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1 **Town of Mount Desert**
2 **Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

3 Monday, February 22, 2021

4 Location: Zoom Meeting

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6 This Meeting was held via remote access.

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8 SelectBoard Members Present:

9 Matt Hart, Chair John Macauley, Wendy Littlefield, Geoff Wood, Martha Dudman

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11 Town Officials Present:

12 Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Ambulance Service Director Basil Mahaney, Town Clerk
13 Claire Woolfolk, Tax Assessor Kyle Avila

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15 Members of the public were also in attendance.

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

18 Chair Macauley called the Meeting to order at 6:30PM.

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20 MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, to enter into Executive
21 Session. Motion approved 5-0.

22
23 The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:30PM.

24
25 **II. Executive Session**

26 A. Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) for personnel matters

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28 MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, to exit out of Executive
29 Session. Motion approved 5-0. The SelectBoard exited Executive Session at 7:05 PM.

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32 **III. Minutes**

33 a. Approval of minutes from February 1, 2021 meeting

34 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, approval of the February 1,
35 2021 Minutes, as presented.

36 Motion approved 5-0.

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38 **IV. Appointments/Recognitions/Resignations**

39 None presented

40
41 **V. Consent Agenda** (These items are considered routine, and therefore, may be passed by the Selectmen in one blanket motion.
42 Board members may remove any item for discussion by requesting such action prior to consideration of that portion of the agenda.)

43
44 A. Hancock County Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2021

45 MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, approval of the Consent
46 Agenda as presented.

47 Motion approved 5-0.

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VI. Selectmen’s Reports

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to change the March 8, 2021 Selectboard meeting time to 6:30PM, from 4:00PM.

VII. Unfinished Business

None presented.

VII. New Business

A. Service Groups/3rd Party Budget 2021-2022 Requests

Community Health and Counseling Services: No representatives were in attendance.

Health Equity Alliance: No representatives were in attendance.

Mount Desert Community Development Corporation: No request was made.

Mount Desert Island Historical Society: The Historical Society was able to open in 2020. They offer wi-fi and portable toilets to visitors, as well as bridge maintenance in Somesville. Additionally, two new exhibits were presented at the museum. They intend to open this year, providing the same services. Funding received will help with the cost of wi-fi, portable toilets, and bridge maintenance.

Mount Desert Masonic Lodge #140: Town Manager Lunt explained this request is more an exchange. The Masonic Lodge provides water for the Somesville Fire Station, and in exchange their taxes are covered by the Town. The Masonic Lodge is a non-profit, however they rent their building to the Acadia Repertory Theater. The State requires them to be taxed because of this.

Mount Desert Nursery School: Requesting \$2,000.00 - Due to Covid, the nursery school was forced to close for three months in 2020. When they opened it was at a reduced capacity. Numbers remain at lower-than-normal capacity. The nursery school is now trying to catch up on some equipment replacement and maintenance projects.

Warrant Committee Chair Phil Lichtenstein asked if the nursery school saw the Pre-K program moving forward by 2022. Mr. Lichtenstein noted it didn’t appear to be budgeted for this year. Nursery school director Aaron Long did not believe the program would move forward in 2021. Mr. Long felt discussions would pick back up in the fall.

Mount Desert Nursing Association: MDNA had an increase in Mount Desert patients. 27 patients were seen in 2020. 48 have been seen in 2021. Funding received helps to offset costs of visits made by nursing personnel helping patients in the community.

It was noted the Nursing Association now serves people island wide.

1 Mr. Wood asked how much of a deficit the Association runs at, in light of reimbursements
2 received through insurance. The Association needs to fundraise for approximately 25% of
3 their operating costs.

4
5 **MDI Campfire Coalition:** Requesting \$3,000.00 - MDI Campfire Coalition is a joint
6 endeavor between the Harbor House in Southwest Harbor and the Neighborhood House. It
7 provides heating assistance to qualified applicants, paying for 100 gallons of heating oil or
8 equivalent. The same amount is requested from all MDI municipalities. The program
9 operates November through April. Last heating season 85 households were assisted. This
10 heating season, 57 households have been assisted. 100% of funds received go directly to
11 heating. No administrative cost is taken out of the funds.

12
13 **Neighborhood House:** Requesting \$88,000.00 - Neighborhood House has served the Mount
14 Desert community for 115 years. Neighborhood House was able to offer approximately 90%
15 of their 2020 programs with modifications in place to protect the community from Covid.
16 Additionally, Neighborhood House acts as a Municipal Parks and Recreation Department for
17 the Town. Summer camp in 2020 could not operate due to lack of space, however stand-
18 alone programs were offered in its place. After-school programs were continued in the Fall.
19 The Community Café program continued as a carry-out meal. The amount requested has
20 remained unchanged in the past 14 years, despite the operating budget having grown by 65%.
21 The \$88,000.00 requested comprises three separate line items within the budget. No one is
22 ever turned away if they want to participate in programs and sports.

23
24 Mr. Wood asked about how Neighborhood House is involved in sports in light of Acadia
25 Youth Sports. Neighborhood House Director Anne-Marie Hart noted that Neighborhood
26 House continues youth recreational soccer and basketball programs.

27
28 Kathy Miller asked what might happen with summer programs for kids this summer. Ms.
29 Hart explained that the summer camp program is housed at the elementary school. The
30 Neighborhood House is expecting to proceed with a limited-numbers summer camp this
31 summer. It is unknown at this time whether the school will be available. If the school is not
32 available, the stand-alone summer activities that occurred last summer will continue. The
33 pool was closed last summer; however, the intention is to have it open this summer, perhaps
34 with a limited reservation system.

35
36 **Northeast Harbor Ambulance Service:** Requesting \$20,000.00 – The Service relies
37 heavily on donations. Due to the Covid pandemic, a number of annual fundraising events
38 were not held in 2020. A second responder was added to 24/7 duty through the pandemic,
39 and this coverage is expected to continue through the next two years. This addition has
40 added a big expense to the service. Wages this year will be more than \$300,000.00.

41
42 **Northeast Harbor Library:** Requesting \$20,500.00 - The Northeast Harbor Library serves
43 Mount Desert, the Cranberry Isles, and other surrounding towns. Services continued in a
44 modified fashion in 2020, due to Covid. The Library was closed until July of 2020 but
45 continued their programs via Zoom and curbside pickup. Over 32,000 items were checked
46 out last year. The library serves as the elementary school library and has an extensive

1 archive collection with over 15,000 items digitized. The Town records are housed at the
2 library. The library has a scholarship program; last year 29 scholarships were awarded at
3 \$2,400.00 each. Funds requested will go towards staff salaries and acquisitions.

4
5 **Northeast Harbor VIS:** Requesting \$5,000.00 – Funds requested will go towards ongoing
6 trail stewardship. Trail maps are available on the Town website, at the Town Office and at
7 trailheads.

8
9 **Northern Light Homecare and Hospice:** No representatives were in attendance.

10
11 **Open Door Recovery Center:** No request was made this year.

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13 **Pretty Marsh Community Corporation:** Requesting \$9,500.00 - Funds requested will go
14 to rebuild the front steps of the old schoolhouse. The building was given to the Pretty Marsh
15 Community Corporation in 1937. The group has relied on donations and volunteer effort to
16 keep up with building maintenance and repairs.

17
18 **Seal Harbor Library Association:** Due to Covid the library was closed for part of the year,
19 and a number of fundraisers were cancelled.

20
21 **Seal Harbor VIS:** No representatives were in attendance.

22
23 **Somesville Library Association:** Requesting \$11,000.00 – Funds will be used to help
24 manage and keep the library open. With modifications due to Covid, the library has been
25 able to continue making library books available to the public. The primary fundraiser for the
26 library was not able to occur in 2020.

27
28 **Somesville VIS:** Requesting \$3,000.00 - The VIS provides for the flower arrangements at
29 the firehouse, the flowerboxes at the pond, the flagpole, the signs at each end of the village,
30 and some maintenance.

31
32 **SPCA of Hancock County:** The SPCA has not previously asked for funding. Adoptions are
33 currently taking place by appointment. Covid resulted in an initial adoption exodus of
34 animals. Later, as people were harder hit financially, animals were surrendered to the SPCA
35 in greater numbers. Modifications to their summer fundraiser resulted in lower returns. The
36 SPCA receives no municipal, state, or federal funding. All funds come from donations, and
37 surrender/adoption fees.

38
39 **WIC Nutrition Program:** No representatives were in attendance.

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41 **Yesterday's Children:** No request was made this year.

42
43 Manager Lunt asked the Board whether the Town should follow up with those 3rd party
44 requests that were not represented.

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1 It was agreed that the Town should follow up only with those who submitted their request but
2 did not show up to make a presentation. Those who did not make a request this year would
3 not be contacted.

4

5 **VIII. Other Business**

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

7 None Presented.

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9 **IX. Treasurer's Warrants**

10 None presented.

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12 **X. Adjournment**

13 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, adjournment.

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15 Motion approved 5-0.

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17 The Meeting adjourned at 7:51PM.

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19 Respectfully Submitted,

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22

23 Wendy Littlefield