



TOWN OF MOUNT DESER

Warrant Committee/Dinner

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 / 6:15 PM

**Town Hall Meeting Room
21 Sea Street
Northeast Harbor**

Minutes

Present (12): Phil Lichtenstein, Jerry Miller, Tim Murphy, Kathy Miller, Katrina Carter, Carmen Sanford, Sam McGee, Blakesley Bell, Donna Beals, Stephanie Reece, Jesse Hartson, Brian Henkel

Excused (11): Gail Marshall, Ellen Kappes, Norris Reddish, Bill Ferm, Craig Roebuck, Marina McGarr, Ellen Brawley, Donna Reis, Tate Bushell, Owen Craighead, Rodney Eason

Absent (1): Tom Savage

1. **Meeting called to order by Phil Lichtenstein 6:15 PM**
2. **Sign In / Announcements – The Warrant Committee agreed to consider Warrant Articles of the Mount Desert Elementary School before the other remaining articles.**
3. **A motion for the approval of the minutes from the March 3, 2020 Warrant Committee meeting was made by Katrina Carter and seconded by Jerry Miller. The minutes were approved
12 to 0**
4. ***Article 49. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***
School Board recommends \$1,878,707.00
Warrant Committee recommends \$1,878,707.00

**Donna Beals moved and Kathy Miller seconded approval of Warrant Article 49. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions**

5. ***Article 50. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to expend for Special Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***
School Board recommends \$845,887.00
Warrant Committee recommends \$845,887.00

Jerry Miller moved and Stephanie Reece seconded approval of Warrant Article 50. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion. 12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

6. ***Article 51. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to***

expend for Career and Technical Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

School Board recommends \$00.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$00.00

The Committee asked for an explanation of the \$00.00 value article. A representative of the elementary school explained that it is a state mandated Warrant Article and that the amount requested for this budget category is part of the Mount Desert Island High School warrants.

Jerry Miller moved and Katrina Carter seconded approval of Warrant Article 51. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.

12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

7. ***Article 52. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***

School Board recommends \$85,880.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$85,880.00

Sam McGee moved and Kathy Miller seconded approval of Warrant Article 52. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.

12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

8. ***Article 53. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to expend for Student & Staff Support for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***

School Board recommends \$445,050.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$445,050.00

Sam McGee moved and Kathy Miller seconded approval of Warrant Article 53. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.

12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

9. ***Article 54. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to expend for System Administration for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***

School Board recommends \$92,966.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$92,966.00

Jerry Miller moved and Donna Beals seconded approval of Warrant Article 54. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.

12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

10. ***Article 55. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to expend for School Administration for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***

School Board recommends \$284,678.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$284,678.00

Jerry Miller moved and Sam McGee seconded approval of Warrant Article 55. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.

12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

11. ***Article 56. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to expend for Transportation & Buses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***
School Board recommends \$203,630.00
Warrant Committee recommends \$203,630.00

Sam McGee moved and Katrina Carter seconded approval of Warrant Article 56. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

12. ***Article 57. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***
School Board recommends \$490,761.00
Warrant Committee recommends \$490,761.00

Jerry Miller moved and Sam McGee seconded approval of Warrant Article 57. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

13. ***Article 58. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***
School Board recommends \$317,132.00
Warrant Committee recommends \$317,132.00

Jerry Miller moved and Sam McGee seconded approval of Warrant Article 58. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

14. ***Article 59. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***
School Board recommends \$72,000.00
Warrant Committee recommends \$72,000.00

The Warrant Committee asked about transfer amounts within the budget category of Article 59. A representative of the school explained that the amount transferred varied with the number of meals provided annually.

Sam McGee moved, and Kathy Miller seconded approval of Warrant Article 59. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

15. ***Article 60. To see what sum the voters of the Town of Mount Desert will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-K to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (Recommend \$2,248,845.00) and to see what sum the voters of the Town of Mount Desert will raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-K to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688 for the period July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***

School Board recommends \$1,860,906.00
Warrant Committee recommends \$1,860,906.00

The Warrant Committee discussed the need to revise the typographical error of the use of “kindergarten” in Warrant Articles and the need to correct them to “pre-k”.

Jerry Miller moved and Brian Henkel seconded amendment of Warrant Article 60 to read “pre-k” instead of “kindergarten” and additional correction of the typographical error in other warrant articles using “kindergarten”. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
11 to 0 with 0 abstentions

Jerry Miller moved and Carmen Sanford seconded approval of Warrant Article 60 as amended. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

16. The Warrant Committee discussed the need to include an explanatory note within Warrant Article 49 to clarify that approval of the Mount Desert Elementary School budget included approval of the expansion of the curriculum to include pre-k. A small group of school representatives and a Warrant Committee member began drafting the explanatory note.

17. *Article 61. To see what sum the voters of the Town of Mount Desert will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the legislative body for non-state-funded school construction projects, non-state funded portions of school construction projects and minor capital projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Town of Mount Desert’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-K to grade 12 for the period July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.*
School Board recommends \$317,132.00
Warrant Committee recommends \$317,132.00

Jerry Miller moved and Carmen Sanford seconded approval of Warrant Article 61. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
11 to 0 with 0 abstentions

18. *Article 62. To see what sum the voters of the Town of Mount Desert will raise and appropriate in additional local funds for school purposes (Recommend: \$1,911,924.00) for the period July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (Recommend: \$1,911,924.00) as required to fund the budget recommended by the school Board.*

The School Board recommends \$1,911,924.00 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$1,911,924.00: The State funding model underestimates the actual costs to fully fund the 2020-2021 budget.

The Warrant Committee recommends \$1,911,924.00 for additional local

funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$ \$1,911,924.00: The State funding model underestimates the actual costs to fully fund the 2020-2021 budget.

Phil Lichtenstein moved and Katrina Carter seconded approval of Warrant Article 62. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion. 11 to 0 with 0 abstentions

- 19. *Article 63. To see what sum the voters of the Town of Mount Desert will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-K to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.***

School Board recommends \$4,716,691.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$4,716,691.00

Phil Lichtenstein moved and Sam McGee seconded approval of Warrant Article 63. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion. 11 to 0 with 0 abstentions

- 20. *Article 64. In addition to the amount in Articles 49 – 63, shall the School Board be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from state or federal grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year 2020-2021 for school purposes provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?***

Current Year Totals: \$101,248.00

School Board recommends passage

Warrant Committee recommends passage

Phil Lichtenstein moved and Stephanie Reece seconded passage of Warrant Article 64. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion. 11 to 0 with 0 abstentions

Phil Lichtenstein moved and Stephanie Reece seconded that the Warrant Committee revisit Warrant Article 49. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion. 12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

- 21. *Article 49. To see what sum the School Board will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.***

School Board recommends \$1,878,707.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$1,878,707.00

Jerry Miller motioned and Stephanie Reece seconded the revocation and reconsideration of Warrant Article 49. The Warrant Committee voted in

favor of the motion.
11 to 1 with 0 abstentions

Kathy Miller moved and Jerry Miller seconded the addition of an explanatory note to Warrant Article 49 as follows: "This article includes \$180,532.00, the cost to create and fund a pre-K program. By approving article 49 you are approving the creation and funding of a pre-K program for the 2020-2021 school year." The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion to amend.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

Kathy Miller moved and Sam McGee seconded passage of Warrant Article 49 as amended. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the amended motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

22. *Article 32. To see if the inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to create a new Benefit Accrual Reserve Account in the amount of \$187,750.00 to be funded from the Town's Capital Gains Account 400-24202. Said benefits to consist of Vacation Wages, Paid Compensation Time, Floating Holiday Compensation, bonus compensation, and Sick leave Bonus Wages, all of which shall be subject to such terms and conditions, personnel policies, employment or labor agreements and other policies or provisions as may be changed or negotiated from time to time by the officers of the Town of Mount Desert, its insurance carriers and brokers, and employees. Subsequent funding for this reserve account shall be considered through the General Fund during the annual Town Meeting of the Town of Mount Desert.*

Explanatory Note: \$187,500.00 is equal to .0050% of the maximum annual liability that could accrue in the upcoming fiscal year. In future years, the goal will be to maintain the reserve at an amount calculated to be approximately 50% of the maximum annual liability that could accrue in each year. Adjustments would be made during the consideration of the budget for the General Fund during the Town Meeting.

The Warrant Committee asked for clarification of the need for the reserve account and a representative of the Town stated a recent audit recommendation included establishment of a reserve account instead of using general funds.

Stephanie Reece moved and Katrina Carter seconded approval of Warrant Article 32. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

23. *Article 33. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and/or appropriate as Revenue through Excise Taxes, Service Fees and miscellaneous sources for the 2020-2021 Town Budget.*
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Board of Selectmen recommends</i> | \$1,298,510.00 |
| <i>Warrant Committee recommends</i> | \$1,298,510.00 |

Jerry Miller moved and Carmen Sanford seconded approval of Warrant Article 33. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

24. *Article 34 To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 200 through 221 General Government – Governing Body (Board of Selectmen), Municipal Management, Town Clerk, Registrar, Elections, Planning Board, Finance, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Assessment, Code Enforcement, Unallocated Funds, Human Resources, and Technology for the 2020-2021 Town Budget.*

Board of Selectmen recommends \$1,480,221.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$1,480,221.00

Jerry Miller moved and Katrina Carter seconded approval of Warrant Article 34. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

25. *Article 35. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 300 General Assistance Support for the 2020-2021 Town Budget.*

Board of Selectmen recommends \$5,000.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$5,000.00

Jerry Miller moved and Sam McGee seconded approval of Warrant Article 35. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

26. *Article 36. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 350 Rural Wastewater Support for the 2020-2021 Town Budget.*

Board of Selectmen recommends \$195,694.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$195,694.00

Jerry Miller moved and Katrina Carter seconded approval of Warrant Article 36. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

27. *Article 37. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 406 Street Lights for the 2020-2021 Town Budget.*

Board of Selectmen recommends \$25,750.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$25,750.00

The Warrant Committee discussed the reduced amount in this budget category and a Town representative stated the reduction was attributed to the installation of more efficient lighting.

Kathy Miller moved and Jerry Miller seconded approval of Warrant Article 37. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

28. *Article 38. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert*

will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 401 and 408 Public Safety – Police and Communications (Dispatch) for the 2020-2021 Town Budget.

Board of Selectmen recommends \$1,249,666.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$1,249,666.00

**Jerry Miller moved and Donna Beals seconded approval of Warrant Article 38. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions**

- 29. *Article 39. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 403, 404, and 409 Public Safety – Fire Department, Hydrants, and Emergency Management for the 2020-2021 Town Budget.***

Board of Selectmen recommends \$930,327.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$930,327.00

**Jerry Miller moved and Sam McGee seconded approval of Warrant Article 39. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions**

- 30. *Article 40. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 501, 515, 520 and 525 Public Works - Roads, Waste Management, Buildings & Grounds, Parks & Cemeteries, and 530 Environmental Sustainability for the 2020-2021 Town Budget.***

Board of Selectmen recommends \$2,698,230.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$2,698,230.00

The Warrant Committee asked about items funded by budget category 530 Environmental Sustainability. A representative of the Town stated that the budget category covered items such as car charging stations, solar panels, and contingencies.

**Phil Lichtenstein moved and Sam McGee seconded approval of Warrant Article 40. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions**

- 31. *Article 41. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 505 and 506 Sewers (Wastewater Treatment) for the 2020-2021 Town Budget.***

Board of Selectmen recommends \$1,021,222.00

Warrant Committee recommends \$1,021,222.00

**Phil Lichtenstein moved and Brian Henkel seconded approval of Warrant Article 41. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions**

- 32. *Article 42. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 605 Recreation (Public Pool ~Utilities & Maintenance) for the 2020-2021 Town Budget.***

Board of Selectmen recommends \$5,900.00

Katrina Carter moved and Stephanie Reece seconded approval of Warrant Article 42. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion. 12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

33. *Article 43. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 701 Economic/Community Development for the 2020-2021 Town Budget. Board of Selectmen recommends \$12,000.00 Warrant Committee recommends \$12,000.00*

The Warrant Committee asked about the use of funds from Department 701, remaining amount in the account, and potential carryover. Representatives of the Town stated the funds are used for contracting services of an economic development professional and that funds do not carry over and that remaining funds revert to the General Fund. The Warrant Committee discussed the need for a full time staff member for economic development.

Phil Lichtenstein moved and Kathy Miller seconded approval of Warrant Article 43. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion. 8 to 2 with 2 abstentions

34. *Article 44. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 801 Debt Service for the 2020-2021 Town Budget. Board of Selectmen recommends \$1,902,977.00 Warrant Committee recommends \$1,902,977.00*

Stephanie Reece moved and Kathy Miller seconded approval of Warrant Article 44. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion. 12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

35. *Article 45. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 851 Libraries, Village Improvement Societies, Recreation, and Public/Social Service Agencies for the 2020-2021 Town Budget. Board of Selectmen recommends \$316,887.00 Warrant Committee recommends \$320,587.00*

Katrina Carter moved and Kathy Miller seconded amendment of Warrant Article 45 to include \$316,887.00, an increase of \$3,700. The Warrant Committee discussed the increase for the funding of four additional Public/Social Service Agencies that had been unable to attend the combined Board of Selectmen and Warrant Committee meeting on February 24, 2020. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion to amend. 11 to 1 with 0 abstentions

Phil Lichtenstein moved and Kathy Miller seconded approval of Warrant Article 45 as amended. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion. 11 to 1 with 0 abstentions

36. ***Article 46. To see what sum the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to raise and appropriate for Department 991 Capital Improvement Plan transfers for the 2020-2021 Town Budget. Board of Selectmen recommends \$621,570.00 Warrant Committee recommends \$621,570.00***

Jerry Miller moved and Katrina Carter seconded approval of Warrant Article 46. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

37. ***Article 47 To see if the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to increase the property tax levy limit by \$20,679.00. See Appendix H (pg. 61-63).***

Explanation: The State Legislature passed a “tax reform” law known as LD#1. This bill created a maximum municipal tax levy based upon this year’s tax, plus an allowance for inflation and the Town’s tax base growth due to new construction. However, LD#1 allows Mount Desert voters to increase that tax cap with the approval of a simple majority of the voters at Town Meeting. The only requirement is that a secret vote must be taken by written ballot.

***Board of Selectmen recommends \$20,679.00
Warrant Committee recommends \$24,379.00***

Kyle Avila pointed out to the Warrant Committee that the revised value in Warrant Article 45 necessitated revising Warrant Article 47 by the same amount.

Phil Lichtenstein moved and Kathy Miller seconded approval of Warrant Article 47 with the corrected amount of \$24,379. The Warrant Committee voted in favor of the motion.
12 to 0 with 0 abstentions

38. ***Article 48. To see if the Inhabitants of the Town of Mount Desert will vote to ratify the Board of Selectmen’s approval of the Marina Proprietary Fund budget. Board of Selectmen recommends ratification***

The Warrant Committee makes no recommendation

39. **Round Table Discussion – The Warrant Committee discussed the approved Warrant Article 16 questioning the length of the lease proposed and the equity of leases of Town owned properties.**
40. **Jerry Miller moved and Kathy Miller seconded conclusion of the meeting. The Warrant Committee adjourned at 8:19**