

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF
JULY 11, 2019**

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

STAFF PRESENT: Susan Page, Shannon Hall, Marilyn Curtis, Jeremy Trowbridge, Kevin Wintle, Matt Connor

The Invocation was led by **Pastor Andrew Bermudez** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

WORK CAMP UPDATE – PASTOR BERMUDEZ

Andrew Bermudez informed the Council that the Work Camp would be happening in twelve days and more than 400 people would be converging on the Town. **Mr. Bermudez** stated that they were still letting the residents know if they had been chosen or not and there are 58 to 63 homes that will be getting the free repair. **Trampas King** said that it will be crazy but it will be a good thing for the community. **Mr. Bermudez** stated that the Dexter Kiwanis is in charge of the hospitality and they will be providing supper and activities for the group Wednesday afternoon. **Mr. King** said he will be posting updates on the Dexter Maine page to keep people updated.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Resolution B2019-2020-1 Municipal Budget

Gerald Nessman asked what undesignated revenue consisted of. **Marilyn Curtis** replied that it was money that isn't generated by a specific department such as excise etc.

II. MINUTES

1. Approve/Amend Council Minutes of June 13, 2019

Motion to Approve: **Marcia Delaware**

Second: **Chuck Ellms**

Vote: Unanimous, motion passes

III. NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS, & ELECTIONS

1. Order A2019-51 Appointment to SAD 46 Board

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the appointment of David Eddy to the SAD 46 Board of Directors for a term to expire Election Day, November 5, 2019.

Filed July 11, 2019

CHUCK ELLMS

Second: **Sharon Grant**

Vote: Unanimous, motion passes

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Manager's Report

Trampas King thanked everyone for coming. **Mr. King** stated that the fireworks and the 4th of July parade went well and he thanked everyone that participated. He also thanked **Ron** and **Michelle Grant** for organizing the parade again. **Mr. King** stated that the public works department has been busy prepping the three roads that will be paved next month. DOT will put a binder coat down on the roads they are paving by the 10th but the roads won't be finished for a couple more weeks. **Mr. King** reported that the Plummer Foundation is paying to have repairs

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done on the Plummer and the Morrison vaults at Mount Pleasant Cemetery with a price tag of around \$16,000. **Mr. King** informed everybody of the Kiwanis Cruise In on August 4th, the Maine Red Hotdog Festival on August 10th, the Make A Wish Foundation Fly in on August 4th, an open house at Abbott Library on September 10th, and the Fireman’s Auction August 1st – 3rd.

2. Departmental Reports

NO COMMENTS

3. Resolution B2019-2020-2 Municipal Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, WHEREAS the sum of \$4,565,863, which sum constitutes the estimated requirements of the Town of Dexter for the year 2019-2020 based upon the budget submitted by the Town Manager as provided by the Town Charter, be raised by assessments upon the estates of the Inhabitants of the Town of Dexter and upon the estates of the non-resident proprietors within the Town for the present municipal year and the sum is hereby appropriated in addition to the sum otherwise provided. The amount for each purpose being specified in the schedule is as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	APPROPRIATION	REVENUES
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 54,000	
General Government	\$ 924,604	
Public Works	\$ 883,798	
Airport	\$ 18,000	
Public Safety	\$ 566,516	
Health & Welfare	\$ 63,312	
Solid Waste Mgt/Lakes & Dam	\$ 272,009	
Culture & Recreation	\$ 197,138	
Facilities & Parks	\$ 468,558	
Cemetery	\$ 109,288	
Economic Development	\$ 15,000	
Debt Service	\$ 147,602	
Contributions to Reserve Accts	\$ 161,000	
County Tax	\$ 314,288	
Education	\$2,028,818	
Subtotal	\$6,223,931	

Increase from 2018-2019 ----- \$424,782

General Government Revenue	\$ 57,900
Cemetery Revenue	\$ 5,718
Culture & Recreation Revenue	\$ 11,450
Excise Tax Revenue	\$ 586,000
Facilities & Parks Revenue	\$ 11,250
Health & Welfare Revenue	\$ 9,500
Public Safety Revenue	\$ 53,000

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Public Works Revenue		\$ 60,000
MMSWA Revenue		\$ 2,200
Airport Revenue		\$ 3,900
Economic Development		\$ 0
Undesignated Revenue		\$ 479,150
General Fund Transfers		\$ 93,000
Capital Projects Revenue		\$ 231,000
Special Revenue Funds		\$ 54,000
Subtotal		\$ 1,658,068

Increase from 2018-2019 ----- \$425,205

NET BUDGET ----- \$4,565,863

NET DECREASE FROM 2018-2019 ----- (\$423)

Filed July 11, 2019
CHUCK ELLMS

Second: **Sharon Grant**

Vote: 5 to 1 (Gudroe), motion passes

Trampas King thanked the Council for all their hard work on the budget. He also stated that all of the department heads did a great job and that **Marilyn Curtis** is awesome.

Peter Haskell wanted people to know that the school budget increased by \$102,000 but the Council cut the Town's budget so there wouldn't be an increase in the mil rate.

4. Order A2019-44 Sale of Tax Acquired Property – 43 Prospect Street

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council, in accordance with the Dexter Town Code, hereby authorizes the sale of certain tax acquired property being more specifically described as Map 06, Lot 23 at 43 Prospect Street to Jeffrey Getchell for the amount of \$4,573.42. Transfer Tax costs shall be the responsibility of the purchaser.

~~Filed June 13, 2019~~
Refiled July 11, 2019
MARCIA DELAWARE

Second: **Sharon Grant**

Vote: Unanimous, motion passes

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution B2019-2020-2 Tax due Date and Interest Rate

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2019-2020 property taxes shall be due and payable on or before October 18, 2019; and furthermore that the interest rate for the outstanding balance paid after that date shall be at the rate of 9% per annum.

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Filed July 11, 2019
SHARON GRANT

Second: **Marcia Delaware**

Vote: Unanimous, motion passes

2. Resolution B2019-2020-3 Mil Rate

BE IT RESOLVED, WHEREAS; the sum of \$4,565,863 is required to be raised through taxation to support municipal operations, as well as the Town's contribution to School Administrative District #46 and payment to Penobscot County for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, that a mil rate not to exceed 19.6 mils be hereby adopted for the 2019-2020 tax year.

Filed July 11, 2019
FRED SHERBURNE

Second: **Steve Gudroe**

Vote: Unanimous, motion passes

3. Resolution B2019-2020-4 Tax Club

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the continuation of the Tax Club for the collection of property taxes for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

Filed July 11, 2018
MARK ROBICHAUD

Second: **Chuck Ellms**

Vote: Unanimous, motion passes

4. Order A2019-50 Off Premise Catering License

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approves the off-premise catering permit for the Red Maple Inn for the Maine Red Hot Dog Festival on August 10, 2019.

Filed July 11, 2019
STEVE GUDROE

Second: **Mark Robichaud**

Vote: Unanimous, motion passes

5. Approve/Sign Municipal Quit Claim Deed for Jeffrey Getchell

Motion to Approve/Sign: **Marcia Delaware**

Second: **Chuck Ellms**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

6. Approve/Sign Cemetery Deed for: Richard & Carolyn Gilbert

Motion to Approve/Sign: **Steve Gudroe**

Second: **Chuck Ellms**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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7. Discussion on Current ATV Access Roads

Chief Kevin Wintle had asked the Council if they could discuss the ATV access roads. **Chief Wintle** stated that overall he thought that things were going well although they have had a handful of incidents involving the Police. He feels that the signs are not clear in some areas and people are going by them and if they stop somebody for being in the wrong area they are trying to educate them rather than give them a ticket. A lot of people are using the Dexter side of the Line Road and going down Rt. 7 onto Liberty Street. **Chief Wintle** stated that another problem area is the float bridge on Rt. 23 and also on Grove Street they aren't stopping at the parking lot they are going down through Town. He feels a different sign is needed at the parking lot at Ace Hardware. **Chief Wintle** said there have been a lot of problems with some individuals on Cedar Street and with people driving that have suspended licenses as they aren't allowed off the trails. **Chief Wintle** stated there have been a lot of complaints on Zions Hill and they have increased patrol in that area. There are also a lot of people on the East side of Town that are trying to get to the trails as there are no roads open there. **Sharon Grant** asked if the ATV task force needs to meet again to discuss possible new roads to open and more or different signage. **Ms. Grant** stated that she has seen a lot of people going fast trying to get to a trail and if it was legal they would probably go slow. **Chuck Ellms** also thought that we need to open up something on the East side of Town possibly Park Street or Maple Street. It was also suggested to make a trail map to hand out to residents and businesses. **Trampas King** stated that he would get the ATV Task Force together for another meeting.

8. Discussion on the Recommendation from the Cannabis Task Force

Trampas King started by reading a multiple page report that he had prepared for the task force saying that amendments made to the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act came into effect stating that no new retail stores, manufacturing facilities, testing facilities or dispensaries can begin operation in a municipality unless the legislative body affirmatively votes to allow that type of establishment. **Mr. King** stated that he had volunteered to launch the cannabis task force to help the Council decide what direction to go in the future when dealing with marijuana establishments. The task force was voted in at the December 8, 2018 meeting. Since that time the committee has had twelve meetings including a public forum on May 20, 2019. The committee consists of two Council members and ten Dexter residents, some of which are business owners with some being for and some being against cannabis businesses. **Mr. King** stated that the group first started looking at just medical dispensaries but realized that they needed to learn more about hemp, THC, CBD, and all the other aspects. Both positive and negative bullet points were developed by the task force as well. Some of the positives included job creation, filling empty buildings, possible population growth, less addictive replacement for opioids, job creation, new business, and possible tax revenue. Some of the negatives included a possible negative impact on the culture, bad smell, dangers of driving under the influence, easy access for children, bad example for children, addiction, harmful to developing brains, second hand smoke, impact on property values, negative impact on neighboring businesses, need for increased police coverage, increase in crime, careless driving, and more accidents. **Mr. King** stated that the committee also decided to put forth 5 non-binding referendum questions on the June ballot to get a consensus from the public. All five questions were voted down by a various number of votes. Also, in November of 2016, Dexter residents voted against the State referendum to legalize marijuana. **Mr. King** informed the Council that the committee understands that they don't have the final decision but they would like the Council to take their data and research into consideration to

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make an informed decision that is best suited for the Town and its residents. **Mr. King** also said it should be noted that there is concern that medical marijuana and recreational marijuana will eventually be one. **Mr. King** stated that so far only 14 out of 488 Maine municipalities have opted in to allow some or all of the four types of non-medical marijuana businesses authorized under state law and that he would like to see the committee work with the Planning Board on land use ordinances relating to and on this issue. Councilor **Sharon Grant** who is also on the task force, stated that she has read a great deal of articles about marijuana and it isn't the utopia that everybody thinks it is and she feels the Town needs businesses other than cannabis. **Ms. Grant** isn't in favor of anything until they meet with the Planning Board and somebody comes forward with a solid business plan. She stated that it has to be really thought through because once it is here, it's here. Councilor **Steve Gudroe** stated that no matter what the Council decides to do it isn't going to stop anybody from getting marijuana. He emphasized that the Town has had two votes regarding marijuana and both times the voters have said no. Many residents spoke out in favor of allowing cannabis operations in Town and all of them were unhappy about the negative bullet points presented by the committee feeling that they were biased and not realistic. Many felt that the negatives far outweighed the positives and felt that the Task Force was close minded. The point was raised that the effects of alcohol are more harmful than the effects of cannabis. **Kasey Gilbert** asked **Chief Kevin Wintle** if he was seeing a lot of violent criminals that were high on marijuana. **Mr. Wintle** replied that they are seeing a lot of people that are combining alcohol with marijuana and it is difficult to test because they have to call in a DRE, but he personally has seen some pretty bad cases. Some residents spoke out about the benefits of medical marijuana and gave personal experiences. After listening to the concerns of the public, **Mr. King** recommended that the Council take no action at this time and work with the Planning Board to develop land use regulations in preparation of somebody coming forward with a solid business plan.

VI. PUBLIC FORUM

A question was asked about the camp ground that used to be at the beach. **Trampas King** stated that the Town had issues with trying to get somebody to run it and not let the bath house get damaged. It was decided to close it down. **Mr. King** went on to say that the town has \$8,000 to do restoration work on the inside of the bath house, we just need to find the time and manpower to do it. **Mr. King** stated that there was a group that volunteered to do some painting on the pavilions, the rocks, and the bath house itself.

Motion to Adjourn: **Marcia Delaware** at 8:40

Second: **Chuck Ellms**

Unanimous in favor, motion passes

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan E. Page
Town Clerk

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