

**Town of Orono
Council Committee Meeting**

**Monday, March 7, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
Council Chamber – Municipal Building**

Minutes

1. Roll Call

Present: Sam Kunz (Operations Chair), Council Chairman Cindy Mehnert, Geoff Gordon, Mark Haggerty, Judy Sullivan, Town Manager Sophie Wilson, Assistant Town Manager Belle Ryder and Public Works Director Rob Yerxa.

Operations

2. MRC Post-2018 Municipal Solid Waste

Ms. Wilson stated that Council has received presentations from both the Municipal Review Committee (MRC Fiberight) and PERC. She noted that George Aronson of Commonwealth Resource Management, MRC's Technical Advisor, was present to answer any questions Councilors may have about the post-2018 municipal solid waste proposals.

Ms. Wilson presented a financial analysis and assumptions of the Fiberight, PERC (seen) and PERC (unseen) contracts.

The Committee discussed the following topics with Ms. Wilson and Mr. Aronson:

- Concerns about the PERC turbines (thermal fatigue)
- Discussion of financial analysis and assumptions
- Contingencies with the development of Fiberight
- Clarification of points made in the Town of Hermon letter
- Discussion of comingled waste
- DEP permitting for Fiberight

Committee members made comments in support of the Fiberight proposal. The following points were made:

- Fiberight is more progressive and the economics makes sense.
- There are a lot of risks/unknowns; however, Fiberight has options if it fails (versus PERC) and is worth pursuing.
- There are risks involved, but like the alternative of doing something different. MRC is doing a good job.
- Nervous about risk, there is no clear route. MRC provides more backing if needed.

Public Comments

Paul Schroeder, and a group of concerned citizens, presented the Committee with a Letter to the Editor of the Penobscot Times that speaks of their position and rationale in regards to support the existing PERC facility.

Ed Spencer of Old Town spoke in support of the PERC facility. He noted that it is a shame that MRC and PERC are not working together to find a solution.

Jay Dresser of Bangor proposed a different alternative regarding a drop-off facility for source recycling separation.

The Committee agreed to discuss this issue further at a future meeting.

Mr. Haggerty encouraged Councilors to determine what additional information they would need from Town Manager Wilson to aid them in making a decision.

3. Brief Town Manager's Update

Ms. Ryder gave a brief update on the Old Town-Orono Fiber Corporation. She stated that Old Town-Orono Fiber Corporation is up and running and is in need of funds outside of the feasibility study funds allocated in the approved FY16 budget and NBRC grant match. All three entities that make up the corporation (Old Town, Orono, and the University of Maine System) have been asked to contribute \$5,000 each toward general operating funds for legal expenses (along with other expenses) related to Corporation start up and NBRC grant acceptance. Staff has reviewed the Downtown and Transit Oriented TIF District Development Program and has determined that this is an allowed use of TIF revenue.

Ms. Ryder noted that OTO Fiber Corporation is continuing to search for other grant/funding opportunities (i.e. ConnectME and EDA funds).

Ms. Sullivan suggested that OTO Fiber Corporation provide a report to Council.

The Committee agreed to move to the Council Agenda a recommendation for approval of \$5,000 to the OTO Fiber Corporation to be drawn from the Downtown Transit-Oriented TIF District.

Ms. Ryder reported that the OTO Fiber Corporation is reviewing the RFPs on the Feasibility Study regarding the phased development and investment plan. The Corporation is in negotiations with Magellan Associates.

Finance

4. Public Works Cemetery Mowing Contract

Public Works Director Rob Yerxa explained that three companies responded to the request for

proposals; however, one had previously performed this service for the Town in a manner that resulted in a decision not to offer an extension of the contract and the other two did not have the cemetery maintenance experience requested. Staff recommended rejecting all of the bids and soliciting quotes from contractors with cemetery maintenance experience.

The Committee agreed to reject the bids received and give staff permission to pursue alternative bids to bring forward to the Council Agenda.

Ms. Mehnert reminded Councilors that the Town Manager's evaluation forms are due by March 25, 2016.

5. Adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Administrative Assistant