

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
October 10, 2024**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Marcia Delaware, Elijah Ames, Adam Briggs, Heidi Kinney, Danny Hutchins, Levi Ladd

**EXCUSED ABSCENSE:** Andrew Bermudez

**I. PUBLIC HEARING**

*1. Ordinance C2024-05 General Assistance Guidelines*

No Comments

**II. MINUTES**

*1. Approve/Amend Council Minutes of September 12, 2024*

Motion to approve: **Elijah Ames**

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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

*1. Approve/Sign Election Warrant*

**Adam Briggs** made a motion to approve/sign

Second: **Heidi Kinney**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*1. Manager's Report*

**Trampas King** reported that Fidium Fiber, a division of Consolidated Communications, has been running new lines for broadband to be available to every home in Town. **Mr. King** stated that there will be a Halloween Carnival on October 28<sup>th</sup> that is being organized by the Police Department. Next month is the election and it is a very busy time as absentee requests have already started coming in. It will be very busy at the polls and **Mr. King** asked everyone to be patient.

*2. Departmental Reports*

**Mr. King** stated that the Library Trustees are holding a Meet the Candidates night and that will be a good opportunity for people to learn about them.

*3. Ordinance C2024-05 General Assistance Guidelines*

**BE IT ORDAINED** that the Dexter Town council hereby approves the State recommended general assistance guidelines as follows:

**2024-2025 GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE APPENDICES**  
(October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)

**APPENDIX A – OVERALL MAXIMUMS**  
**BASED ON PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD**

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
October 10, 2024**

**OLD AMOUNTS**

**NEW AMOUNTS**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
846	853	1,126	1,408	1,537	1,612		874	884	1,169	1,464	1,603	1,678

NOTE: For each additional person add \$75 per month

**APPENDIX B - FOOD MAXIMUMS**

# IN HOUSEHOLD	<u>OLD AMOUNTS</u>		<u>NEW AMOUNTS</u>	
	WEEK	MONTH	WEEK	MONTH
1	67.67	291.00	67.91	292.00
2	124.42	535.00	124.65	536.00
3	178.14	766.00	178.60	768.00
4	226.28	973.00	226.74	975.00
5	268.60	1155.00	269.30	1,158.00
6	322.33	1,386.00	323.26	1,390.00
7	356.28	1,532.00	357.21	1,536.00
8	407.21	1,751.0	408.37	1,756.00

**APPENDIX C - HOUSING MAXIMUMS**

# OF BEDROOMS	<u>OLD AMOUNTS</u>		<u>NEW AMOUNTS</u>	
	UNHEATED	HEATED	UNHEATED	HEATED

	<u>OLD AMOUNTS</u>		<u>NEW AMOUNTS</u>		<u>OLD AMOUNTS</u>		<u>NEW AMOUNTS</u>	
	WK	MO	WK	MO	WK	MO	WK	MO
0	163.00	702.00	193.00	831.00	173.00	742.00	199.00	587.00
1	163.00	702.00	194.00	836.00	173.00	742.00	201.00	865.00
2	206.00	884.00	257.00	1,105.00	221.00	949.00	266.00	1,146.00
3	259.00	1,114.00	322.00	1,383.00	278.00	1,197.00	334.00	1,437.00
4	273.00	1,175.00	351.00	1,507.00	297.00	1,278.00	365.00	1,571.00

**APPENDIX D - UTILITIES - ELECTRIC  
BASED ON PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD**

1. Electricity Maximums for Households *Without Electric Hot Water*

# IN HOUSEHOLD	<u>OLD AMOUNTS</u>		<u>NEW AMOUNTS</u>	
	WEEK	MONTH	WEEK	MONTH
1	19.95	85.50	19.95	85.50
2	22.52	96.50	22.52	96.50
3	24.97	107.00	24.97	107.00
4	27.53	118.00	27.53	118.00
5	29.88	128.50	29.88	128.50
6	32.55	139.50	32.55	139.50

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
October 10, 2024**

1. Electricity Maximums for Households *with Electric Hot Water*

# IN HOUSEHOLD	OLD AMOUNTS		NEW AMOUNTS	
	WEEK	MONTH	WEEK	MONTH
1	29.63	127.00	29.63	127.00
2	34.07	146.00	34.07	146.00
3	39.67	170.00	39.67	170.00
4	46.32	198.50	46.32	198.50
5	55.65	238.50	55.65	238.50
6	58.60	251.50	58.68	251.50

Filed October 10, 2024  
**ELIJAH AMES**

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

*1. Order A2024-59 Accept Bid for Tax Acquired Property*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council, in accordance with the Dexter Town Code, hereby authorizes the sale of certain tax acquired property being more specifically described as Map 12, Lot 22 at 85 High Street to **Jason Langlais** for the amount of \$16,600.00. Transfer Tax costs shall be the responsibility of the purchaser.

Filed October 10, 2024  
**HEIDI KINNEY**

Second: **Adam Briggs**

Vote: unanimous in favor, motion passes

*2. Order A2024-60 Accept Bid for Police Cruiser*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the sale of the 2017 Ford Explorer to **Shawn Mitchell** in the amount of \$4,650.00 with the funds to be put in the Police Department Equipment Reserve.

Filed October 10, 2024  
**MARCIA DELAWARE**

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*3. Proposed Ordinance – Maine Paid Family Medical Leave*

**BE IT ORDAINED** that pursuant to the Maine Paid Family Medical Leave program starting January 1, 2025, the Town of Dexter shall pay .5% of the required 1% of annual wages, with the employee being responsible for the other .5%.

**Trampas King** stated that the State of Maine has mandated this and that the employer can pay it or they can make the employee pay. The current rate is 1% of the total payroll which will currently be about \$16,000 for the Town. Half of it would be \$5 per \$1000 for the employee. This will be similar to unemployment where we will have to pay into it and we will have no say as to how it is used. The biggest concern is that it won't stay at 1% for long. There is another State that does it and theirs has gone up to 8%. **Marcia Delaware** asked the Councilors on their opinion as to whether the Town should pay the full amount or if the employee should pay for half or all of it. **Levi Ladd** asked how many

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
October 10, 2024**

employees it affects, and it is about 25 full time employees. **Dan Hutchins** asked if it would come directly out of the employees' checks. **Levi Ladd** stated that the Town should find a way to pay it for now and then figure it into next years budget. **Adam Briggs** and **Danny Hutchins** agreed with **Levi**. **Heidi Kinney** stated that she has no issues with the Town paying it now, but she is concerned about getting a lot higher in the future and wondered if we would be able to adjust it. **Elijah Ames** stated that he would have to look into it more before he made a decision. **Heidi Kinney** stated that she wasn't sure if it had been finalized yet. There was concern from the public in attendance that if the Town agrees now to cover it all and then it goes up a lot and they try to pull it back and make the employee pay for part of it that it won't look good on the Town. It was decided to discuss it more next month.

4. **Adam Briggs** made a motion to add Order A2024-61

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Order A2024-61 Closure of Office for Presidential Election

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the closure of the Municipal Office for the Presidential Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 in order to allow the clerks to work at the election polls.

Filed October 10, 2024

**DANNY HUTCHINS**

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: unanimous in favor, motion passes

4. *Discussion on Halloween Carnival*

**Trampas King** stated that **Monique Dudley**, the new police officer, wanted to host a Halloween carnival. It will be held on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> in the Municipal parking lot. She has put out a signup sheet for people to participate in the Trunk or Treat and to sign their children up for the costume contest.

**Levi Ladd** addressed the Council and gave them all copies of emergency ordinances that he wanted them to consider. The Ordinances addressed a possible issue with candidates in the upcoming election as there are no crystal-clear policies on nepotism with elected positions. His concern was that there is a potential to have four of fourteen available elected offices occupied by two pairs of relatives. There was much discussion between the public, Council, and **Mr. Ladd**. **Marcia Delaware** pointed out that the current eligibility requirements are part of the Town Charter. The Charter can't be changed by the Council as it has to be voted on by the residents of the Town. There was no action at this time on **Mr. Ladd's** proposal.

**VI. PUBLIC FORUM**

**Marcia Delaware** informed the Council and the public of an error that was made regarding the election for School Board positions. **Susan Reed**, Town Clerk, stated that she had made a clerical error when updating the Board and Committee list and had recorded a wrong expiration date on an appointed term. This had resulted in a 1 year term not being placed on the ballot. When the error was brought to her attention, it was too late to fix it for the upcoming election. **Marcia Delaware** stated that there were three options. Hold a special election, add it to the election in June, after the November election, post the open position, have those interested fill out the application and appoint someone at a future meeting. This would also give the candidates that didn't win the three-year seat a chance to fill the one-year opening. It was brought up that the MMA lawyer was contacted, and she stated that the third option was acceptable. The letter from her was read aloud.

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
October 10, 2024**

There was extensive discussion, with input from the public (most were in disagreement of appointing), and current School Board members.

**Levi Ladd** made a motion to advertise for the open position after the election and then appoint

Second: **Danny Hutchins**

Vote: 6-1(Ames)

**Theresa McManus** stated that there was a public hearing at the School about the Bond question on the ballot and she was upset because it was scheduled on the same night as the Council meeting. She wanted to make sure that doesn't happen in the future. **Levi Ladd** asked if we could have a liaison between the Council and **Mr. Jordan. Trampas King** stated that we could.

**Alisha Ames** addressed the Council and stated that her church, Power Source Ministries, is opening a daycare and they have received an \$80,000 matching grant to update the sprinkler system. She asked if the Town could help them with some of the economic development funds. She stated that they are currently licensed for twelve children but could expand up to forty-nine. **Levi Ladd** asked if the child care will be offered for free as it should be if they are asking for Town resources. The services are not offered for free.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

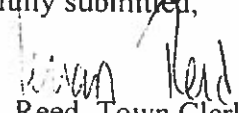
None

**Heidi Kinney** made a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm

Second: **Adam Briggs**

Vote: unanimous in favor, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

  
Susan E. Reed, Town Clerk

10

11

12

