

**Town of Orono
Council Committee Meeting**

**Monday, February 1, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
Council Chamber – Municipal Building**

Minutes

1. Roll Call

Present: Geoff Gordon (Community Development Chair), Tom Perry (Finance Chair), Sam Kunz (Operations Chair), Council Chairman Cindy Mehnert, Judy Sullivan, Mark Haggerty, Town Manager Sophie Wilson, Assistant Town Manager Belle Ryder, Planner Evan Richert, Public Works Director Rob Yerxa and Finance Director Jessie Daniels.

Community Development

2. Planning Board Interviews

Background - The Planning Board currently has a vacancy due to Mark Kittridge's resignation. As requested by the Committee, staff promoted the volunteer opportunity and received two applications.

The Committee interviewed the two candidates— Geremy Chubbuck and Justin Harlan. Each candidate provided a brief background of their expertise and interest in serving on the Planning Board.

Mr. Chubbuck stated he is a licensed engineer and spoke of his desire to volunteer and utilize his technical engineering skills. Mr. Chubbuck noted that he is comfortable interpreting site plans.

Mr. Harlan stated that his background is in architectural design and he is currently a financial advisor. He spoke of his desire to volunteer and utilize his ability to navigate complex rules/regulations.

Mr. Richert stated that Mark Kittridge's resignation is a huge loss to the Planning Board. He spoke of the critical need to appoint someone that can interpret site plans and ask questions of the applicants. He spoke in support of appointing Mr. Chubbuck, but also noted that Mr. Harlan skills and talents could be utilized on OEDC or the Bangor Area Target Development Corporation. Mr. Yerxa also spoke in support of Mr. Chubbuck.

The Committee agreed to forward to the next Council agenda the appointment of Jeremy Chubbuck to the Planning Board.

Ms. Wilson explained that MMA Planning Board training is required before an associate member can assume the regular Planning Board seat. She noted that the current associate members cannot take the upcoming training, but Mr. Chubbuck can; therefore his appointment

would be elevated to the regular Planning Board seat, conditioned upon completion of the required training.

3. Maine Tech Park - Taylor Road Wetland Mitigation Project

Background - The Town has been aware of an alleged outstanding wetland violation in the Maine Technology Park, stemming from the construction of Godfrey Drive in the 1980s and apparently, to a lesser extent, the construction of the Target Technology Center in 2000-2001. Since 2012, OEDC has been considering what a master plan might look like for the build out of Maine Technology Park – including taking into account this alleged violation and existing wetlands within the park. That has led to discussions with state and federal wetland regulators as to what might be required to mitigate the alleged violation (and thus eliminate the cloud that currently hangs over the park).

Mr. Richert stated that discussions among the Town staff, the regulators, OEDC and Orono Land Trust have led to the proposal to consider permanent conservation easements (to Orono Land Trust) of two Town-owned parcels off Taylor Road for both mitigation of the alleged violation and land banking for possible future wetland alteration for projects in Town. Mr. Richert provided details of the parcels and mitigation.

Mr. Richert and the Committee reviewed a map of the Taylor Road wetland parcels. They discussed details of the wetland mitigation (for Maine Tech Park and possible RSU#26 land). Mr. Richert supported taking care of the alleged violation to allow for future development of land in the Maine Tech Park.

Mr. Richert stated that staff has been working with the Orono Economic Development Corporation to develop a plan to present to the Army Corp of Engineers in order to resolve the wetland violations that occurred as part of the construction of the Maine Technology Park. Mr. Richert stated that pre-permitting would allow for a readiness for development at the Tech Park.

The Committee liked the idea of taking care of the alleged outstanding wetland violation and preparing the Tech Park for development, but wanted to give away as little land as possible.

Ms. Wilson suggested presenting a plan to the Army Corp of Engineers in order to resolve the wetland violations and split the green section (of the Town-owned parcels off Taylor Road) to offer up for pre-permitting. Staff will report back to the Committee with an update. The Committee agreed.

Finance

4. Pay-As-You-Throw Residential Trash Collection

Public Works Director Rob Yerxa presented an overview and cost analysis regarding a “Pay as you Throw” program for residential for municipal solid waste collection. Mr. Yerxa noted that only one-third of the waste stream comes from residential use; the other two-thirds come from

the University of Maine and commercial uses. He stated that the cost savings would be roughly \$10,000-\$15,000 per year.

Ms. Wilson stated that “Pay as you Throw” encourages recycling, but would cost homeowners much more than the savings. The Committee agreed that it did not make sense to make homeowners pay more for their trash to get a tax reduction that would be a fraction of the cost.

The Committee agreed to not take action on a Pay-As-You-Throw Residential Trash Collection program.

5. Investment of Cemetery Perpetual Care and Reserve Funds

Finance Director Jessie Daniels stated that staff and the Council and Finance Committee Chairs met with representatives of The First and The First Advisors regarding investing Cemetery Perpetual Care and Reserve Funds.

Ms. Wilson noted that the purpose of the Cemetery Perpetual Care fund is to make improvements to the cemetery. Ms. Wilson stated that making more active investments would allow the fund to make more money. She noted that if the Committee is in favor of moving forward with more aggressive investing of these funds, staff would develop new investment policy language to bring back to the Committee. The Committee discussed the details.

The Committee agreed to have staff move the current funds from Key Bank to The First and draft a new investment policy for committee review. Before changing the investment strategy, the Council will invite the First Advisors (a division of The First Bank) to a public meeting to discuss changes to the investment strategies.

6. FY15 Carry Forwards

Ms. Wilson stated that previously the Committee reviewed the list of suggested funds to carry forward from FY15 to FY16. The Committee accepted the list in concept with the exception of \$70,000 in economic development funds which it requested staff lapse as undesignated fund balance.

Ms. Wilson presented the list of carry forwards which were provided to the auditor and included in the FY15 audited financial statements. The Committee reviewed the list of carry forwards.

The Committee agreed to forward the list of budget carry forwards from FY15 to FY16 to the next Council agenda for consideration.

Operations

7. Request Council Agenda Revision

Ms. Wilson stated that Councilor Gordon has suggested that the Committee consider making alterations to the Council agenda template that would move all orders related to the licensing

process to the consent agenda to be approved in one efficient vote. Ms. Wilson noted that any consent item may be moved to new business in order to allow for further discussion.

The Committee agreed to move all orders related to the licensing process to the consent agendas.

8. Brief Town Manager's Update

The Town Manager provided a brief update on the following items:

- Report on her meeting with University of Maine, President Susan Hunter
- Police Pedestrian Safety Campaign
- Grant Application for EMS Monitors

9. Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes are not verbatim. A tape-recorded version is available in the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Administrative Assistant