



TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT WARRANT COMMITTEE

**Minutes from:
Tuesday, January 30, 2024 6:00PM**

Northeast Harbor Meeting Hall and via Zoom

Members Present: Phil Lichtenstein, Katrina Carter, Tim Murphy, Mike Olsen, Lauren Kuffler, Jamie Blaine, Stephanie Reece, Owen Craighead, Donna Beals, Carmen Sanford, Allan Kimmerly

Zoom: Craig Roebuck, Jerry Miller, Kathy Miller, Rosemary Matchak

Excused: Bill Ferm, Jesse Hartson, Megan Bailey, Blakeslee Bell

Absent: Marina McGarr

Guests: David Kerns, Mount Desert/Bar Harbor Police Chief; Mike Bender, Mount Desert Fire Chief

1. 6:00pm Call Meeting to order, minutes from the 1/23 meeting approved after a minor attendance revision.
2. 6:05pm Police Chief Kerns opened by clarifying that Mount Desert pays 40% of his salary and Bar Harbor pays the remaining 60%. The Police Department budget saw an increase in IT services. Chief Kerns discussed the role and many benefits of the relatively new Law Enforcement Mental Health Liaison. The committee asked several questions related to new hires, staffing and staff retention. The somewhat inadequate size of the Bar Harbor Department was discussed. The Police Dispatch budget is relatively flat. The Chief outlined how 911 calls in the area are dealt with. There is often no dispatcher present at the Mount Desert Station re: coverage from the Bar Harbor dispatch.
3. 6:45pm Fire Chief Mike Bender addressed the significant increases in the Fire Department's budget by taking the committee through the history of it's large staff expansion over the last few years plus its

absorption of the Northeast Harbor Ambulance Service. Since taking on the Ambulance service, annual calls have more than doubled from @ 350 calls per year to @ 750. The Somesville station was renovated and has served as temporary headquarters until staff and equipment can move into the freshly renovated facility in Northeast Harbor. Chief Bender went through the department budget line by line. The largest increase is overtime pay re: the need for adequate shift coverage in the face of a couple of staff vacancies.

4. 7:32pm Adjournment

Upcoming Meeting: Tuesday, February 6 at 6:00pm at the meeting hall and by Zoom. Guests: Paul Paradis, Hancock County Commissioner; Brian Henkel, Mount Desert Public Works Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Owen Craighead Recording Secretary