

**Town of Mount Desert
Selectboard Meeting Minutes**
Monday, March 15, 2021
Location: Zoom Meeting

This Meeting was held via remote access.

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

Town Officials Present: Assessor Kyle Avila, Fire Chief Mike Bender, Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Town Clerk Claire Woolfolk, Treasurer Kathy Mahar

Members of the public were also in attendance.

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

Chair Macauley called the Meeting to order at 6:32PM.

II. Minutes

None Presented

III. Appointments/Recognitions/Resignations

A. Appointment of Kathryn Mahar as Part Time Treasurer at a rate of \$40.00 per hour effective April 1, 2021

Manager Lunt reported that Treasurer Mahar's last official day is March 26, 2021. Interviews will be occurring, but there will be a period of time between Treasurer Mahar's last day and the date her replacement begins work. The Town will need some treasurer capacity during that time. Treasurer Mahar as agreed to work up to 24 hours per week as necessary until her replacement is hired, and then will work up to 16 hours per week as necessary to assist the new person to acclimate and train.

MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, appointment of Kathryn Mahar as Part Time Treasurer at a rate of \$40.00 per hour effective April 1, 2021, as presented.

VOTE:

Wendy Littlefield: Aye

Martha Dudman: Aye

Geoff Wood: Aye

Matt Hart: Aye

Chair John Macauley: Aye

Motion approved 5-0.

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

A. Thank you note to waste management from resident Lelania Avila

B. Hancock County Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2021

1 C. *Letter from Maine Department of Marine Resources regarding a shoreline survey in*
2 *Mount Desert for the 2021 season in March*

3 MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, acceptance of the Consent
4 Agenda as presented.
5 Motion approved 5-0.

6
7 **V. Selectmen's Reports**

8 None Presented.

9
10 **VI. Unfinished Business**

11 A. *Update of Personnel Policy in Conformance with The Earned Paid Leave Law,*
12 *effective January 1, 2021*

13 Manager Lunt referred to his memo, as well as a markup of how the Personnel Policy
14 would change. This will bring the Town into conformance with the law. The changes
15 restructure paid leave into the designated Earned Paid Leave. It affects the accrual rate of
16 vacation hours, how it can be used, and how much can carry over.

17
18 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, approval of the update
19 of Personnel Policy in Conformance with The Earned Paid Leave Law, effective January
20 1, 2021, as presented.
21 Motion approved 5-0.

22
23 **VII. New Business**

24 A. *Discussion concerning holding a Community Forum to discuss the Warrant Article to*
25 *fund an Engineering Study for the proposed Fire Department addition to the Town*
26 *Office.*

27 Manager Lunt is hoping to get some tentative dates for the forum from both Bill Ferm
28 and the SelectBoard.

29
30 Ms. Dudman recommended the last week in April. It would be just before Town
31 Meeting, so the discussion would be fresh in people's minds.

32
33 6:00PM was discussed as a possible meeting time. Mr. Hart suggested creating an
34 agenda, perhaps with a goal to keep the forum to an hour in length. The 26th, 27th, or 28th
35 of April were suggested. Manager Lunt agreed to reach out to Bill Ferm with the 27th as
36 the forum date, and the 26th and 28th as alternatives.

37
38 Ms. Littlefield wondered if there were a way to allow community members to submit
39 questions prior to the forum, in order for Chief Bender to be aware of and address all
40 concerns that might be expressed. Manager Lunt noted that people could submit
41 questions on the website and perhaps Chief Bender could compile them.

42
43 Resident John Adams inquired why the Town felt a forum was necessary.

44
45 Manager Lunt explained that there'd been significant discussion regarding the pros and
46 cons of the project. It would be of benefit to residents to hear those pros and cons prior to

1 the Town Meeting. Mr. Hart added that this type of meeting venue might be more
2 comfortable to some people than presenting their questions on the floor of Town
3 Meeting.

4
5 Mr. Adams asked if this meant that all questions must wait till the end of April. Mr. Hart
6 felt questions could be asked at any time. The forum creates an occasion where all
7 questions can be answered. Ms. Littlefield noted that the website will allow questions to
8 be asked ahead of the forum. This will allow Chief Bender to compile the answers and
9 gauge support for the project.

10
11 Mr. Adams asserted the Town has committed to building a multi-million dollar building,
12 per Article 24 of the Warrant. Manager Lunt explained the dollar amount was an up-to
13 estimation and not a contracted amount.

14
15 Mr. Adams opined that the two buildings should be one project and not two. Further
16 study is required. The number of people served and where the fire and ambulance calls
17 occur must be determined, and projections of the future needs must be assessed. The
18 Town has not clearly ascertained the need. A fourth bay in Northeast Harbor is
19 unnecessary. A unified approach to both stations is needed. There is risk that the entire
20 project will be rejected as it stands. Mr. Adams stated a more common-sense approach
21 was needed and there was no rush for time. The time must be taken to do the project
22 right.

23
24 Resident Katrina Carter asked if the community forum sets precedent on special meetings
25 providing additional information on special warrant articles. Generally, the Town
26 expects residents to look into items such as this for themselves.

27
28 Mr. Hart felt the idea of a forum stems from the long process and discussions held so far.
29 There have been a number of questions and a community forum provides people with an
30 extra opportunity to ask those questions. Ms. Littlefield felt timing plays a part as well.
31 Chief Bender has expressed his concerns regarding waiting too long, and there are
32 deadlines to the Warrant Articles that must be met. The shift of the project to include
33 Somesville and the inclusion of the Ambulance Service into the Town's Public Safety
34 Department have resulted in the solution being a moving target.

35
36 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, to hold the Community
37 Forum the last week in April to discuss the Warrant Article to fund an Engineering Study
38 for the proposed Fire Department addition to the Town Office.

39 Motion approved 5-0.

40
41 Mr. Hart requested that starting in the beginning of April the Town publicize the fact that
42 there's a way to submit questions prior to the forum.

43
44 **VIII. Other Business**

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

1 Manager Lunt requested the Spring Cleanup be restored to its traditional time of the last
2 week in April. The time was moved to June last year due to Covid.

3
4 MOTION: Mr. Wood moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, to restore the 2021
5 traditional Spring Cleanup time to its original last week in April.
6 Motion approved 5-0.

7
8
9 Manager Lunt reported that MMA has released information on the American Rescue Plan
10 Act. It notes the Town of Mount Desert can expect to receive \$210,000.00. Manager
11 Lunt read an excerpt of the MMA information to further explain the plan. The issue will
12 likely come before the Board as more information becomes available.

13
14
15 Mr. Hart reported that Deputy Clerk Jennifer Buchanan asked him to write an
16 announcement for the Town Meeting, noting it would be a drive-in meeting. He inquired
17 whether a start time has been set. Manager Lunt noted it would be the traditional time of
18 6:00PM, unless the Board chose to change it. Mr. Hart suggested including language to
19 the effect that in case of inclement weather, check the Town's website for possible date
20 changes.

21
22 **IX. Treasurer's Warrants**

23 *A. Approve & Sign Treasurer's Warrant AP2152 in the amount of \$467,042.96*

24 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, approval of signed
25 Treasurer's Warrant AP2152 in the amount of \$467,042.96, as presented.

26 VOTE:

27 Wendy Littlefield: Aye

28 Geoff Wood: Aye

29 Matt Hart: Aye

30 Martha Dudman: Aye

31 Chair John Macauley: Aye

32 Motion approved 5-0.

33
34 *B. Approve Signed Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP2150,*
35 *AP2151, and PR2121 in the amounts of \$2,248.68, \$6,397.00, and \$105,456.61,*
36 *respectively*

37 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, approval of signed
38 Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP2150, AP2151, and PR2121 in
39 the amounts of \$2,248.68, \$6,397.00, and \$105,456.61, respectively, as presented.

40 VOTE:

41 Martha Dudman: Aye

42 Geoff Wood: Aye

43 Wendy Littlefield: Abstains

44 Matt Hart: Aye

45 Chair John Macauley: Aye

46 Motion approved 4-0-1 (Littlefield in Abstention)

- 1
2 C. *Acknowledge Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrants #10 and #19 in the*
3 *amounts of \$41,669.98 and \$90,632.50, respectively*
4 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, acknowledgement of
5 Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrants #10 and #19 in the amounts of
6 \$41,669.98 and \$90,632.50, respectively, as presented.
7 VOTE:
8 Wendy Littlefield: Aye
9 Geoff Wood: Aye
10 Martha Dudman: Aye
11 Matt Hart: Aye
12 Chair John Macauley: Aye
13 Motion approved 5-0
14
15 **X. Adjournment**
16 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Wood seconding adjournment.
17 Motion approved 5-0.
18
19 The Meeting adjourned at 6:54PM.
20
21 Respectfully Submitted,
22
23
24
25 Wendy Littlefield