

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF  
NOVEMBER 8, 2018**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mike Blake, Peter Haskell, Fred Sherburne, Sharon Grant, Mark Robichaud, Marcia Delaware, Chuck Ellms

**STAFF PRESENT:** Trampas King, Marilyn Curtis, Kim Hughes, Susan Page, Shannon Hall, Mike Gudroe, Eric Campbell, Jeremy Trowbridge

The Invocation was led by **Deacon Charles Chabot** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. PRESENTATIONS**

*1. Resolution B2018-1 Boston Post Cane for Rita Clukey*

Town Manager, **Trampas King**, presented **Rita Clukey** with the Boston Post Cane and a framed copy of the Resolution recognizing her as Dexter's oldest female resident. **Mr. King** also presented a framed photo and write-up that will hang in the Council Chambers. Many relatives and friends attended the presentation in **Ms. Clukey's** honor.

*2. Recognition of Council Chair, **Mike Blake***

**Trampas King** presented outgoing Councilor, **Mike Blake**, with a certificate of appreciation, card, and gift for his six years of service to the residents of the Town of Dexter.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING**

NONE

**III. MINUTES**

*1. Approve/Amend Council Minutes of October 11, 2018*

Motion to approve: **Marcia Delaware**

Second: **Sharon Grant**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

**IV. NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS, & ELECTIONS**

*1. Order A2018-71 Election Results from November 6, 2018*

**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, 2018 election as follows:

**STATE OF MAINE ELECTION RESULTS**

**GOVERNOR**

Caron, Alan	17
Hayes, Teresea	81
Mills, Janet	543
Moody, Shawn	764
Capron, Kenneth (write in)	0
Jenkins, John (write in)	0
Tracy, Malon (write in)	0
Vachon, J Martin (write in)	0

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**U S SENATOR**

Brakey, Eric	637
King, Angus	610
Ringelstein, Zak	92
Riley, James (write in)	0

**REP TO CONGRESS**

Bond, Tiffany	93
Golden, Jared	477
Hoar, William	39
Poliquin, Bruce	716

**STATE SENATOR**

Davis, Paul	947
Mackey Andrews, Susan	441

**REP TO LEGISLATURE**

Foster, Steven	1190
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**JUDGE OF PROBATE**

Faircloth, Amy	1056
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**COUNTY TREASURER**

Hiatt, John	783
Tremble, Daniel	531

**REGISTER OF DEEDS**

Bulay, Susan	1165
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**SHERIFF**

Morton, Troy	1183
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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Belisle, Joseph	468
Lynch, Marianne	865

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

Cushing, Andre	803
McCann, Donald	141
Todd, Donovan	359

**QUESTION 1: UNIVERSAL HOME CARE PROGRAM**

Yes	518
No	885

**QUESTION 2: WATER QUALITY AND TREATMENT**

Yes	656
No	736

**QUESTION 3: TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE BOND**

Yes	864
No	540

**QUESTION 4: MAINE UNIVERSITIES BOND**

Yes	640
No	761

**QUESTION 5: MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGES BOND**

Yes	790
No	611

**TOWN OF DEXTER LOCAL ELECTION**

**TOWN COUNCIL -3 YEAR**

Briggs, Adam	433
Delaware, Marcia	590*
Gudroe, Stephen	678*
Irvin, Kenneth	267
O'Brien, Noreen	219
Pandozzi, Anthony	224

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**DEXTER UTILITY DISTRICT TRUSTEE - THREE YEAR**

Clark, Robert	1151*
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**DEXTER UTILITY DISTRICT TRUSTEE - ONE YEAR**

Salley, Roger	1176*
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**SAD #46 DIRECTOR - THREE YEAR**

Chapman, Galen	1165*
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**SAD #46 DIRECTOR - TWO YEAR**

Ladd, Levi	1119*
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**SAD #46 DIRECTOR - ONE YEAR**

No Candidates	
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**HAD #4 DIRECTOR - THREE YEAR**

No Candidates	
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**\*ELECTED**

NUMBER OF VOTERS REGISTERED BEFORE POLLS OPENED - 2450  
TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRATIONS AT POLLS - 61  
NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS CAST - 303  
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST – 1428  
PERCENTAGE OF VOTER TURN OUT – 57%

Filed November 8, 2018  
**PETER HASKELL**

Second: **Mark Robichaud**  
Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*1. Manager's Report*

**Trampas King** opened by saying thank you to the staff for all their hard work during the election process. He stated that this was his first year to assist and everything went smoothly. **Mike Gudroe** and **Loney Parrilla** from the Facilities Department did a great job getting

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everything set up and the Clerks did a wonderful job getting the voters efficiently and quickly through the ballot process. **Mr. King** concluded by stating that next week he would be working on setting up the Cannabis Task Force and talking to people interested in that issue.

*2. Departmental Reports*

NO QUESTIONS

*3. Discussion on Universalist Church*

**Trampas King** stated that it was decided in the August meeting that the Town should give the Universalist Church \$1,000 on the drainage in the back. Some information was misunderstood so the amount should have been \$1,500. He asked the Council to make a formal vote so that the additional \$500 could be paid out to the Church.

Motion to award the Universalist Church an additional \$500 towards the drainage fund for a total of \$1,500: **Sharon Grant**

Second: **Marcia Delaware**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*4. Discussion on HAD #4 Hospital Integration*

**Mike Wark**, Chairman of Sangerville Select Board

- Sangerville Select Board sent a letter of concern to all Towns
- Process has been enlightening
- Understanding is that the Towns own the hospital
- When approached about the merger, Sangerville was told that their debts would be forgiven
- When digging into the situation, the debt that was being represented was not being offset by basic things like \$16,000,000 in cash or by other assets
- Felt like the citizens of Sangerville should have been advised of what was at stake and what was being considered
- As best as can be discerned, the current proposal is that all assets (real estate, equipment, cash) will be given to Northern Light with no assurances
- Concerned with future funding by Sangerville for an ambulance service
- Two distinct aspects to the proposal - First, negotiation can be worked several different ways from leasing or keeping money to help support the hospital. Second, under the current Charter, the only way to dissolve is by a unanimous vote of the thirteen communities involved in HAD #4
- Emergency legislation would be required to change the Charter so that only Board Members would have the vote

**Gerald Nessman**, Member of HAD #4 Board and Attorney

- A vote on the agreement was not shared with the thirteen communities
- Agreement was designed to come up with an amendment to the Charter to allow for the vote of the Board and not the communities
- Filed a complaint in Piscataquis County Superior Court asking for a temporary restraining order to put the vote on hold based on a long-standing request for information

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- Two Towns voted to join the suit to see if it was within the authority of the Hospital Board to amend the Charter which could result in an agreement that could result in a merger which would give everything away
- Could be possible to set aside a reserve fund similar to the Plummer Fund which could be used to assist the communities with future health care

**Marie Vienneau**, President and CEO of Mayo Regional Hospital

- Board has been working on the merger process since 2009 by working diligently with Eastern Maine Health Systems/Northern Light Health
- Reason for merger well spelled out as Mayo Regional Hospital has been losing money since before 2010 and is concerned about its sustainability into the long-term future
- There is an option to tax which has always been there but has not been exercised as it is believed that the communities in the region cannot sustain more taxes
- It is believed that being a part of Northern Light Health will make Mayo stronger
- Charter is clear that the hospital does not become an asset to the Towns until it is dissolved and closed
- 500 employees would become unemployed if the hospital closed with \$37,000,000 worth of salaries and benefits lost
- Board has been open in trying to make the deal and has worked hard to be transparent
- Northern Light Health does have a certain way of doing mergers and there is a plan for Mayo to bring the information to the communities by doing forums with Northern Light representatives present for the sessions

**Brian Mullis**, Director of Emergency Medical Services(EMS) for Mayo Regional Hospital

- Believes the communities will continue to get good ambulance services
- Already proven that small towns cannot sustain an ambulance service
- Currently doing more now with Northern Light Health
- Current ambulance will be a service that Northern Light Health will depend on
- Current ambulance will service the western side of the Northern Light area
- Community paramedicine will add a whole different component to the EMS world that has never been there before with more emergency calls being served by another area of medicine where less people will be transported to an overloaded emergency room and more will be handled by a call to the doctor

**Jim Willey**, Consultant and Health Lawyer

- Has overseen over a dozen merger-type transactions for small-town hospitals
- Not exactly true that the communities own the hospital
- The Charter states that the Towns would receive the net proceeds from the liquidation of the hospital if it was voted on unanimously by the communities which is a remote possibility
- The Towns have a contingent interest in a future event if it were to occur which isn't going to happen since the communities are too dependent on the hospital
- There was a Town that put to a vote to dissolve from HAD #4 and if that is successful, they do not get paid for their interest - it is not a true asset
- The \$16,000,000 that is being talked about will not be there if the hospital is closed since all debts must be paid in full
- Statements have been made that the assets are being given to Northern Light but the Board has a fiduciary duty to the organization to do what is best for the hospital

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- The Board is doing a corporate structure transaction with Northern Light
- There is not a lot of competition out there looking to buy up struggling, rural hospitals
- Northern Light would not have put this amount of time in or extended the resources that they have into the communities if they were not committed
- The merger is still being negotiated, there are no documents, and there is still a long way to go

**Rick Goodwin** asked if anyone could compare whether Northern Light is more solvent than Mayo and **Gerald Nessman** answered that the last two years Northern Light has been rated by rating agencies at a negative rate. It has been stated that in the next two years the goal is to bring the rating up to a positive. They have a lot of work to do and they could be successful.

**Nancy Glidden**, Chief Financial Officer for Mayo Regional Hospital

- The hospital does not get rated by bond rating agencies because it is not in that category
- The hospital's ability to cover the debts with the operating income is actually negative and the day's cash on hand is not any different than Northern Light's
- Both Northern Light and Mayo could last about 100 to 130 days if all income stopped
- On a positive, some documents state that Northern Light has a good market position
- There are a lot of strengths in Northern Light that Mayo feels will carry the organization forward
- The net worth of Mayo is approximately \$28,000,000
- There is \$13,000,000 to \$15,000,000 in cash reserves, approximately \$1,000,000 in restricted funds, another \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000 in other current assets like accounts receivable, operating cash, inventories, and prepaid expenses
- About \$7.2 million is owned on various equipment and investments in the facility
- About 40% of the net worth has been built up over the last 5 to 6 years through investments
- The hospital has benefited through Federal programs such as Drug Discount Programs and new technology investment payments
- The concern is that the operating losses over time without offsetting investments and payments would be double what they are now and the reserves on hand would be a lot less and the hospital would not be able to pay its debt
- The current Charter allows the hospital to ask the communities in HAD #4 to raise taxes in order to assist in paying the hospital debt

**Steve Gudroe** asked if there is any data showing what has happened to any other small hospitals that Northern Light has acquired and **Nancy Glidden** replied that the hospital in Greenville went into the Eastern Maine Health Systems about ten years ago and has not made money any of those years but the hospital has not closed or down sized and there has been a \$3.5 million investment in Sangerville. There are two other critical access hospitals for a total of nine hospitals in the system.

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**V. NEW BUSINESS**

*1. Order A2018-73 Approve Beano/Bingo for Knights of Columbus*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the continuation of Beano/Bingo by signing the application for the Knights of Columbus Council #2625 at 179 North Dexter Road from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

Filed November 8, 2018  
**FRED SHERBURNE**

Second: **Mark Robichaud**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*2. Order A2018-74 Approve 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, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

Filed November 8, 2018  
**SHARON GRANT**

Second: **Marcia Delaware**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*3. Order A2018-75 Winter Closure of Crosby Street*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the partial closure of approximately 200' on the south end of Crosby Street from Zions Hill Road to the bus garage entrance during winter plowing *from November 1 to May 1*. Furthermore, the Dexter Town Council authorizes converting the remainder of Crosby Street going north to two-way traffic with a temporary stop sign being placed at the end of Crosby Street onto Pine Street.

Filed November 8, 2018  
**MARCIA DELAWARE**

**Peter Haskell** stated that he thought the Order should specify dates for the closure and it was agreed that an amendment should be made to add the dates of November 1 to May 1.

Motion: **Marcia Delaware** made a motion to pass Order A2018-75 as read with the amendment to add "from November 1 to May 1" to the Order.

Second: **Sharon Grant**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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*4. Order A2018-76 Sale of 1991 Toro Grounds Master*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts the bid from \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Municipal Golf Course 1991 Toro Grounds Master Serial #30781-70294.

Filed November 8, 2018

**CHUCK ELLMS**

**Trampas King** stated that there were no bids received but that there is a potential buyer for this winter so it was agreed to table the Order until that time.

*5. Order A2018-77 Transfer of Money for Purchase of Plow Truck for Highway Department*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council authorizes the Finance Officer to transfer \$4,000.00 from Highway Equipment Reserve Account #E130-05-511-13 and to transfer \$30,000.00 from Revenue Account entitled Sale of Municipal Assets Account #R105-01-404-30 from unanticipated revenue to Public Works New Equipment Account # E105-01-507-10 for the purchase of a 2006 Mack Plow Truck from Abbott Construction. Total cost of the truck is \$39,500 with a trade-in allowance of \$5,500.00 from the parts truck.

Filed November 8, 2018

**CHUCK ELLMS**

Second: **Marcia Delaware**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*5. Discussion on Lake Wassookeag Boat Ramps*

**Trampas King** thanked **Steve Lawson and his crew, Dexter Fish and Game, and Dexter Revitalization Committee** for all the work and contributions to the new boat ramp and advised the Council that there have been some concerns expressed by the residents on the lake since it is the Town's drinking water. The concerns are with invasive species getting into the lake. There are signs but the gate is broken and there has not been a decision made as to what to do with it.

**Mike Blake** added that invasive plants are a concern in all lakes in Maine. **Mr. King** agreed and said it was important to get the information out there and educate the public. The new boat ramp will eliminate more ramps going in on private property and further disturbing the shoreline and creating more erosion. **Mike Blake** inquired about the repairs that are needed on the boat ramp on the small lake and **Mr. King** replied that more crushed rock is needed at the front to keep boats from dropping off. **Mike Gudroe** stated that part of the ramp pulled away and equipment is needed to reset the piece.

*6. Approve/Sign Cemetery Deed for Nancy Corson*

Motion to Approve/Sign: **Peter Haskell**

Second: **Mark Robichaud**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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**VI. PUBLIC FORUM**

**Chuck Ellms** commented that he is in support of the proposed merger between Mayo and Northern Light.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

Motion to Adjourn at 8:15PM: **Fred Sherburne**

Second: **Peter Haskell**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim M. Hughes  
Town Clerk