-24500 with a current balance of \$289,941. There will be \$110,311 remaining in the account if we make this purchase.

MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, authorization of the purchase of a new 2022 International truck and chassis from Daigle & Houghton at their bid price of \$85,400 and the purchase of a new plow, wing, and mounting equipment from H.P. Fairfield at their bid price of \$94,230 for a total purchase price of \$179,630 using funds from the Public Works Equipment Reserve account number 4050100-24500 with a current balance of \$289,941. There will be \$110,311 remaining in the account if we make this purchase, as presented.

Motion approved 4-0.

## VII. New Business

A. Consideration of authorizing Public Works Director Tony Smith to apply for the DEP Permit-by-Rule and the Town's Conditional Use Permit required for Seal Harbor shoreline erosion/stabilization control work needed along the easterly side of the harbor described in his 7-29-21 e-mail to Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Jr., a copy of which is included in the Selectboard information packet and available on the Town website

Public Works Director Smith reported this was a stretch of land along the shore across from the Shubert residence.

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, authorization of Public Works Director Tony Smith to apply for the DEP Permit-by-Rule and the Town's Conditional Use Permit required for Seal Harbor shoreline erosion/stabilization control work needed along the easterly side of the harbor described in his 7-29-21 e-mail to Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Jr., a copy of which is included in the Selectboard information packet and available on the Town website as presented.

Motion approved 4-0.

 B. Move signature of Account Agreement and Corporate Authorization Resolution with First National Bank to add Jake Wright as a signer on the account MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, signature of Account Agreement and Corporate Authorization Resolution with First National Bank to add Jake Wright as a signer on the account, as presented. Motion approved 4-0.

B. Consider the Adoption of a Remote Meeting Policy

Manager Lunt reported this new policy is from LD32 passed by the State Legislature. It will allow the Town to continue meeting as they currently do. The Bill passed requires the Board Officers to be present in person at the meeting unless they have a valid reason not to do so. Each Board and Committee from the Town is required to vote on the policy.

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Planning Board Chair William Hanley inquired about Planning Board Members who have hesitation about returning to in-person meetings. Manager Lunt believed such concern can be used as viable rationale for a Board Member's continuing meeting remotely. The entire Board could not meet remotely. As long as the public is allowed to attend a meeting, they must be provided the opportunity to do so. As long as the CDC allows for public in-person attendance, a meeting cannot be held remotely only. Concerned Board and Committee members may participate remotely.

Mr. Hart inquired about Covid-19 status of the area. If the area becomes a high-risk area for Covid-19, then the Board must be in attendance and masked, even if no others are present. Could a remote meeting be a viable option in light of such a circumstance? Manager Lunt noted that at this point the policy does not permit such an option. Approving this policy allows the Board to continue with the current hybrid meeting option. Boards and Committees are not allowed to meet in any way other than in person without this policy in place.

Mr. Hart noted that the policy states roll call votes must be taken on all votes at remotely attended meetings.

MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, adoption of a Remote Meeting Policy, as presented.

Motion approved 4-0.

Motion approved 4-0.

 C. Consider Revision of Sections 5.5.2 and 6.9.0 of the Personnel Policy Manager Lunt reported this revision is the result of he and Finance Director Wright's work on making the Personnel Policy more consistent.

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, Approval of Revision of Sections 5.5.2 and 6.9.0 of the Personnel Policy, as presented. Motion approved 4-0.

E. Consider Amending Sections 7.7.1., 7.7.10 and 8.7 of the Personnel Policy to Clarify Vacation Accrual Methodology, Required Leave for Bonded Personnel, and Earned Paid Leave Accrual Methodology.

Ms. Dudman inquired about the term "front loaded" in connection to Earned Paid Leave accrual. Finance Director Wright explained that while Earned Paid Leave is front loaded at the beginning of the year, the policy ensures that only the portion of leave earned at the time an employee terminates employment will be paid out. Director Wright went on to specify the rate at which Earned Paid Leave is earned for full-time employees for purposes of calculating the amount to be paid out upon termination of employment. of leave earned at the time an employee's leaves employment will be paid out.

 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, approval of amending Sections 7.7.1., 7.7.10 and 8.7 of the Personnel Policy to Clarify Vacation Accrual Methodology, Required Leave for Bonded Personnel, and Earned Paid Leave Accrual Methodology, as presented. Motion approved 4-0.

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## **VIII.** Other Business

A. Meeting with Representative Lynne Williams, District 135, Bar Harbor, Mount Desert and Lamoine for a summary of Legislative Action this session of Importance to the Town

State Representative Lynne Williams, District 135, presented news on actions taken at the State level.

# Activity includes:

- Revenue sharing has increased to 4.5% from 3.75%.
- School funding has risen to 55%.
- From the Appropriations Committee, and decisions made regarding the ARC money received by the Feds, \$20 million is available in funding to build affordable green housing, using project labor agreements. The goal is to build more than 1,000 environmentally friendly units over the next two years.
- A bill passed allowing a municipality to use tax increment financing if affordable housing is being built.
- A bill imposing an increase in the real estate transfer tax did not pass. The bill was presented by Representative Williams but was vetoed by the Governor. Governor Mills explained that she promised no tax increases.
- Rep. Williams is a part of the Affordable Housing Caucus. She is looking into leveraging ARC money presented to the county for use to assist MDI Towns to create workforce housing. She is working with past Representative Brian Hubble towards this end.
- Rep. Williams has been appointed to the House Transportation Committee. The major transportation initiative addressed so far is to initiate a feasibility study for extending rail from Portland to Waterville and Bangor. The study will be partially paid for by the towns along the route.
- A first in the Nation recycling bill has been passed. Starting 2023, the cost and responsibility for recycling most waste falls to the producers. Municipalities will no longer be responsible for the cost of recycling.
- A bill was passed to allow municipalities, counties, and school boards to adopt policies to allow remote participation.
- A bill was passed to allow towns to process absentee ballots beginning on the seventh day before an election, due to the increase in the use of absentee ballots.
- A bill was passed to allow remote online notarization, extending the practice allowed during the state of emergency caused by the pandemic.
- The State carried over a bill to allow regular automatic mailing by clerks of absentee ballots if a voter requests.

- A bond measure was carried over to provide money for rehabilitation or construction of fire stations.
- While this is not work done within the legislature, Rep. Williams reported on her work to fight the proposed American Aquaculture Salmon Farm. Rep. Williams is the Town of Bar Harbor's Harbor Committee Chair. Bar Harbor is an intervenor to the proposal.
- Rep. Williams was appointed to the Maine Chapter of Women in Transportation, the Transportation Working Group that reports to the Climate Council, and the Maine Public Transit Council. She will begin work with the Hancock County Planning Commission which received a Department of Transportation grant to set up a system for providing rides to people without transportation.
- Rep. Williams' bill, LD42, requires the Office of Marijuana Policy to submit all future proposed regulatory changes to the Legislature. Changes have been made without oversight prior to this bill.

Ms. Dudman asked what the Legislature can do with regard to the aquaculture proposal. Rep. Williams noted that the Legislature can do nothing. Rep. Williams is working on that outside of her Legislative work. The sole decision maker with regard to this project is the Commissioner of Marine Resources. Such a project is different from an on-land development. On-land aquaculture projects must meet the zoning ordinances of the town they are in. A marine aquaculture project has no such zoning requirements.

## IX. Treasurer's Warrants

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

Town Invoices	AP2176	8/3/2021	\$68,981.91
	AP2205	8/3/2021	\$411,832.97
Total			\$480,814.88

MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, approval and signature of Treasurer's Warrant as shown above.

Motion approved 4-0.

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

State Fees & PR Benefits	AP2203	7/21/2021	\$3,159.75
State Fees & PR Benefits	AP2204	7/28/2021	\$20,824.87
Town Payroll	PR2202	7/23/2021	\$131,095.09
Total			\$155,079.71

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, approval of signed Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants as shown above.

Motion approved 3-0-1 (Littlefield in Abstention).

D. Acknowledge Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrants as shown below:

School Invoices	#2	7/23/2021	\$146,607.16
Total			\$146,607.16
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Grand Total		\$782,501.75

1	MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, acknowledgement of
2	Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrants as shown above.
3	Motion approved 4-0.
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5	X. Adjournment
6	MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, adjournment.
7	Motion approved 4-0.
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9	The Meeting adjourned at 6:30PM.
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11	Respectfully Submitted,
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15	Wendy Littlefield