

COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
June 20, 2024

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

**I. PUBLIC HEARING**

NONE

**II. MINUTES**

*1. Approve/Amend Council Minutes of May 9, 2024*

Motion to approve: **Andrew Bermudez**

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: 5-1 (Hutchins), motion passes

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

*1. Order A2024-35 Election Results from June 11, 2024, State Primary and MSAD #46 Budget Referendum*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts the results of the State Primary and the MSAD #46 District Budget Validation Referendum of June 11, 2024 as follows:

**STATE OF MAINE**

**DEMOCRATIC**

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| <b>United States Senator</b>      |    |
| Costello, David Allen             | 51 |
|                                   |    |
| <b>State Senator (District 4)</b> |    |
| Evans, Richard A.                 | 62 |
|                                   |    |
| <b>Rep. to Congress</b>           |    |
| Golden, Jared F                   | 73 |
|                                   |    |
| <b>Register of Probate</b>        |    |
| Stupak, Renee M.                  | 65 |
|                                   |    |

**TOTAL DEMOCRATIC VOTES CAST – 78**

**REPUBLICAN**

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>United States Senator</b>         |     |
| Kouzounas, Demi                      | 199 |
|                                      |     |
| <b>State Senator (District 4)</b>    |     |
| Guerin, Stacey K.                    | 220 |
|                                      |     |
| <b>Rep. to Congress (District 2)</b> |     |
| Soboleski, Michael                   | 89  |
| Theriault, Austin                    | 147 |
|                                      |     |
| <b>Rep. to the Legislature</b>       |     |
| Foster, Steven D                     | 230 |

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| <b>County Commissioner</b> |     |
| Cushing, Andre E. III      | 223 |
| <b>Register of Probate</b> |     |
| Simmons, Hilari K.         | 212 |

**TOTAL REPUBLICAN VOTES CAST - 243**

**MSAD #46**

***QUESTION 1: DISTRICT BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM***

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| <b>Yes</b>    | 195 |
| <b>No</b>     | 108 |
| <b>Blanks</b> | 2   |

**TOTAL LOCAL VOTES CAST - 305**

Filed June 20, 2024  
**ADAM BRIGGS**

Second: **Andrew Bermudez**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*1. Manager's Report*

**Trampas King** thanked everyone for coming and thanked them for their patience since the meeting was supposed to be last week. **Mr. King** thanked the Councilors for their time spent going through the 2024/2025 budget. It takes a lot of extra time but gets everyone on the same page. He feels like we got good results and will come through with a good budget. The music in the park has started on Tuesday nights through the month of August. Work Camp kids will be arriving this Sunday and will be working on 25 homes and on Wednesday Kiwanis and Hannaford will be doing a cookout for them and they can enjoy our beach and lakefront. July 3<sup>rd</sup> will be our fireworks at dusk with a rain date of the 5<sup>th</sup>. The parade will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> as well as the boat parade. **Mr. King** reported that the Fire Department has a huge surprise for us so don't miss the parade. August 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the Kiwanis Cruise in at Ridgeview and August 10<sup>th</sup> is the annual Maine Red Hotdog Festival. The committee is still looking for volunteers so if anyone is interested, contact him on messenger. Lastly, the Dexter Development Association has been putting a lot of time and work into the beach and he thanks all the volunteers that have helped so far.

*2. Departmental Reports*

NO COMMENTS

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

*1. Order A2024- 36 Closing of Town Office on July 5, 2024*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the closure of the Municipal Office on Friday, July 5, 2024. Employees will not be financially compensated unless they use a vacation day or earned time off.

Filed June 20, 2024  
**ELIJAH AMES**

Second: **Heidi Kinney**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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2. *Order A2024-37 Change to Hangar Lease Fees*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby amends the airport lease agreement section E by changing the annual hangar fee from \$100.00 to \$200.00.

Filed June 20, 2024

**HEIDI KINNEY**

Second: **Adam Briggs**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

3. *Order A2024-38 Change to Hangar Lease Term*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby amends the airport lease agreement section D by changing the period of the lease from ten (10) years to five (5) years.

Filed June 20, 2024

**ANDREW BERMUDEZ**

Second: **Levi Ladd**

**Marcia Delaware** stated that this was discussed during the budget meeting and the Airport Advisor thought five years would be better. As each lease is renewed the terms will change then.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

4. *Order A2024-39 Authorize Finance Officer to Open Account for DDA*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the Finance Director to open a new account at Skowhegan Savings Bank for Dexter Development Association for the purpose of GoFundMe monies for the Bring Back the Beach project.

Filed June 20, 2024

**DANNY HUTCHINS**

Second: **Heidi Kinney**

It was explained that this is for money from the GoFundMe only. Donations can also be made by cash or check through the Town.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

5. *Order A2024-40 Legislative Policy Committee Nomination*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby votes for David B. Pearson to serve on the Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Policy Committee.

Filed June 20, 2024

**LEVI LADD**

Second: **Adam Briggs**

**Elijah Ames** asked if this was put out to everyone that could apply to it. **Trampas King** stated that we were running out of time, nobody got a chance to see it as it comes to the Town and we are asked if we have anyone. **David Pearson** has been doing it for us and **Mr. King** asked him if he would like to do it again. It is only putting him on the ballot.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

6. *Order A2024-41 Accept Bid for Heat Pumps at Police Station*

**Adam Briggs** made a motion to add Order A2024-41

Second: **Andrew Bermudez**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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**Heidi Kinney** abstained from voting as one of the bids was from her son. **Marcia Delaware** stated that she has worked with two of the companies that had submitted bids and one of them was outstanding. Looking at the bids, the two lowest - \$7,345.00 and \$7,415.00 – the only difference is that the ones from ProTec is a little bit of a smaller unit as opposed to Kinney's. **Adam Briggs** asked for recommendations, as there is such a small difference in the two prices. **Mr. King** stated that Fujitsu, which is the lower priced one, people are starting to see issues with these, and some companies are starting to stay away from them. He feels that we should try a different kind. **Dan Hutchins** stated that he has been involved in bidding on different heat pumps and you can get older units at a cheaper price and they're not the same seer rating and it seems like the heat pumps keep improving every year and he is seeing them online and they are called hyper heat that operate at a lower temperature and put out more heat. He doesn't know if it is a good idea to go with the lowest price without looking at the units. Some of the bids don't have specifications, just sizes. He would like to see the seer ratings. **Mr. King** stated that at the Police Station during the dead of winter they won't be using the pumps as they aren't as efficient. **Andrew Bermudez** stated that the efficiency of the units also depends on the efficiency of the building. **Frank Spizuoco** stated that he owns seventeen of these units and he has had to work on every one except for Dakin brand and he feels that Fujitsu isn't a good choice. **Ron Apel** stated that in the Kiwanis thrift shop there are three Mitsubishi units used for heating and cooling and they have been performing well and he has 3 in his house as well.

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts the bid submitted by Kinney HVAC Services in the amount of \$7,415.00 for replacement heat pumps at the Police Station.

Filed June 20, 2024  
**ADAM BRIGGS**

Second: **Andrew Bermudez**

Vote: 4-2 (Kinney abstains), motion passes

7. **Adam Briggs** made a motion to add Order A2024-42, Order A2024-43, and Order A2024-44

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

8. *Order A2024-42 Fiduciary Agent for Friends of Dexter Meeting House*

**BE IT ORDERED** that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the Town of Dexter to be the fiduciary agent for the Friends of the Dexter Meeting House until such time that they obtain their 501c3 status.

Filed June 20, 2024  
**ELIJAH AMES**

Second: **Heidi Kinney**

**Levi Ladd** asked why they are shooting to obtain the 501c3 status. **Mr. King** stated that we don't want it to be part of the Town. We just need a temporary place for them to receive money and spend it as needed. **Andrew Bermudez** stated this is standard practice for organizations that are pursuing this status. The Heart of Maine Resource Center used the Commons in Dover. They could apply for grants through them and accept nontaxable donations.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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9. Order A2024-43 FAA Grant Funds Transfer to MVM

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby supports and authorizes the transfer of \$36,475.00 of non-primary entitlement funds from the Dexter Regional Airport (1B0) to Machias Valley Airport (MVM), as set forth in that certain FAA Approval of Agreement for Transfer of Entitlements dated June 11, 2024 (the "1B0 Transfer Agreement of NPEs to MVM"), and authorizes Trampas King, in his capacity as Town Manager, to execute the 1B0 Transfer Agreement of NPE's to MVM on behalf of the Town of Dexter.

Filed June 20, 2024

**HEIDI KINNEY**

Second: **Andrew Bermudez**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

10. Order A2024-44 FAA Grant Funds Transfer to HUL

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby supports and authorizes the transfer of \$150,000.00 of non-primary entitlement funds from the Dexter Regional Airport (1B0) to Houlton International Airport (HUL), as set forth in that certain FAA Approval of Agreement for Transfer of Entitlements dated June 11, 2024 (the "1B0 Transfer Agreement of NPEs to HUL"), and authorizes Trampas King, in his capacity as Town Manager, to execute the 1B0 Transfer Agreement of NPE's to HUL on behalf of the Town of Dexter.

Filed June 20, 2024

**DANNY HUTCHINS**

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

11. Approve/Sign Cemetery Deed for Rodney Eaton

**Heidi Kinney** made a motion to Approve/Sign

Second: **Andrew Bermudez**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

12. Approve/Sign Quit Claim Deeds for the Following:

*Justin Bell*

*Henery & Harley Ann Murdoch*

**SCHMECHEL**

**Trampas King** stated that of the properties that we tax acquired, we have done our first due diligence walk through and did the ninety-day notice. These three have paid and also two more so we will do all of these next month. He stated that we have two properties left, one on High Street and one on School Street. We will get approval at the next meeting and put those out to bid as soon as possible to get those done. There was a ninety-day window where the previous owner had a chance to get a realtor or not to dispose of the property. After ninety days if we don't hear from them we can dispose of the property how we want. By next year it will be changed to six months. We will probably have the properties for a year before we will be rid of them. **Mr. King** stated that we let the owners pay within the ninety days so that may be something we do with the 180 day period if allowed.

13. Discussion on 4<sup>th</sup> of July Events

**Trampas King** stated that the parade starts at 10:00 and anyone is allowed to join that wants to. The Fire Department will have a "surprise" that he is excited about. The boat parade is right after and there are

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some new things with that as well. The boat parade is organized by Adam Briggs. July 3<sup>rd</sup> is of course the fireworks. It is going to be a busy time and of course the road will be shut down at 10:00 and it takes about 45 minutes. **Marcia Delaware** asked **Adam Briggs** where a good place is to watch the boat parade. He stated they go all around the lake so probably the picnic area. They will be judging different categories such as best decorated and the loudest.

**VI. PUBLIC FORUM**

**Frank Spizuoco** stated that after spending quite a bit of time at the beach he has a couple of concerns. He thinks that the Council needs to decide if they want it to be a dog park or a beach. From what he is seeing dogs are loose even though they put signs out. He spoke to someone today that apologized and stated they thought it was a certain area. The other day he was there someone's dog jumped in his truck. He can't do what he wants to do if they are going to have dogs there although he doesn't know what the answer is. **Marcia Delaware** stated she just saw an article where another beach place is saying you can't have the dogs on the beach from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm and after that you can walk the dog on a leash. **Mr. Spizuoco** stated that if we are going to have an Ordinance there is nothing to enforce it. He would recommend that they create an Ordinance that there are no dogs on the beach and the definition of beach would be the shorefront that goes back so many feet. You could allow them up in the field or after certain hours, but a lot of times that doesn't solve the problem of them running. Some people are good but something needs to happen if he is going to continue to do what he is doing. If there is an Ordinance, would animal control enforce it or how do you enforce it? **Mr. King** stated that it is going to be Police. **Mr. Spizuoco** stated that it is a hard one because there is a woman that goes there everyday, and she picks up after her dog and she leashes it but you can't have both. He feels like they really need to get something into place. **Dan Hutchins** feels that with this being a rural community there are plenty of places to take your dog for a walk without having to take them on the beach. **Levi Ladd** asked if it would be cost prohibitive to run a fence along where the sand is going to go someday and have a gate and put the signs outside of it. **Mr. Spizuoco** said that you could, but the dogs are going to be in another area and then someone is going to have to clean up after them. He has thought a lot about it and possibly you could designate an area that becomes a dog park, but someone has to maintain it and clean it. Maybe there could be a dog park created in another part of the community. **Levi Ladd** stated that he thinks that a fenced in area in the upper left that is for dogs might be a good idea. **Marcia Delaware** asked the other Councilors what their opinion is on the matter. **Dan Hutchins** reiterated that there are plenty of places to walk dogs. **Heidi Kinney** asked if there is going to be somebody there on a daily basis that is going to supervise the beach and monitor these types of things. **Mr. Spizuoco** said no, as there isn't that kind of funding. There will be a lifeguard for awhile that might deter some things. The goal is to have a property manager that would mow and such. He is monitoring the area himself now and noting the problems. **Elijah Ames** feels like there should be no dogs allowed. **Heidi Kinney** stated that she isn't opposed to an Ordinance but she is concerned about enforcing it. **Marcia Delaware** wonders if creating an Ordinance will put people in that mindset and the problem might dissipate. **Andrew Bermudez** thinks in our Town that what we see at the beach is just a reflection of what we allow in Town as there are a lot of unleashed dogs. They chase after him when he is running, he had to split up a dog fight and the owner didn't seem to care. If you have those kind of dog owners existing in Town already, when they go to the beach they don't care about a sign. He thinks it does come down to enforcement and needs to be hard from the beginning. It can't be a warning. He saw the same thing happen with ATV's. He sees them all over the road because they aren't given tickets. If you get a ticket and have to pay for it, you probably aren't going to do it again. You need to set the tone from the beginning. **Alisha Ames** asked if it is locals or if it is people from out of Town stopping to give their dogs a break. She wouldn't want to deter

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out of towners that use it for a rest stop to stop and have lunch and let their dogs out. **Levi Ladd** stated from the business aspect of Lakeshore Restaurant a lot of people walk their dog there for a puppy cone. It probably doesn't make a ton of money for them, but it does get people there. One of the reasons the beach has such appeal is because of that business and if we are going to go through all this effort renovating it we want to make sure people are going to use it. If you are talking 5% of visitors are going down there with dogs, that is still %5 of their business. **Andrew Bermudez** stated you have to look on the flipside of how many people are not going there because of dogs. It was reiterated again that if an Ordinance is put in place it needs to be strictly enforced from the beginning. **Dan Hutchins** states they can still take the dog to get an ice cream cone on a leash. **Frank Spizuoco** said that he doesn't think you can have both. He knows they want to appeal to both, but he doesn't think it can be done. **Marcia Delaware** stated that it sounded like the consensus is that they need to draft an Ordinance eliminating dogs at the beach or giving them hours. **Levi Ladd** stated that the problem is that it is Town owned property so if we are going to draft an ordinance we need to make sure the language isn't all Town owned property and if we are going to do that we should create a puppy pen in another park somewhere and put a sign out that says if you are here to exercise your dog take them to this address. He personally feels that is what we need to do because we do have people that are coming there to do that. We do have plenty of Town owned land. We don't want an Ordinance that says you can't have dogs on Town owned property.

**Frank Spizuoco** went on to say that he wants the Town to pave the front parking lot. Every year it is filled and graded and made nice but when it rains all that gravel goes down the drain and over to the big lake. The price to pave the front was \$40,000. He knows it is hard to do but it really should be a priority. **Marcia Delaware** stated that we have \$100,000 in this year's budget for paving so they will need to decide where that is going. **Mr. Spizuoco** stated that there may be other ways like grants. **Levi Ladd** asked if he spoke to the water district. **Mr. Spizuoco** stated that he did, and they confirmed that back along there was a problem and that people were complaining about the stuff going in the water. If there is a concern about what is going in the lake, then that should be where the energy should be shifted. Such as what is going in the lake. **Levi Ladd** stated that the water district should have some skin in the game and help fix the problem as well. **Alisha Ames** thanked **Frank** for all the hard work he is putting into the beach. **Ms. Ames** went on to address concerns with the School Board and stated that she doesn't know what to do. Her biggest concern is that she hits walls when she is asking budgetary questions and about money. She gets a reason and then at the following meeting she will get a totally different answer. She stated that her biggest thing was that we went from \$295,000 to \$50,000 in Maine Care reimbursement. That is a huge portion of the increase in the budget. She was trying to understand why this was so and was given a couple of reasons but there was no real explanation. She wanted to dig into it and see if she could get some answers. She talked to the Board, and they had it in the budget to form a committee to see what is going on but now the Superintendent and the Special Education Director have informed her that they don't believe they need a committee and they are just going to present a report at the next meeting. That is all well and good but if they aren't letting the Board see what is going on it seems a little nefarious. She wants to know from the Council what she can do and if they have suggestions on how she can be a good representative for the Town and help with some of these financial things as she is hitting a lot of walls. **Levi Ladd** stated that a report is great, but they should be able to provide her with any and all financials that she asks for. **Ms. Ames** stated that what she had suggested, because they told her it was Maine Care reimbursement, to form a committee and get our State Representatives involved because if they are supposed to be reimbursing us then why aren't they? Now the Superintendent has shut that down. **Marcia Delaware** stated that it was said at the budget meeting that they were almost two years behind. **Ms. Ames** stated that was right and that is why she wanted the

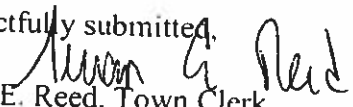
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State Representatives involved if Maine Care is dragging their feet and affecting the School budget then we should be involved and find out why. She is frustrated because she has been shut down. She is trying to understand and make sure that things are going the way they are supposed to go. Some of the other members are frustrated as well. **Marcia Delaware** asked if they share her same frustrations with the Maine Care system. **Ms. Ames** stated that three of the Dexter members voted for the formation of the committee. **Ms. Delaware** stated that if that happened here, they would go into executive session and work it out. She asked if they have the ability to get together with the Superintendent and talk about it. **Levi Ladd** stated that those three could call an executive session and if that didn't go anywhere, he recommends that maybe the others in favor write a letter to the Council stating what they want and maybe it can be requested by the Council. **Ms. Ames** went on to say that she has been working with Al Tempesta and has been talking to Trampas about opening a daycare at the church for twelve kids on the backend and they are also in the process of looking at getting grants and turning the upper portion of the old school into low-income apartments.

**Adam Briggs** made a motion to adjourn at 7:35

Second: **Andrew Bermudez**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Susan E. Reed, Town Clerk

(Prepared from Audio Recording of Meeting)