

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
January 11, 2024**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Elijah Ames, Marcia Delaware, Andrew Bermudez, Adam Briggs, and Danny Hutchins

**EXCUSED ABSCENSE:** Heidi Kinney and Levi Ladd

**I. PUBLIC HEARING**

*1. Ordinance C 2024-1 Change to Town Code Sec. 9.8-11 Medical Insurance Coverage*

**Alisha Ames** addressed the Council with a lot of questions such as if the Council had comparable data with other Towns and if we are comparable with them. She wanted to see the data. **Ms. Ames** also stated that it was a conflict of interest since the Town Manager would also be able to take advantage of the family insurance. **Ms. Delaware** informed her that she should have come to the Town Office ahead of time to ask for this information, as that is the reason it is posted in the newspaper. **Andrew Bermudez** stated that they had done a lot of research before hand and had talked about it as far back as the budget meetings last year. **Ms. Ames** implied that **Elijah Ames** didn't have all the information. **Mr. Bermudez** stated that the Councilors can go into the Office and talk to **Trampas King** at any time about anything on the agenda or otherwise. There was continued discussion.

**II. MINUTES**

*1. Approve/Amend Council Minutes of December 14, 2023*

Motion to approve: **Andrew Bermudez**

Second: **Adam Briggs**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

**III. NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS, & ELECTIONS**

*1. Order A2024-01 Appointment to the Utility District*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the appointment of Albert Kimball Jr. to the Dexter Utility District Board for a term to expire December 31, 2024.

Filed January 11, 2024  
**ADAM BRIGGS**

Second: **Andrew Bermudez**

**Marcia Delaware** stated that the term date needed to be changed to December 31, 2024

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*1. Manager's Report*

**Trampas King** thanked the road crew and the first responders as they have been busy. **Mr. King** stated there hasn't been much going on. The weather hasn't cooperated to put down ice at the rink and there hasn't been enough snow for snowmobilers. **Mr. King** reported that the fishing derby hosted by Dexter Fish & Game had been changed to February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and the Work Camp will be returning to Dexter this year. The applications are due by March 1<sup>st</sup> and the workers will be here from June 24<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>. The website has been updated to include the new emails for the Councilors. **Mr. King** concluded that there was another storm coming and told people to stay home if possible.

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
January 11, 2024**

*2. Departmental Reports*

NO COMMENTS

*3. Ordinance C2024-01 Change to Town Code Sec. 9.8-11 Medical Insurance*

**BE IT ORDAINED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby amends Chapter 9.8 Personnel as follows:

**Sec. 9.8-11 Medical Insurance Coverage**

An employee who began employment with the town after February 12, 1998, and is a Category A or B employee, will be provided single person health/medical insurance coverage, ninety (90) percent of which is paid for by the town. Employees will be responsible for a ten (10) percent contribution toward the monthly premiums. Contributions will be calculated based on the employee's entitlement and made through payroll deduction. Additional qualifying persons (spouse and/or family members) may be covered under the Town's program, ~~but the employee must assume responsibility for payment of the arrangement.~~ *The employee will be responsible for a thirty (30) percent contribution toward the monthly premium with seventy (70) percent being paid for by the Town.* The town will pay ninety (90) percent of the monthly premiums for the retiree; however the retiree is responsible for payment of additional monthly premiums.

Filed January 11, 2024

**ELIJAH AMES**

**Second: Adam Briggs**

**Trampas King** stated that there was a lot of work put into research on our current insurance plans and he did make comparisons with other Towns and money was put aside in the budget to cover it for this year. **Andrew Bermudez** stated that the Council had made similar comparisons regarding wages and the Police Department and had included about forty Towns. **Adam Briggs** stated that this wasn't a quick decision as they had talked about it a lot, especially during the budget.

Vote: 4-1 (Ames) in favor, motion passes

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

*1. Order A2024-02 Sign Contract with Somerset Humane Society*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes Trampas King to sign a one-year contract with Somerset Humane Society with the cost being \$9507.50.

Filed January 11, 2024

**ANDREW BERMUDEZ**

**Second: Elijah Ames**

**Trampas King** stated that we take all of our strays there since Dover stopped taking them. It was a struggle to find a shelter that would take them. In the beginning the price wasn't too bad but it has increased.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*2. Order A2024-03 Authorize Purchase of Truck for Highway Department*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts the purchase price of \$27,500.00 from Abbott Equipment Sales, Inc. for a 2009 Mack GU712 Dump Truck for the Highway Department.

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
January 11, 2024**

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**DANNY HUTCHINS**

Second: **Adam Briggs**

**Trampas King** stated that we have the small single axle trucks so we can plow and not kill lawns. We have three now with the youngest being a 2004. To buy new they are around \$160,000. This one has a plow, four season body, and can haul sand as well. We will redo the frame and paint it. **Mr. King** stated that we will sell one of the other trucks and should get around \$10,000.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*3. Order A2024-4 Sign Contract with Dirigo Engineering*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes Trampas King to sign an agreement with Dirigo Engineering for engineering services for the culvert replacement project on the Carr Road.

Filed January 11, 2024  
**ANDREW BERMUDEZ**

Second: **Elijah Ames**

**Trampas King** explained that the Carr road needed a new culvert and we hope to be able to replace it when we redo the road. There is a grant that needs to be applied for and Dirigo will do all the applications for us.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*4. Order A2024-05 Accept Extension of Bond Anticipation Note*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the amendment to the \$1,300,000 Bond Anticipation note dated July 1, 2021, and awarded to Androscoggin Bank, Lewiston, Maine, by further extending the term of the Note to June 30, 2024; and to authorize the Treasurer and Chair of the Town Council to execute said Third Allonge and all other documents necessary to complete said amendment. All other terms and conditions as stated in said Bond Anticipation Note will remain the same.

Filed January 11, 2024  
**ADAM BRIGGS**

Second: **Andrew Bermudez**

**Trampas King** explained that we took a loan out and had to go through a bank note as we were behind on some audits but we are getting caught up. **Adam Briggs** asked what year they are doing now. **Mr. King** stated they were doing 2021. We got a new auditor and the first year was the key. Once they figured out how we do things the rest of them were done quicker.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*5. Discussion on Ordinance Change – Article VII. Management of Town-Owned property*

**Marcia Delaware** stated that the State has changed the law on the handling of tax acquired properties. She had an example Ordinance and stated that we need to combine the new one with our current one. She noted that the new changes will make a lot more work for the Tax Collector.

**Trampas King** explained the current process and stated that we now have to give the

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
January 11, 2024**

homeowner any additional monies that we make from the sale of their property, and we also have to give them the option to have it listed with a realtor. It also extends the whole process by several months. We are allowed to take out our expenses from maintaining the property and for all the time put into the process. The question was asked what the frequency is of acquiring properties. **Mr. King** stated that in the five years he has been here the most was ten but after they were given the extra thirty days, it was down to four. **Andrew Bermudez** stated there has only been one recently when a family was living in the house, but they ended up paying. The Council was going to look at the new laws and come up with a proposed Ordinance change.

**VI. PUBLIC FORUM**

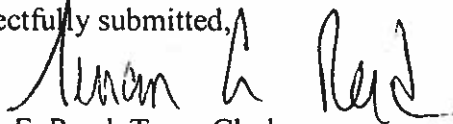
**Alisha Ames** mentioned again about wanting to have a liaison between the School Board and the Council. **Marcia Delaware** stated that currently all the department heads give a monthly report to the Town Clerk to put in the packets and she is more than welcome to submit one in regards to the School Board. She also stated that some of the Councilors have started attending the meetings and that they have asked **Kevin Jordan** if he can provide the minutes to have available for the Council meeting. **Ms. Ames** also brought up the point that the recreation committee seemed to be in need of volunteers and wondered if we would be able to open it up to people from the other Towns that attend Dexter Schools. **Ms. Delaware** said that they can, and they would just need to see the Town Clerk to fill out an application.

**Andrew Bermudez** made a motion to adjourn at 7:12

Second: **Elijah Ames**

Vote: unanimous in favor, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,



Susan E. Reed, Town Clerk