

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF
December 9, 2021**

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

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Heidi Kinney

STAFF PRESENT: Marilyn Curtis

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

Town Manager **Trampas King** opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Motion: **Charles Ellms** nominated **Andrew Bermudez** for Chairman

Second: **David Palmer**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Motion: **Charles Ellms** nominated **Dave Palmer** for Vice-Chairman

Second: **Andrew Bermudez**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

I. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Ordinance C2021-10 Change in Personnel Policy Sec. 9.8-12 Retirement, resignation, and layoffs

No Comments

2. Ordinance C2021-11 Change in Personnel Policy Sec. 9.8-8. Paid Holidays

No Comments

II. MINUTES

1. Approve/Amend Council Minutes of November 10, 2021

Motion to Approve: **Peter Haskell**

Second: **Charles Ellms**

Vote: 4 in favor, 2 abstain (Ladd, Briggs), motion passes

III. NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS, & ELECTIONS

1. Order A2021-73 Appointment of Treasurer

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approve the appointment of Trampas King as Treasurer for the Town of Dexter for the year ending December 31, 2022.

Filed December 9, 2021

CHARLES ELLMS

Second: **David Palmer**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

2. Order A2020-74 Appointment of Board/Committee Members

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approve the appointment of the following Board/Committee members:

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Board/Committee	Openings	Applicant
Airport Committee	3 - 3 year	* Jay Payne
		* Keith Wiers
		*Keith Garrison
Board of Appeals	2 - 3 year	*Timothy Mountain
		*David Pearson
	1 - 1 year	Marcia Delaware
Cemetery Advisory	1 - 3 year	Roger Salley
Highway/Equipment	3 - 3 year	* Charles Ellms
		Roger Salley
	1 - 2 year	
	1 - 1 year	Jeremy Trowbridge
Human Resources/CDBG	2 - 3 year	*Jamie Murray
		Deborah Worthington
Library Trustee	2 - 3 year	*Barbara Greenberg
		Sherri Langlais
MMSWA Board	Indefinite	*Marcia Delaware
Planning Board	2 - 3 year	*Kevin Keene
		Jeremy Trowbridge
Recreation	2 - 3 year	*Beth Wintle
		Kasey Watson
Wakefield Scholarship	1 - 3 year	*Rebecca Mitchell

*currently serving

Filed December 9, 2021
ADAM BRIGGS

Second: **Peter Haskell**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Manager's Report

Trampas King reported that the high school football team won the State Championship game on Saturday. **Mr. King** thanked the Rec Committee for planning the Light Parade, there was a lot of participants and a great turnout. The Heart and Soul Committee is hosting the Scavenger hunt again this year and it will be held on Saturday. The Penobscot County Commissioners have set

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up meetings with different Towns to get ideas on how the Counties ARPA funds should be spent. Their first meeting is with Dexter and will be held on Tuesday at 6:00 at the Town Hall.

2. Departmental Reports

No Comments

3. Ordinance C2021-10 Change in Personnel Policy Sec. 9.8-12. Retirement, resignation, and layoffs.

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

Section 9.8-12. Retirement, resignation, and layoffs.

(a) Retirement

(2) Employees in Categories A, B, and C are qualified to participate in the Town's employee retirement program. This is a "participating" program in which the Town will match ~~individual employee contributions up to a maximum of 5.72 percent~~ the equivalent of the requirement for Mainepers based on the employee's contribution ~~of the employee's annual salary/wage~~. Several qualifying programs are available from which to select. Employees should consult with the finance officer to determine the type of program and contribution level desired.

Filed December 9, 2021

LEVI LADD

Second: **Charles Ellms**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

4 Ordinance C2021-11 Change in Personnel Policy Sec. 9.8-8. Paid Holidays

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

Section 9.8-8. Paid Holidays

A. Employees in Category A, B, and C are eligible for the following paid holidays:
New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Washington's Birthday, Patriot's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, ~~Columbus Day~~ *Indigenous People Day*, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, one-half day Christmas Eve, *and Juneteenth*.

Filed December 9, 2021

ANDREW BERMUDEZ

Second: **Peter Haskell**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Order A2021-75 Fireworks Display Contract

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the three-year contract with Central Maine Pyrotechnics for the July fireworks display for 2022, 2023, and 2024 *for \$5,000.00 per year.*

Filed December 9, 2021

DAVID PALMER

Second: **Adam Briggs**

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Trampas King stated that last year the cost was \$4750. **Peter Haskell** asked if in three years if the cost goes up will it be less of a display. **Mr. King** said that it wouldn't.
Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

2. Order A2021-76 Liquor License Renewal for Brewster Inn

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the Spirituous, Vinous, and Malt Liquor License for Mark Stephens doing business as The Brewster Inn, 37 Zions Hill Road.

Filed December 9, 2021
PETER HASKELL

Second: **David Palmer**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

3. Order A2021-77 Accept AIP Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby supports the submission of that certain Airport Rescue Grant Agreement with the United States of America, Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, identified as **AIP Grant No. 3-23-0016-018-2022** with a date of offer of November 23, 2021 (the "Grant Agreement"), and authorizes **Trampas King**, in his capacity as Town Manager, to execute the Grant Agreement on behalf of the Town of Dexter. The Grant Agreement is made in support of costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, combating the spread of pathogens at the airport, and debt service payments. The Grant Agreement is for an amount not to exceed \$32,000.00.

Filed December 9, 2021
ADAM BRIGGS

Second: **Charles Ellms**

Trampas King stated this is the 3rd grant that the Airport has received since the pandemic started. The first was 30k, the second was 13k, and now this one for 32k. **Andrew Bermudez** asked if we have to apply for them **Mr. King** explained that they "pop-up" and he is able to sign up for them. **Peter Haskell** asked if we could look up to see how much grant money the airport has gotten overall.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

4. Order A2021-78 Transfer Money from Town Council to Ordinance Reserve

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the Finance Officer to transfer \$3,319.95 from Town Council other Contractual Professional Services Account #E102-01-504-51 to Ordinance Codification Capital Reserve Account #E112-01-521-08.

Filed December 9, 2021
CHARLES ELLMS

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Mr. King explained that we had the code book updated but didn't use all the money so the remainder will be put in the reserve account.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

5. Order A2021-79 Accept Money from MDEA Asset Disbursement

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BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts funds in the amount of \$644.00 from MDEA Asset Disbursement and authorizes the Finance Officer to deposit funds into account #E130-03-521-20 Police Vehicle Reserve.

Filed December 9, 2021
PETER HASKELL

Second: **Charles Ellms**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

6. Order A2021-80 Authorization of Expenditure of BAN Funds

ORDER A2021-80

DECEMBER 9, 2021

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the Finance Director to make budget adjustments to the 2021-2022 budget. These adjustments represent partial expenditure of the BAN funds and are as follows:

Account Number	Account Name	Debit	Credit
R101-90-40523	Bond Anticipation Note	\$500,000	
G10-37300-00	Undesignated Fund		\$500,000
E105-03-507-60	Paving		\$80,000
E108-01-508-04	Debt - Paving Bond		\$300,000
E108-01-508-05	Debt - Interest \$		\$12,000
G10-37300-00	Undesignated Fund	\$392,000	
		\$892,000	\$892,000

Filed December 9, 2021
LEVI LADD

Second: **Peter Haskell**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

7. Order A2021-81 Approval of Beano/Bingo for VFW Post #4298

Peter Haskell made a motion to add Order A2021-81 to the agenda

Second: **Levi Ladd**

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the continuation of Beano/Bingo by signing the application for the Carter-Dulac Memorial VFW Post #4298, 20 Cedar Street for January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Filed December 9, 2021
DAVID PALMER

Second: **Charles Ellms**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

8. Discussion on Spending of AARPA Funds

Trampas King passed out a spreadsheet with ideas that the committee had come up with. The allotment for this year is \$195,706.08 of which \$32,000 has already been committed to expand

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broadband services on Zions hill which will benefit about 45 homes. **Mr. King** stated that the committee consisted of himself, **Heidi Kinney, Andrew Bermudez, Marilyn Curtis, and Susan Page** and explained that there were a set of guidelines to follow as to what the money could be spent on. His objective is to spend the money on things that we have a hard time raising tax money for or that people don't want to put tax money towards. Town Hall restorations were discussed along with who it would benefit. Lights at Ellms' field would be about \$10,000 as we already have some donations towards it. Paving of the Golf Course road was added since it is a recreational place we would be able to do it. The cost would be about \$25,000 as it is in really bad shape. Walking trails were suggested by a lot of people and we are in hopes that the Boy Scouts will help with that still. We would like them to be wide enough so that they can be used for cross country skiing and snowshoeing as well. We currently have no walking trails available to the residents. Playground/equipment was discussed by maybe putting rubber chips down instead of the wood chips but that would probably be expensive. New fencing at Crosby Park and netting around the dugouts and fencing in front of the dugouts. **Mr. King** stated that the school would put in towards this as they use the fields as well but will probably be around \$20,000. The bathhouse was added, it has been in bad shape for a while. Last year some painting was done. We could probably go another year or so. Water and Sewer on Route 7 to P & L was suggested but is too expensive of an undertaking. Somebody mentioned a community center but our Town Hall should fit that description as we don't need another building to take care of. Parking for ATV and snowmobiles was suggested but we probably don't need to put money into that as we have some opportunities. If we talk to H. H. Brown there is a parking lot that is right on the edge of the railroad bed and they will probably let us use it. Hazard pay for employees was just added as well as the Comprehensive Plan. Ours is from 2012 and they want them to be done every seven years with ten being the max. It is huge especially if you live by it. It is a good way to get grants because it shows that you are looking into the future and what you want to accomplish. These are the things that have been put in so far for discussion and no decisions have to be made tonight. **Peter Haskell** asked if it would be possible to use some of the money to possibly move the snowmobile club to that parking lot by the railroad bed. **Chuck Ellms** stated they have a lot on Lincoln Street that they could move it too. **Mr. Ellms** also stated that H.H. Brown actually has two parking lots and they would probably let us use one of them. **Mr. King** said that we could use money to help them move the club somewhere if they wanted to. **David Palmer** stated that since the money is pandemic related he would like to see a good chunk of the money go to recreational projects that will give the young people in Town something to do when they are out of school or have to do remote learning. The more opportunities we give them the less trouble they will get into. **Levi Ladd** stated that six items on the list were rec related which is good. He asked **Mr. King** for his synopsis on why he wants to use the Town Hall as a community center. **Mr. King** stated that he has a hard time with having another building to take care of. We also need a place that is on the ground floor for the elderly and such so if we redid the downstairs and opened it up more and put in new bathrooms it would be more attractive. **Mr. Bermudez** stated that the way the downstairs of the Town Hall is designed now it is more like three separate rooms. If it was gutted out and made into one big room it would be more attractive. **Peter Haskell** stated that the money belongs to all of the taxpayers so if we could include the young and the old it would be good. **Mr. Ladd** asked how big the lot is behind Lakeshore. **Mr. Ellms** stated that it goes all the way to the stone wall before the next house. He mentioned possibly putting a building with a couple of rooms in it that could be used by some older people to gather to do things. **Mr. King** stated that they do that now at the Town Hall.

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There are a couple of groups that meet there and do different things. Living Innovations uses it a couple of times a week as well so it would be good to update it. **Mr. Bermudez** stated that what we put money into it should be towards things that won't have ongoing costs that will increase taxes for people later on. **Mr. Bermudez** addressed the Council about the Heart of Maine Resource Center which is a nonprofit organization that he started last year and it is the one that sponsors all the food distributions that are held behind Bangor Savings. They have the building on 6 Main Street they are renovating that was donated to them by **Todd and Dawn Tritch**. The Center will be for the whole entire Town for any resource. They will be able to connect them with the appropriate people or help them right there. They will have fresh produce from the Community Garden as well as other food with no questions asked of the people in need. The Work Camp is also being sponsored by the Center and he is making an official request of \$15,000. That will be for the building as they are in the process of renovations and it will beautify downtown and will add another resource. It will be a one time investment that will carry through on it's own. **Levi Ladd** suggested that we add a line for increased signage around Town so people know what we have to offer. **Chuck Ellms** stated that he thinks the walking trails are a really good idea because so many people walk on Zions Hill and he is afraid someone is going to get hit. **Mr. King** stated that if we went from the tennis courts and went to Fairway Knolls up to the golf course we could make a one mile loop with no cross trails. **Mr. Palmer** questioned about the hazard pay for employees that said \$20,000 with a side note of \$500 for full time and officers. He asked who would be receiving the pay. **Mr. King** stated some other Towns have been using some of the funds to give to their employees. He stated that Piscataquis County gave all their Sheriffs a bonus from their ARPA money as kind of a hazardous pay and how they did it was from March of 2020 until August of 2021 they got \$200 for each month. His problem with that is that with the County doing that it has opened up the Towns to say they have to do it for their officers. Milo gave their officers the same bonus that Piscataquis did. He doesn't understand how the County did it without input from the Towns like Penobscot is doing. It is making Officers ask their employers what they are going to do for them. He can't justify just giving it to the Police Officers as his clerks were also seeing people doing the pandemic and the Officers went through a phase where they were instructed to not pull anybody over unless absolutely necessary so their job got easier during the pandemic. If we are going to do something for one we need to do it for all. **Mr. Palmer** stated that domestic violence calls were increased even though the other calls were down. **Mr. Bermudez** stated that with all this extra money coming in it should be put towards helping taxpayers not the majority of it spent on employees like Piscataquis County did. **Mr. Ladd** asked how spectrum fit in. **Mr. King** said it was broadband and he feels that the County money should be spent on that and not from the Towns money.

Mr. King stated that we are supposed to get another \$195,000 next year but we have told not to spend it yet because we may not get it.

9. Sign/Approve Cemetery Deed for Brittany Sherburne

Peter Haskell made a motion to sign/approve

Second: **Charles Ellms**

Vote unanimous in favor, motion passes

VI. PUBLIC FORUM

David Palmer suggested that the Town Council do something formal to recognize the football team for winning the State Championship other than just at the beginning of a meeting. Winning

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the Championship was a big deal but the ending of the game was something they will remember for the rest of their lives. **Andrew Bermudez** asked if we could invite them in to a meeting. **Mr. King** stated that we could do something possibly at the Town Hall.

Jonathan Hanson addressed the Council stating that we have an issue that is going to occur. Over the next year all of our bills are going to skyrocket and our electric bills are going to go out of control. He asked the Council what their thoughts are on that, where do they stand and how are they going to handle it because our bills now are 5 to 6 hundred thousand dollars and that will go up probably 50-60% maybe more and that it a shit ton of money. Where are we looking to get that from and how are we going to save that as people in Town don't have money for increased taxes. **David Palmer** stated that he knows **Mr. Hanson's** background is in solar and said that we have listened to several companies that have come in and the missing piece of the pie for him is showing us on a board in black and white what we will lay out for money and this is the money that we are going to save and what the bottom line is and that is what so far nobody has been able to show us that. **Mr. Hanson** stated that we have land by the sewer field and we can put up two farms. A company will come in and it will cost the Town zero dollars, none. We can get 30% credit back. Will that wipe out our bills, no but it will offset some of that cost and you put that second field in and again, no cost to us and as many credits as they can get and sell in Town, it is getting people to buy into it. You would save \$30 on a \$100 bill. As those rates go up the people in Town can all buy back into it. **Mr. Hanson** said he has all the information for it and the company to talk to. **Chuck Ellms** said that we had one company come and talk to us about the same location and that so called no cost to the Town ended up being somewhere between \$800,000 and a million dollars. There is no three phase power in that area so you have to run it. **Andrew Bermudez** asked if one of the issues was that the CMP grids were outdated? **Mr. Hanson** stated that has been taken care of. **Levi Ladd** asked about neighboring Towns, Milo and Pittsfield, if he has any numbers from them on how their credits came back. He stated that he doesn't have numbers specifically from them. He spent about three hours talking to the company about Dexter only. **Mr. Ellms** stated that another concern was that there isn't anything man made that is going to make it 25-30 years with no maintenance and there is no plan to dispose of this stuff and most of the Companies he has seen are "paper companies". They are investors that can fold up everything they own in a briefcase and when it is no longer efficient and not making money they file bankruptcy and ay it is all yours. **Mr. Hanson** stated that this company, Nautilus, if they go bankrupt it is already paid for to be taken out and disposed of. The general consensus was that if the company, Nautilus, could come in and give presentation and lay out everything in black and white they will look at it. **Mr. King** stated he would call the other Towns and see how they are making out.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

Peter Haskell made a motion to adjourn at 8:05

Second: **David Palmer**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,


Susan E. Page, Town Clerk