

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF
December 14, 2023**

COUNCIL PRESENT: Elijah Ames, Marcia Delaware, Andrew Bermudez, Levi Ladd, Adam Briggs, Danny Hutchins, and Heidi Kinney (via zoom)

SWEAR IN COUNCILORS ELECT

Susan Reed, Town Clerk, swore in new Councilors, **Elijah Ames**, and **Danny Hutchins**

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Andrew Bermudez nominated **Marcia Delaware**

Second: **Levi Ladd**

No other nominations

Vote: 6 -1, motion passes (Delaware Abstained)

ELECTION OF VICECHAIRMAN

Levi Ladd nominated **Andrew Bermudez**

Second: **Adam Briggs**

No other nominations

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

I. PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

II. MINUTES

1. Approve/Amend Council Minutes of November 9, 2023

Motion to approve: **Andrew Bermudez**

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: 4 -3, motion passes (Briggs, Ames, Hutchins abstain)

III. NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS, & ELECTIONS

1. Order A2023-60 Appointment to the School Board

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the appointment of Trina Neptune to the MSAD 46 School Board for a term to expire November 5, 2024.

Filed December 14, 2023

ELIJAH AMES

There were two candidates for the open position, **Trina Neptune**, and **Randolph Saunders**. They were both given three minutes to address the Council and state why they thought they would be the best person for the position. The candidates were asked some questions by the Councilors, and it was taken to vote.

Marcia Delaware asked who was in favor of **Trina Neptune** – **Kinney, Bermudez, Delaware, Hutchins, and Ladd**.

In favor of **Randolph Saunders** – **Briggs, and Ames**.

Motion to approve – **Elijah Ames**

Second: **Andrew Bermudez**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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2. Order A2023-61 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 November 5, 2024.

Filed December 14, 2023

HEIDI KINNEY

Marcia Delaware stated that we needed to advertise for the open position, so no action was taken.

3. Order A2023-62 Appointment to Boards & Committees

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

Board/Committee	Openings	Applicant
Airport Committee	3 - 3 year	*Ron Apel
		*Stan Tremblay
		*Tim Briggs
Board of Appeals	3 - 3 year	*Ruth Fogg
		1 - 1 year
Cemetery Advisory	2 - 3 year	*Steve Gudroe
		*Rick Whitney
Library Trustee	3 - 3 year	*Ann Marquis
		*Sheila Heneise
		Stacey Barker
		Stephanie Saunders
		Stephen Whitesel
Planning Board	3 - 3 year	*Mark McNaughton
		*Stephen Whitesel
		Judy Saunders
Recreation	2 - 3 year	
Wakefield Committee	1 - 3 year	*Denise Dinsmore

***Currently serving**

Filed December 14, 2023
MARCIA DELAWARE

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The only position with too many candidates was the Library Trustees. **Stacey Barker** was in attendance and introduced herself to the Council. The Council voted and the three with the most votes was **Ann Marquis, Sheila Heneise, and Stacey Barker.**

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Manager's Report

Trampas King welcomed the two new Councilors. He thanked the first responders and the staff at Ridgeview for the way that they handled the bomb threat. They all did amazing work and were very professional. **Mr. King** reported that the Holiday Light Parade was scheduled for tomorrow night at 6:30 and Santa and Mrs. Claus would be at the end and the Town's Christmas for Kids program ended up with 56 kids. He thanked all the organizations and individuals that "adopted" kids and bought presents for them. **Mr. King** wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked them for coming.

2. Departmental Reports

NO COMMENTS

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Order A2023-63 Purchase of 2022 GMC for the Fire Department

BE IT ORDERED that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts the purchase price of \$56,000.00 from Mark Hubbell for a 2022 GMC Sierra for the Fire Department.

Filed December 14, 2023

ANDREW BERMUDEZ

Trampas King thanked the Fire Department, especially **Will Lovejoy**, as he did a lot of research and talked to a lot of dealerships. They found this vehicle in New Hampshire from an individual. He stated that it will be a great addition. **Marcia Delaware** asked if they needed to put any work into it. **Chief Connor** stated that they put aside an additional \$5,000 for lettering and such.

Second: **Adam Briggs**

Vote: 6 -1 (Ladd) in favor, motion passes

2. Order A2023-64 Accept Monies from Dexter Firefighters Association towards the purchase of the 2022 GMC.

BE IT ORDERED that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts the \$5,000.00 from the Dexter Firefighters Association towards the purchase of the 2022 GMC Sierra.

Filed December 14, 2023

DANNY HUTCHINS

Second: **Adam Briggs**

Vote: 6 -1(Ladd) in favor, motion passes

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3. Order A2023-65 Beano/Bingo for VFW

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, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Filed December 14, 2023
LEVI LADD

Second: **Adam Briggs**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

4. Order A2023-66 Sale of 1988 freightliner

Andrew Bermudez made a motion to add Order A2023-66 to the agenda.

Second: **Elijah Ames**

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts the bid from Mike Robinson in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the 1998 Freightliner FL80 E-One Trident.

Filed December 14, 2023
ADAM BRIGGS

Second: **Elijah Ames**

Marcia Delaware asked where the money will go. **Chief Connor** stated that was a good question. **Mr. King** stated that he will put it into the equipment fund.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

5. Proposed Ordinance Change – Personnel Sect. 9.8-11 Medical Insurance Coverage

Trampas King stated that the Town has trouble getting people to work for them and one of the reasons is the lack of family insurance coverage. Currently the Town doesn't pay anything towards the family plan, and it costs the employee \$2800 a month. The Council had put aside some money in the budget in July to cover the added expense for this year. The employee will pay around \$800 a month and the Town will cover the rest. He stated that it is still a lot of money, but it is really good insurance. **Mr. King** stated it will be a trial to see how it goes, but it will be worth it to get more people, especially younger ones, applying for jobs. **Randolph Saunders** asked what the corporate rate is. **Heidi Kinney** stated at her place of employment which is a private entity and has 51 employees the family premiums for the employee are about \$240 a week. **Levi Ladd** stated that at the school the family premiums are about \$230 a month. **Mr. Saunders** stated that he thinks the Town paying 90% for single coverage was too high. **Alisha Ames** asked why we need it if we are fully staffed. **Mr. King** stated that we are staffed at the P.D. but two of them are green pins and he is worried about retention as well. **Andrew Bermudez** encouraged the public to attend the budget meetings so they can see what we are dealing with. **Mr. Saunders** asked what it would do to our taxes. **Mr. King** stated that it would depend on how many employees sign up for it. If we don't have any now the \$40,000 that was put aside can be rolled over into that budget line but if 5 employees took it the difference would be about .3mils.

Andrew Bermudez made a motion to put it to Public Hearing for next month.

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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VI. PUBLIC FORUM

Marcia Delaware stated that we would be changing the time of the Council meetings to 6:30 instead of 7:00.

There was input from **Alisha Ames** and **Heather Miller** about the School Board and there being a disconnect between them and the Town. They were also concerned about some of the policies and procedures at the School and were concerned about the fact that the websites aren't up to date. They inquired about having a committee that would be a liaison between the School Board and the Town Council. **Ms. Miller** also voiced concerns about sending an email to the Town Manager and not getting a response. It was also asked why the Town Councilors email addresses aren't listed as it would be easier to send an email instead of calling them.

Matt Connor asked **Mr. King** if to his knowledge there an action review was done to see what went right and what went wrong with the handling of the bomb threat. **Mr. King** stated that there was, but he wasn't involved, and **Mr. Connor** stated that he wasn't either.

Andrew Bermudez made a motion to adjourn at 8:03

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: unanimous in favor, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,


Susan E. Reed, Town Clerk

