

**Town of Orono
Council Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
Council Chamber – Municipal Building**

Minutes

1. Roll Call

Present: Geoff Gordon (Community Development Chair), Council Chairman Cindy Mehnert, Sam Kunz, Judy Sullivan, Tom Spitz, Tom Perry (via telephone), Town Manager Sophie Wilson and Assistant Town Manager Belle Ryder.

Community Development

2. RSU#26 Interim Director Interviews

Mr. Gordon stated that three applications were received for the RSU#26 Interim Director position; however, one applicant withdrew. The two applicants that were interviewed were Frances (Fran) Neubauer and Leo Kenney (via telephone). Each applicant was interviewed for 30-minutes and asked the following questions:

- How would you balance the need to provide quality educational opportunities against the taxpayers' ability to fund it?
- How would you ensure that the RSU engages in transparent financial practices that adhere to accepted guidelines?
- What skills and interests would you bring to the RSU Board of Directors?
- What do you see as the upcoming challenges and opportunities for the RSU?
- What is your vision for the RSU?
- Do you intent to run in the March 2017 Election?

The Committee discussed the strengths of each candidate. They noted that both were dedicated, well-qualified candidates that have integrity and would serve the community well. The Committee also discussed which strengths were needed for the RSU Board.

Committee members noted Mr. Kenney's knowledge of the school funding formula, his comfort level with negotiations, willingness to confront challenges and fiscal responsibility.

Committee members noted Ms. Neubauer's dedication and commitment to the school system and her passion for all students.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the next Council Agenda the appointment of Leo Kenney to the RSU#26 Board of Directors to fill a vacancy until March 2017.

3. Brief Town Manager's Update

Ms. Wilson gave a brief update on the following items:

- An Executive Session Poverty Abatement will be held at a Special Council Meeting, March 14, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
- WPCF sludge aeration issue corrected.
- An Executive Session on Labor Negotiations will be held at the Council Meeting, March 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
- Council Committee Meeting to be held on March 24, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. on Post-2018 Municipal Solid Waste.

4. Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Administrative Assistant