

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Minutes

1. Roll Call

Present: Geoff Gordon (Community Development Chair), Cindy Mehnert (Council Chair), Tom Perry, Sam Kunz, Judy Sullivan, Tom Spitz, Assistant Town Manager Belle Ryder, Economic Development Director Dave Milan, Finance Director Jessie Daniels and Fire Chief Rob St. Louis.

Community Development

2. Contract Zone Proposed for 12 and 14 Park Street, Thai Kitchen

Ms. Mehnert commented on the good presentation given at the public hearing on this topic.

Steve Ribble, of Context by Design, commented that the easement has been revised for 12 Park Street which includes descriptive language regarding the ADA parking space.

The Committee agreed to move to the next Council Agenda approval of the Contract Zone Request for 12 and 14 Park Street, Thai Kitchen.

3. Proposed Ordinance Amendments – Accessory Structure

Ms. Ryder stated that two Councilors have requested revising the ordinance amendment language regarding Accessory Dwelling Units in Accessory Structures which will be taken up on June 27, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Tom Perry and Geoff Gordon commented that there should be some minimum lot size requirement for allowing accessory dwelling units in accessory structures. They suggested having staff look at the Town's database on lot sizes to determine the minimum requirement.

Ms. Sullivan commented that the spirit of the ordinance change is to bring in college students to owner-occupied properties and to add density to in-town lots.

Mr. Milan stated that he would ask Mr. Richert to look into minimum lot size options which take into account setbacks to bring to the meeting on June 27, 2016. Mr. Gordon requested having Mr. Richert look into how to address a change in ownership from an owner-occupied to non-owner occupied property.

The Committee agreed to revisit this item at the next Council Committee Meeting.

4. Finance

5. **FY2016 Budget Adjustments**

Ms. Ryder explained that the IT/GIS budget of \$52,000 is being moved from the Code and Planning budget to the Town Manager's budget to reflect that IT/GIS is more universal than originally anticipated. She noted that the change does not affect the budget.

The Committee agreed to move the budget adjustment for the IT/GIS position to the next Council agenda for consideration.

6. **Final FY2017 Budget Review (Adoption scheduled 6/27)**

Tom Perry commented that he was surprised at the lack of feedback on the proposed budget at the public hearing. Councilors commented that they heard from a few residents that the budget was too high. Ms. Sullivan commented that she wished she had had more time with the budget.

Ms. Ryder stated that Councilors will meet in the fall to discuss the budget goals for next year.

Councilors commented that the tax rate cannot continue to increase. They also encouraged discussions with the school regarding sustainability.

The Committee agreed to move the proposed budget to the Special Council Meeting on June 27, 2016 for consideration.

7. **Ambulance Billing Policy**

Ms. Ryder stated that staff would like to create an Ambulance Billing Policy. She and Fire Chief Rob St. Louis described the current procedure with ambulance billing. Chief St. Louis stated he would like to add another step into the collection process; where after 120 days a letter would be sent to the patient giving the Fire Chief the ability to negotiate a settlement which Medical Reimbursement Services would then arrange with the patient.

Ms. Ryder asked the Committee whether there was any interest in this new Ambulance Billing Policy, which would also recommend that bad debt which is five years old be taken off the books.

The Committee supported having an Ambulance Billing Policy to write off old debt and to give the Fire Chief the authority to work with residents on a settlement. The Committee agreed to have staff write the policy to bring back to the Committee.

Operations

8. Brief Town Manager's Update

Cindy Mehnert asked about the status of the Civil War Monument's final resting place. Ms. Ryder stated that the Orono Historical Society has requested locating the Civil War Monument at the Riverside Cemetery. Ms. Ryder stated that details are still being worked out and it will be brought back to Council soon.

Tom Perry asked for a future report on staff's visit to Durham, New Hampshire. Ms. Ryder spoke of the success of the trip and stated that programs and policy ideas will be forthcoming for the Committee's consideration. She reported that staff is looking at their ordinances, rental inspection program, policing program, and such.

Ms. Ryder reminded Councilors that OTO Fiber Corporation will be meeting Wednesday night.

9. Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Administrative Assistant