



## Select Board

Regular Meeting

Tuesday October 27, 2020 @ 6:00pm

Southwest Harbor Fire Station

### MINUTES

#### Public Hearing

I. Chair Kristin Hutchins called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm;  
Present: Board members Carolyn Ball, Snap Willey, Chad Terry, George Jellison.  
Town Manager, Justin VanDongen; Town Clerk, Marilyn Lowell.

II. Moment of silence for Chief Alan Brown.

III. Visitors - None

IV. Minutes of October 13, 2020.

Motion by Ball to accept the minutes of October 13, 2020 as presented. Second by Willey. Passed 5-0-0.

V. Manager's Report:

Town Garage- There are not enough good comps of the building for the appraiser to complete a routine appraisal. The Manager has reached out to the owners about this and inquired whether they would be willing to talk with each other and come up with a figure that would be agreeable to them for selling the property to the Town.

Chris's Pond- the Letcher property is under contract with Maine Coast Heritage Trust. The land behind Chris's Pond, owned by Dearden, also owns the land the warming shed sits on. On Friday the Manager and Deputy Code Officer Dunbar met a representative of the Deardens' lot on site to discuss his intentions to install a driveway to access the property in back of the pond. During that meeting it was discovered Dearden may want to sell the lot to the Town. The Dearden lot consists of 5.03 acres according to town records. The Board will discuss further purchase options during executive session.

The Town will be looking at the Land and Conservation Fund to help fund the project and possibly to fund the recreational part of the Manset Town Dock project. It may be possible to do both areas under this recreational grant.

Discussion was had on the possibility of the Harbormaster's office being two stories with storage on the first level. The location of the building poses a high tide risk for the first floor; the idea that the office would be on the second floor would protect it from that risk as well as give the Harbormaster a better view of the harbor.

Paving – With the amount of General Bond money left in the account, would the Board like to do any additional paving on Fernald Point Road. There is approximately \$340,000 left over in the bond account. Manager is checking with Olver to make sure that we do not have any retainage left to pay.

Motion by Ball to use part of the Infrastructure Bond money to pave from current stopping point to the top of the hill on Fernald Point Road. Second by Hutchins. Motion Failed 2-3-0 with Jellison, Willey, and Terry opposed.

Willey and Jellison would like to be on a new Infrastructure Committee to include Highway, Water/Sewer District, Harbormaster, and the Town Manager.

## VI. New Business

- a. Appointments: Interim Chief of Police – Mike Miller – Motion by Hutchins to appoint Mike Miller as Interim Chief of Police. Second by Willey. Passed 5-0-0.
- b. Police and Dispatch Consolidation Discussion – The sad death of the police chief leaves an opportunity for the Town to consider different options for public safety. The Town has two options to consider, either move forward with the hiring of Police Chief or have discussions with Mount Desert and Bar Harbor to consolidate. Prior to his passing, Chief Brown had been working with Chief Willis in Mt. Desert and Bar Harbor on the possibility of a merger. The goal for consolidation at this time would be January 2022. Interim Chief Miller agreed with this plan, and advised he thinks it will give our officers more of an advancement opportunity. Coverage would be better, backup would be better. Mount Desert and Bar Harbor departments do not have unions. Hutchins, Ball, and Jellison indicated they would be in favor of looking towards consolidation. This would mean that the town would not initiate a search for a new police chief.

Motion by Ball to have the Manager meet with officials in Mount Desert and Bar Harbor to discuss the steps to consolidation and to pursue consolidation of the Police and Dispatch. Second by Jellison. Passed 3-2-0 with Willey and Terry opposed.

Motion by Hutchins to give Chief Miller a \$300 stipend per week and Officer Burke a \$125 stipend per week. Second by Willey. Passed 5-0-0.

- c. Public Restrooms- Discussion was had on whether or not to close the public restrooms due to the cleaning requirements of COVID-19.  
Motion by Hutchins to keep one bathroom open for the winter and cleaned by custodian.  
Second by Willey. Passed 5-0-0.

VII. Other Business: Ball wrote a letter of condolence for Chief Brown's family as well as letters of appreciation to the Marijuana Committee.

## VIII. Accept

Motion by Hutchins to accept:  
General Fund Warrants: FY 21 #40

Payroll Warrants: FY 21: #1022, #1029, #34, #36, and #39

School Warrants: FY 21 #35, #37, and #38

Second by Willey. Passed 5-0-0

Motion by Hutchins to go into Executive Session at 7:35pm to discuss pricing on the Town Garage and Chris's Pond. Second by Willey. Passed 5-0-0.

Motion by Hutchins to exit Executive Session at 8:02pm. Second by Willey. Passed 5-0-0.

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Terry to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. Second by Hutchins. Passed 5-0-0

JD