

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
November 10, 2022**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Andrew Bermudez, Charles Ellms, Adam Briggs, Peter Haskell, Levi Ladd, David Palmer, and Heidi Kinney

**I. PUBLIC HEARING**

NONE

**II. MINUTES**

*1. Approve/Amend Council Minutes of October 13, 2022*

Motion to approve: **David Palmer**

Second: **Charles Ellms**

Vote: 6-1 (Bermudez abstains), motion passes

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

*1. Order A2022-76 Election Results from November 8, 2022*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts the results of the State of Maine General and Referendum Election and Local Municipal Election of November 6, 2022 election as follows:

**STATE OF MAINE ELECTION RESULTS**

**GOVERNOR**

Hunkler, Sam	30
LePage, Paul R.	883
Mills, Janet	597
Blanks	7

**STATE SENATOR**

Guerin, Stacey K.	984
Thurlow, Andrea L.	485
Blanks	48

**REP TO CONGRESS**

Bond, Tiffany	129
Golden, Jared	585
Poliquin, Bruce	774
Blanks	29

**REP TO LEGISLATURE**

Foster, Steven	1250
Blanks	267

**JUDGE OF PROBATE**

Brandmeir, Zachary William	835
Seaney, Beth L.	507
Blanks	267

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
November 10, 2022**

**COUNTY TREASURER**

Boucher, Kimberly A.G.	531
Mower, Glen E.	907
Blanks	79

**REGISTER OF DEEDS**

Bulay, Susan	1249
Blanks	268

**SHERIFF**

Morton, Troy	1257
Blanks	260

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Almy, R. Christopher	1088
Blanks	429

**TOWN OF DEXTER LOCAL ELECTION**

**TOWN COUNCIL -3 YEAR**

Bermudez, Andrew	930*
Delaware, Marcia	923*
Hanson, Jonathan	799
Kinney, Heidi	950*
Blanks	925

**DEXTER UTILITY DISTRICT TRUSTEE - THREE YEAR**

Crowell, Jeffery	1147*
Salley, Roger	1078*
Blanks	793

**SAD #46 DIRECTOR - THREE YEAR**

Cyr, Leilani	1113*
Sawtelle, Brian	1184*
Blanks	721

**\*ELECTED**

Filed November 10, 2022  
**CHARLES ELLMS**

Second: **David Palmer**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
November 10, 2022**

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*1. Manager's Report*

With Veteran's Day approaching, **Trampas King** thanked all the soldiers current and past for their service. He went on to thank **Susan & Sarah** for a great election, before during and after. **Mr. King** stated that the workers on election day were amazing as well. He thanked the Public Works department for all their hard work getting the roads ready for paving and prepping for winter and thanked the cemetery crew for all the extra things they have done. He thanked **Marilyn Curtis** for all her work with the auditors. **Mr. King** informed everyone that the VFW will have a free Thanksgiving dinner from 11-2, the Christmas party for the kids will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the Christmas Parade will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lastly, **Mr. King** thanked **David Palmer** for his service to the Town and presented him with a clock.

*2. Departmental Reports*

The Council commented that the ACO had been very busy last month, and they were appreciative of his detailed report.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

*1. Order A2022-77 Change of Administrator and Authorized User on the Christmas for Kids Account*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the Finance Director to change the administrator and authorized user of the Christmas for Kids account at Bangor Savings Bank from Jean Jacobs to Juli Kimball.

Filed November 10, 2022  
**HEIDI KINNEY**

Second: **David Palmer**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*2. Order A2022-78 Authorize Sale of 2008 Chevrolet Silverado*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the sale of the 2008 Chevrolet Silverado to Loney Parrilla in the amount of \$200.00

Filed November 10, 2022  
**LEVI LADD**

Second: **Adam Briggs**

**Trampas King** stated that this was the vehicle that was put out to bid and didn't get any.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*3. Order A2022-79 Authorize Finance Officer to Open New Account*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the Finance Director to open a new account at Skowhegan Savings Bank for participation with Solar on Earth. The account will be called Town of Dexter Greener Energy Through Solar Power, and it enables the process of payments and credits.

Filed November 10, 2022  
**PETER HASKELL**

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
November 10, 2022**

Second: **Adam Briggs**

**Trampas King** explained that by signing up with Solar on Earth the Town will save %15 on the electricity part of the bills. It would be between \$1,500 to \$2,000 savings per year. The savings is deposited directly into an account so that is the purpose of the order. **Mr. King** explained that there is no contract with the company, but it could take up to six months to get out if we want. The company would sell it to another consumer as they only have so many slots available. **Heidi Kinney** stated that we should have it in writing. **Peter Haskell** asked if CMP will still be the service provider and **Mr. King** stated there will be no changes with anything, we will just be getting the refund.

Vote: 6-1 (Kinney), motion passes

*4. Order A2022-80 Authorize the Town Manager to Sign MOU*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc.

Filed November 10, 2022

**DAVID PALMER**

Second: **Heidi Kinney**

**Trampas King** informed the Council that the MOU is an “in good faith” gesture and we have to sign it so we can go forward with the grant. **Mr. King** stated that originally in March Premium Broadband was asking for \$369,000 and he backed away from that because it was too much money. He stated that himself and **Andrew Bermudez** had talked with surrounding Towns and have formed a coalition. There are 15 Towns total, and the hopes is the more Towns involved, the bigger the grant. There were three providers involved; Spectrum, Consolidated, and Premium. Spectrum was taken out of the equation first because they don’t have the capabilities yet and it doesn’t look like they are going to change them. They are getting better with the coax but won’t change it. The max that you can get is like a 300 down but the up is only like 20. The farther away you get the worse it is. The other companies are putting the fiber right to the homes. Because Premium is up in the north part of the State and Consolidated is down here, we asked them if they would work together even as competitors. They agreed so it will help us on the grant because they want Towns and companies to work together. Consolidated ended up taking our area and Premium took Piscataquis and those areas up there. The total cost of all the Towns that Consolidated is doing in our area is 20 – 22 million dollars. The grant will be for around 10 million and the provider has to put in the same. Our share will be around \$150,000. **Mr. King** stated that in his head his plan was to use the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of our ARPA money. The reason why was first when the kids had the issues trying to do zoom for school and couldn’t get internet at their house and second for the infrastructure of the Town. People might buy a piece of property because broadband is right there. Those are questions that he gets when people call. Lastly, a lot of Dr.’s visits are done via zoom and that is a big thing. We have to sign this understanding that we will be in if they get the grant and the more money that we put in the better off we are because it shows that we are committed. Our amount was up to \$196k but he got it down to the 150k, but he doesn’t dare to go any lower because he is afraid that they will pull us out of the grant opportunity. They have \$70 million worth of grants going out this fall and this is our opportunity to get in that mix. **Adam Briggs** stated, to summarize, everyone that has an electric pole outside of their house will have access to high-speed internet. **Mr. King** stated that if we get the grant, they have to have it in by June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2024. They couldn’t get it in their budget for

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
November 10, 2022**

next year so it will be the first half of 2024. **Levi Ladd** asked if the MOU was applicable to Dexter only or is it for all the Towns in the coalition. **Mr. King** stated that all Towns have to sign it, if they don't, they won't be considered for the grant. **Mr. Ladd** also asked about exhibit A which wasn't included with the MOU and asked about the map showing the unserved and underserved. **Mr. King** stated that he had both and would give him a copy. He stated that it doesn't mean that Consolidated will do all of Dexter as there might be areas that Premium is doing that run into Dexter and they will continue in. **Mr. Ladd** asked about paragraph 5 which states; Once the Parties secure funding for a Broadband expansion project, Consolidated agrees it shall build the broadband infrastructure by the end of 2024 to all unserved and underserved residents in the Project area. He stated that it seems to be a pretty loose and ambiguous term with a very aggressive infrastructure upgrade. Are they going to define if that includes running poles and putting in cables, does it include putting ties in at the end of roads that don't have coverage that already have service past their roads? **Mr. King** stated that they are going to run where poles are and the grant states that they have to have it done by the end of June of 2024. **Mr. Ladd** stated there are a lot of components to Broadband infrastructure and was looking for clarification. **Mr. King** stated the MOU is just to show the State that we are all in and want to do it. **Mr. Ladd** asked if the end goal was to have everyone online by the end of the installation or would it be further out. **Mr. King** stated that what was told to him was that they run by your house and if you sign up for it then, within thirty days you will have it in your house. They also won't charge you to hook to your house. Premium will charge the customer \$100 to hook in. **David Palmer** asked about the people that have driveways that are a mile long. **Mr. King** stated that they will bring it all the way down to the house. There will be no charge for equipment if you keep it in the 50 over 50 or 100 over 100. When you get to the 2 gigs which is expensive then you would pay for the equipment. **Peter Haskell** asked if he has a list of what the other Towns are paying. **Mr. King** stated that he does have one. We are the biggest area that doesn't have anything, so we have to give more money. Premium has already been running through Dover so theirs is only about \$105K. **Mr. Ladd** asked about the free hook ups within 30 days. He stated that there will be people that won't even know this is going on until they see a truck go by and wondered what the company is going to do for outreach to let people know they are there. Will they send out a mailing or what. **Mr. King** stated that if we get the grant, they like to have them publicized so it will be in the papers etc. **Mr. Bermudez** stated that the company is going to want to get their money back so they will advertise to let people know. These companies would have eventually run these lines giving us broadband, but the timeframe is unknown. With the grant we can have it now and we need it now. It is a lot of money for us but in his mind, it is a worth while investment. **Mr. King** stated that some of the other Towns that did this before the grant money came out have paid \$400 - \$500 thousand and some up to \$1 million as they didn't have this opportunity. If we don't take advantage of the grant and then change our mind in two years, we will be paying a lot more than this.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*5. Order A2022-81 Closure of Town Office for Christmas Break*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the closure of all municipal departments on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Christmas Eve holiday. All employees will be compensated in accordance with the Personnel Policy. This is a small gesture for the employee's hard work and dedication.

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
November 10, 2022**

Filed November 10, 2022  
**ADAM BRIGGS**

Second: **Heidi Kinney**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

**Peter Haskell** made a motion to add Order A2022-82 to the agenda

Second: **Heidi Kinney**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*6. Order A2022-82 Wassookeag Snowmobile Club Grant In-Aid*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the Dexter Recreation Department to make application for financial assistance under the provisions of Bureau of Parks and Lands Snowmobile Trail Fund (12 MRSA 220.8 Sec. 1893-3) for the maintenance and grooming of snowmobile trails.

Filed November 10, 2022  
**CHARLES ELLMS**

Second: **David Palmer**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*7. Discussion on Fees for Foreclosure Affidavit.*

**Trampas King** explained that banks will call us up when they get a foreclosure and ask us to go in to make sure it is abandoned. **Susan Page** stated that we don't actually go in the house. **Mr. King** stated that Al, our CEO, went to check one recently and thinks that we should charge them to go. **Mr. Tempesta** stated that other Towns where he works charge a fee. **Mr. King** stated that we don't have anything in our ordinances that charges for this but we are going out of our way, and we should charge them something. **David Palmer** stated that we are providing a service for the bank. **Mr. King** said that it would include time and mileage and if we just had a flat rate of say \$50 just to go check them. **Mr. Palmer** asked how much other Towns charge. **Mr. King** stated that one Town charges \$50 and another charges \$100. **Mr. Palmer** stated that if we are sending our CEO out to do them a favor then they should be billed for it. **Mr. King** stated that he doesn't know what our responsibility is if we say it is empty and then there is a squatter there. He stated it isn't our issue, but do we take any liability on it. **Mr. Palmer** stated that that seems very easy to avoid. He goes and takes pictures nobody is there. If a squatter comes afterwards, well look at the pictures there wasn't anybody there. **Susan Page** stated that someone from the mortgage company goes there with the CEO, he isn't going there by himself. They already know the place is empty because they foreclosed on it. They have their own form they are going by; they just need a municipal official to sign off that they were there with the individual. It isn't just us going and saying nobody is living here, it is legit us going with the individual, looking, and signing a form. **Adam Briggs** stated there is no expertise involved, it is just verification that the municipality was involved. **Marcia Delaware** asked if the money goes to the Town. **Andrew Bermudez** stated that he was going to ask that next. **Ms. Page** stated that the money goes to the Town, but she thinks \$50 is a bit much. You can get a building permit for a garage for \$35. **David Palmer** stated that they are using our personnel to do it along with gas. He doesn't think that \$50 is enough, he thinks it should be \$100. **Mr. King** stated that with everything it costs around \$35- \$38 and hour plus mileage for the CEO. It might only take 5 minutes, but we should set a base rate and say this is what it is. We will have to change the ordinance and do a public hearing. **Mr. Briggs** asked if we just need a motion to get the ball rolling and then we will talk

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
November 10, 2022**

about the price in the discussion portion. **Susan Page** stated that they should set a price now so it can be presented at the next meeting and ready to go to Public Hearing. The Council agreed on \$50.

**Adam Briggs** made a motion to move forward

Second: **David Palmer**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes.

*8. Discussion on Interlocal Agreement with MMSWA*

**Trampas King** stated that the auditor had suggested that we do a new agreement with Mid Maine Solid Waste Association since we have made the final payment and we haven't done one since the initial agreement in 1987. **Mr. King** stated this is just a heads up as it will go to the MMSWA Board and then will have to come to the Town for approval.

*9. Approve/Sign Cemetery Deed for the following Tod & Tammy Tibbetts*

**Peter Haskell** made a motion to approve/sign

Second: **Heidi Kinney**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

**VI. PUBLIC FORUM**

NONE

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**


NONE

**Peter Haskell** made a motion to adjourn at 7:52pm

Second: **Chuck Ellms**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

  
Susan E. Page, Town Clerk

