

Dexter Municipal Newsletter - Fall 2006

Town of Dexter 23 Main Street Dexter, Maine 04930-1374~ (207) 924-7351

E-Mail: manager@dextermaine.org ~ Web Site: www.dextermaine.org

Toys For Tots

Anyone wishing to donate money or toys for this year's Toys for Tots program may do so by contacting Linda Clukey, our Human Services Director, at 924-7351. Applications to take advantage of this program will be available in the Town Office by November 13th, and must be returned by December 15th.

Wayside Theatre Project

We have been successful in getting an \$11,000 grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development CDBG Program for restoration and equipment at the Wayside Theatre. The funds will be used to put down a wood floor in the dining area and install a propane heater. The purchase of a stage curtain will allow the stage crew to make set changes during intermissions without being in full view of the audience.

Police Department

The building is now dry since Greg Webber Construction added a second story and new roof. Chief Roy now awaits another funding year to finish the second floor and space for the storage of records.

Morrison Building

Again, thanks to Greg Webber Construction we have another dry building and our beloved clock "Nancy" has a secure roof and stable base.

Dexter Shoe Equipment

We were able to obtain office equipment (including many filing cabinets and desks) at no cost to the Town due to the generosity of H H Brown Distribution Center, here in Dexter. Many thanks to Jason Reed for coordinating this generous contribution!!

Certificate of Recognition

The Town Council recognized two individuals this fall for their contributions to our community beautification (in the early morning hours this summer). Muriel Theriault who lives on the North Dexter Road walks to Church Street and back home every day in the summer and picks up trash along the route. Muriel says some days she picks up as many as three bags! Rick Whitney begins his summer days with a big black trash bag and picks up trash in the municipal parking lot and Main Street before going to work as Curator at the Grist Mill Museum. The Council honored Rick and Muriel at their September meeting. Now that summer has ended, Rick has returned to his teaching position at the High School and Muriel and her husband Willy have returned to their winter destination in Florida! Our heartfelt thanks to you!!

Code Enforcement/Assessing

Town Assessor, David Pearson has taken on the position of part time Code Enforcement Officer. The Code Office has a new part time employee to assist David in this work. For land use (building) questions, Residents should contact the Office between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.. For assessing (value) questions, Residents should contact the Office between 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

E-911 Addressing Committee

The Committee has established a schedule for renaming the Fire Lanes around our bodies of water and will present the names to the Town Council in November. A public hearing and a decision on the final names is expected in December. Further, questions and/or concerns can be directed to the Town Manager.

Question 1 – Taxpayer Bill of Rights (aka TABOR)

Residents will be asked to vote for the TAX PAYER BILL OF RIGHTS in November. The Dexter Town Council has passed a Resolution in opposition to TABOR. The passage of this question will have a severe impact on community services and schools. This is a very complicated question. The formula to comply with the law is also very complicated. Citizens should be suspect of any law that is 3,300 words long and takes an attorney to interpret. Those who favor TABOR admit it has flaws but believe it can be "fixed" later.

The unfortunate part of that position is that local control and the services of many communities will be lost while the Legislature figures out a "fix". It is impossible to know exactly how each community will fare if Question 1 passes since each Town's Legislative Body (Council or Town Meeting) will make the final decision on where to reduce. The simple fact to be considered when

each Dexter resident makes his/her own decision on Question 1 is which services should be cut. There WILL be cuts (the amount depends on assessed value, population, inflation and public vote). Which services would you be willing to cut? If TABOR had been in effect when the 2006/07 Budget was passed in July, we would have had to cut an additional \$110,000. Since Dexter has carved the budget well in the last three years, the only place left to cut is people; which translates to services. If Questions 1 passes a new Revenues will also go before the vote of the people and that too could translate into lost services. Here is an example of that: If the Recreation Department has a program which must be self-supporting and Andy Conway needs to charge a fee of \$10.00 to cover the costs of the program the following steps must occur: 1) Town Council - 2/3 vote, 2) Town must go to referendum vote (estimated cost of \$3,000 for Dexter). A letter must go to every registered voter 45 days before the vote. The letter must contain 500 word explanation in support and a 500-word explanation in opposition. The letter must include an analysis of expenses and revenues 4 years out. There are several other details in the law but I think these examples clearly show how labor intensive a referendum will be. Obviously, it would not be possible (or feasible) for the Recreation program to proceed, in this example. Hence a lost service.

An important fact for all to consider is: **This is a Citizen's Initiative not a Constitutional Amendment.** The Legislature can choose to ignore a Citizen's Initiative but the Town's can not. If people expect to target State government, that may not (and most likely will not) be the result. All sides agree that the people expect some tax reform but to take away local control and cost our school and community services should not be the way to do that. **PLEASE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7, 2006.**

Municipal Services Directory Dial 9-1-1 for Emergency Service

Town Office	924-7351
<i>Town Manager: Judith A. Doore</i>	
<i>Human Services: Linda Clukey</i>	
<i>Tax Collector: Marilyn Curtis</i>	
<i>Town Clerk: Shelley Watson</i>	
Assessing:	924-3241
<i>David Pearson, Assessor</i>	
Code Enforcement:	
<i>David Pearson, CEO</i>	
Recreation Department	924-3438
<i>Director: Andy Conway</i>	
Police Department <u>Non-Emergency</u>	924-7622
<i>Police Chief: Arthur Roy</i>	
Fire Department <u>Non-Emergency</u>	924-7301
<i>Fire Chief: Melvin Wyman</i>	
Abbott Memorial Library	924-7292
<i>Librarian: Elizabeth Breault</i>	
ACO: Kathy Ricker	924-7513
Public Works Department	924-6257
<i>Director: Mike Delaware</i>	
OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION:	
Mayo Ambulance <u>Non-Emergency</u>	924-6212
Water District	924-7367
<i>Director: Randy Webber</i>	
Superintendent of Schools	924-5262
<i>Superintendent: Kevin Jordan</i>	
Transfer Station	924-3650
<i>Manager: Trampas King</i>	
Municipal Golf Course	924-6477
<i>Manager: Jim Costedio</i>	

November 7th Election

REMEMBER TO VOTE: Tuesday, November 7, 2006 at the VFW Hall on Cedar Street. The polls will be open from 9:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. Absentee ballots are now available at the

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town office. To request a ballot a voter may call the office to have a ballot mailed, fill out an application to hand carry the ballot, or vote in person at the town office between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Monday - Friday. The Registrar of Voters will be accepting registrations Monday - Friday from 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. All residents of Dexter, 18 years of age or older, may register to vote. Voters will be asked to choose by ballot, the following:

(2) Councilors for three year term

LEIGHTON, Sherman G.

MUNDAY, Ella L.

TAYLOR, Juanita E.

Three (3) SAD #46 Directors for three year term

---BILODEAU, Richard N., Jr.

---MCINNIS, Richard A.

---RUDMIN, Gerrard W.

One (1) Dexter Utility District Trustee for three year term

---MEALEY, Peter M.

One (1) HAD #4 Hospital Board Trustee for three year term

---TEMPESTA, Albert C.

Attention Dog Owners

Dog licenses for 2007 are now available in the Town Office.

Current proof of rabies immunization and certificate of neutering or spaying (if applicable) is required. Licenses are \$10.00 per dog unless the animal is spayed or neutered, in which case the fee is \$6.00. A \$15.00 late fee will be charged on all licenses issued after January 31, 2007.

Dexter Development Corporation

The Dexter Regional Development Corporation was created with the primary objectives of promoting and assisting in furthering economic development in the area as well as providing oversight for a variety of unique and diversified economic and community development projects. The Corporation membership meets monthly. All meetings are open to the public and are held the first Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Abbott Museum on Church Street. Persons interested in being a part of this effort should contact Judy Craig (924-3067) or David Pearson (924-3241).

Want to Serve on a Town Board or Committee?

Municipal Boards and Committees perform a vital role in the conduct of Town government in Maine. We rely heavily on these groups to develop plans and programs for the community. We currently have positions available on a number of boards and committees:

Board of Appeals (2)	Planning Board (3)
Human Resources (1)	Recreation (1)
Airport Advisory (3)	Personnel Advisory (1)
Library Trustees (3)	Golf Course (3)
Wakefield Scholarship (1)	

Applications to request an appointment to a board or committee can be obtained at the Town Office.

Winter Road Rules

Our goal for winter road maintenance is to provide the safest road conditions possible under prevailing conditions, and we attempt to have the roads and streets cleared to accommodate peak traffic periods. During the winter months, and especially during snowstorms, there is a **parking ban on Town streets and roads between the hours of 1 AM and 6 AM.** Persons who violate the ban will be subject to a fine as well as having their vehicle towed. Residents are also reminded that when plowing or shoveling drives or walkways it's illegal to deposit snow and slush on any public way. This includes roads, intersections,

Winter Road Rules (Continued)

parking lots, and side-walks. The accidental destruction of mailboxes often becomes a very sensitive subject as the winter season progresses. Mailboxes installed in the right-of-way are placed there at the owner's risk, and the Town is not obliged to repair damaged posts or boxes. However, if your post is knocked

down by a plow you should report the incident to the Town Office. We have temporary posts that can be used to get you through the winter and insure your mail service is uninterrupted. You can help reduce the possibility of having a mailbox damaged by clearing away snow banks around the box and post so it's fully visible to our plow truck drivers.

2006 Annual Town Report

We're in the final phase of our 2006 financial audit and preparing for the 2006 Town Report. We expect them to be printed and ready for distribution in January, 2007. Our goal is to move that date, in the future, up to October or November. We expect to do that when we upgrade our technology from our current DOS system to WINDOWS.

Reminder from the Tax Collector

The Municipal property tax rate for the period of July 2006 – June, 2007 has been set at 21.40 mils. Out of each tax dollar earmarked in the FY 2007 budget, we will spend 50 cents to operate the town, 44 cents to the school district and 6 cents to the county. The 2006-07 budget had a net increase of 2.3% over the 2005-06 budget. Property owners are reminded that 2006-07 property taxes are due October 31, 2006.

Interest will be applied at a rate of 11.00% until paid.

Unpaid

taxes are of June 30, 2006 will be reported in the annual town report. Also, residents should be aware that they may qualify for the State sponsored property tax relief program.

Qualification for the program is based on income. If you are single and have no dependents, the 2005 income limit is \$77,000. If you are married or have dependents, your 2005 income limit is \$102,000. The deadline for filing is May 31, 2007. Forms are available at the town office or by logging on to maine.gov/revenue.

Town Hall Project

This Restoration Project has been made possible by a grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development CDBG Program. The \$165,000, along with Town Reserve Funds of \$41,500, will allow the front entrance to be totally renovated, an elevator installed and the air exchange in the upper portion of the building to be improved. Recreation Director, Andy Conway currently serves as Chairman of the Town Hall Project Committee. Other members of the Committee are: Cynthia Robinson, Donna Gravely, Robert Deleon, Peter Haskell, Steve Pratt, Michelle Webb, Erik Smith and Steve Wintle. The Contractor, E.W.Littlefield & Sons, Inc, began construction on October 16th. The expected time of completion is December. Andy expects the building will be open April through November 2007, for activities but the winter months will be difficult since the renovation funds are not enough to cover the cost to upgrade the heating system. Andy reports that a new Senior Citizen Center will be up and running by April or May. The center will give seniors a place to go and participate in group activities such as cards, exercise class, dinners, meeting or just plain socializing. Other activities planned are roller skating, movie nights and possibly dances. It is also possible that we will rent the facility out for birthday parties and other family events. Some Citizens have come forward to offer to do fund raising to upgrade the heating system. If you have any ideas or would like to help, you can contact Andy at 924-3438. On behalf of the Committee of Dexter, Andy would like to thank the Town Hall Committee for all their hard work as well as the Town Council for allowing this project to become a reality.

Hunting Reminder

Hunting as well as the discharge of firearms on Town property is prohibited by ordinance. This includes the airport and all other Town recreation areas.