

## COUNCIL MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2019

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Trampas King, Marilyn Curtis, Susan Page, Shannon Hall, Kevin Wintle

The Invocation was led by **Pastor Robert Deleon** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **DOGGIE DRAWING**

**Sharon Grant** drew **Debby Worthington** as the winner of \$25 in recognition for licensing her dog on time before the end of the calendar year.

### **I. PUBLIC HEARING**

NONE

### **II. MINUTES**

*1. Approve/Amend Council Minutes of December 13, 2018*

Motion to approve: **Marcia Delaware**

Second: **Sharon Grant**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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

*1. Order A2019-1 Appointment to Cemetery Advisory Committee*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approve the appointment of Marcia Delaware to the Cemetery Advisory Committee for a three year term expiring December 31, 2021.

Filed January 10, 2019

**CHUCK ELLMS**

Second: **Steve Gudroe**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

*2. Order 2019-3 Appointment to Highway/Equipment Committee*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approve the appointment of Mark Robichaud to the Highway/Equipment Committee for a three year term expiring December 31, 2021.

Filed January 10, 2019

**SHARON GRANT**

Motion to add to agenda: **Marcia Delaware**

Second: **Fred Sherburne**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

Second: **Marcia Delaware**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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### *1. Manager's Report*

**Trampas King** started off by welcoming our newest staff member, **Juli Kimball**, who has filled the deputy clerk position. **Mr. King** also thanked the highway crew for all their hard work so far this season. He stated that the crew is trying something new this year in that they are only salting Spring Street and Church Street in hopes that it will be as bare as possible. They are keeping the budget in mind while doing this. **Mr. King** announced that he received a letter from MTCCA stating that **Shannon Hall** had received her Tax Collector certification. Congratulations to her for all her hard work.

### *2. Departmental Reports*

No comments or questions

### *3. Order A2019-2 Demolition of 121 Main Street*

**BE IT ORDERED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts a bid for the demolition of the dangerous property located at 121 Main Street from Ralph McNaughton in the amount of \$9,000.00.

Filed January 10, 2019

**MARCIA DELAWARE**

Second: **Fred Sherburne**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

**Trampas King** explained that it wouldn't be fair to put the demolition back out to bid since the previous bids were already public. **Roger Wyman** had won the bid but had withdrawn so it is being awarded to the next lowest bidder, **Ralph McNaughton**.

**Chuck Ellms** asked how much we had spent on legal fees and **Mr. King** replied around \$5,000.

**Mark Robichaud** asked **Mr. King** about the status of the burned house on Free Street. **Mr. King** stated that it is very costly to go through the process of deeming it a dangerous building but that the owner owes three years of taxes so hopefully the Town will acquire it on February 7, 2019. At that point we will tear it down and the neighbors have interest in buying the vacant lot.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### *1. Proposed Ordinance for the transfer of funds for the Police Department*

**BE IT ORDAINED**, that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the Finance Officer to transfer \$12,000 of unanticipated revenue from the Town of Holden for the buyout of Steven Day from Account #R116-01-400-50 to Officer Buyout Account #E104-01-501-99 for final payment to the City of Orono for Officer Steven Day.

**Trampas King** explained that the Police Department purchased Officer **Steven Day** from the City of Orono for \$24,000. Orono agreed to let us pay in two installments of \$12,000 each.

**Officer Day** ended up going to Holden with a buyout of \$18,000. The transfer of funds will allow the town to pay the remaining balance owed to Orono. **Steve Gudroe** noted the fact that we lost \$6,000 by hiring **Officer Day**. **Chief Wintle** told the Council that he gets a lot of promises from his new hires but they end up leaving for better pay and benefits. **Mr. Wintle** stated that the first year buyout for Academy graduates will be increasing to \$40,000 which will hopefully benefit the smaller towns. **Marcia Delaware** asked if we can have new hires sign a contract and **Mr. King** stated that they wouldn't be legally binding. **Fred Sherburne** asked about working with **Steve Spaulding** at Tri-County Tech Center. **Mr. Wintle** stated that the

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students are only 18 when they graduate and can't be a full time Officer until they are 21. They leave to go to school or elsewhere and don't come back to Dexter.

**Mr. Wintle** informed the Council that he has hired **Rodney Mooers** as the 5<sup>th</sup> Officer. **Mr. Mooers** comes with experience from Texas and will only need two weeks of training from Maine.

### *2. Discussion on new Land Use Ordinance.*

**Trampas King** asked the Council if they would like the Planning Board to work on an Ordinance that would set a timeline for the repair/demolition of burned houses. Hopefully with an Ordinance the current situation on Free Street would be avoided. The Council was in favor.

### *3. Discussion on internet access at the Airport*

**Trampas King** told the Council that there is currently no internet access at the airport and the Airport Committee would like to get Wi-Fi through Spectrum. The cost would be \$59 a month which they will put in their budget for next year. **Mr. King** stated that it is a safety issue for the pilots. **Ron Apel** will do the install and they will use as much used equipment as possible. The computer will be located in the storage building and a passcode will be needed to get in.

### *4. Discussion on a change of the Town's electricity provider.*

**Trampas King** informed the Council that he has been approached by different electricity providers and there is one in particular that he is thinking about switching to. It will save up to 9¢ per kilowatt hour and at the worst it would be 1¢. There is no contract to sign and the Town would still be billed by CMP and reimbursed by the electricity provider. **Mr. King** stated that he would check with CMP to make sure that there is no penalty if we need to switch back.

## **VI. PUBLIC FORUM**

**Fred Sherburne** addressed the Council about the letter they all received from **Frank Spizuoco** stating that he was no longer going to be Chair of the **Dexter Revitalization Committee (DRC)** and he felt that the Town Council isn't doing enough to support the **DRC**. **Mr. Sherburne** stated that he feels that the **DRC** is very important to the Town and the Council needed to discuss how they can support them so they will continue and not disband. **Mr. Sherburne** doesn't want the Council to neglect them. He feels that the Hot Dog Festival is very important and is a huge revenue source but it takes a lot of people to make it happen. **Mr. Sherburne** reminded the Council about the Community Engagement Academy that he, **Gerry Rudmin, and Jim Chandler** attended. It was run by the Orton Foundation and he wondered if it would be beneficial for them to come and do an assessment of the **DRC** to see what could be done to keep them going strong.

**Peter Haskell** asked **Mr. Sherburne** if he was on the **DRC**. He stated that he was a part time member and **Sharon Grant** stated that she had been a member and the treasurer but had recently resigned. **Mr. Haskell** asked her why she got done and **Ms. Grant** stated that she wanted things done a certain way and there wasn't cooperation so she got done. **Ms. Grant** then raised the question of the goals of the **DRC** since they had never been established in the beginning. She was questioning what direction they felt the Council should be going in.

**Mr. Sherburne** again said that he felt the Orton Foundation would be a huge asset and we should contact them to see what kind of assistance they could give and what the cost would be.

**Marcia Delaware** asked if the **DRC** knew about the Orton Foundation. **Mr. Sherburne** thought

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they were given a written report but commented that prior to the Academy the Council had met with the **DRC** and he thought the consensus was that the **DRC** and the Council would continue to work together. **Chuck Ellms** said that he only knows of one meeting between the two and feels the **DRC** is awful quick to lay blame by saying that the Council isn't doing their job. The **DRC** has never come to the Town and asked what direction they should be going in. They have only said what they are doing with the money that they raised. He also doesn't agree that the Town has done nothing. We have given a lot of money to the Work Camp that is coming in July and that is for the betterment of the Town. We have also paid **Al Tempesta** to work on community development. **Mr. Ellms** doesn't like the fact that **DRC** says that we have sat on our hands and done nothing. **Peter Haskell** stated that we also worked with them on allowing ATV access to the businesses in Town. **Ms. Grant** asked **Mr. Sherburne** if he was going to the next **DRC** meeting and tell them about the Orton Foundation. **Ms. Delaware** stated that she would like to go to the meeting as well to see what their structure will be like now that their leader has resigned. **Mr. Haskell** stated that he talks to a couple of the members every morning and one of the biggest concerns is that it is the same people doing everything all the time. The **DRC** is a big part of the Work Camp this July and two weeks later it is the Red Hotdog Festival. There is a fear that they will be burnt out. If the Red Hotdog Festival doesn't happen this year it won't happen again. **Mr. Sherburne** stated that as many of the Councilors as possible should attend the **DRC** meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to show support for the **DRC**. **Mr. King** stated that we need to go and show our support. **Stephen Gudroe** asked if **Diane Parola** had taken over as chairperson. It was stated that she did but she really didn't want to. **Mr. Sherburne** stated that the Work Camp will bring a lot of exposure to the Town as their will be about 500 volunteers from all over the Country and around \$400,000 of spending at local vendors for the projects. They are still looking for applications as we only have around 60.

### VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

Motion to Adjourn at 7:59: **Fred Sherburne**

Second: **Mark Robichaud**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan E. Page  
Town Clerk