

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Sam Kunz (Community Development Chair), Tom Perry, Cindy Mehnert, Laurie Osher, Cheryl Robertson, Terry Greenier, Town Manager Sophie Wilson.

2. Draft Land Use Ordinance related to Excavation and Filling of Land

Town Planner Kyle Drexler explained the intent of this ordinance amendment is to put in place a system that acknowledges that similar earth-moving projects may create different levels of impact depending on a variety of factors, including, the zoning district where the project is taking place, the size of the lot in which the project takes place, and the proximity of an earth-moving project to abutting lots. The goal of this amendment is to allow for more flexibility by Town staff to determine if an earth-moving project can simply be permitted through the Code Enforcement Office, or if a potential greater impact is possible, if the project should instead go before the Planning Board for site plan review. The Committee discussed the details of the ordinance amendment.

The Committee agreed to forward the Ordinance Amendment to the Planning Board for its review.

3. Request to Remove Fluoride (Hydrofluorosilicic Acid) from the Public Water Supply

Ms. Wilson explained that an Orono citizen contacted staff regarding the desire to stop fluoridating the public water supply. Subsequently, the individual has met with Orono Veazie Water District (OVWD) management which prompted Town staff to research Orono's fluoridation history and to reach out to the OVWD, Town of Veazie, and Town Attorney. The Attorney's opinion notes that State Law vests all power regarding the decision to add or remove fluoride from the public water supply in the voters of the communities served by that public water supply. To clarify a couple of points made in Attorney Huber's opinion, the referendum election must be held simultaneously in both communities; all registered voters of each community are eligible to cast ballots in their respective community; and the results of the election are determined by which position accumulates the most total votes.

Staff has learned that OVWD is being strongly advised to stay neutral in the discussion and ask the towns to lead the discussion/decision related to holding a public referendum on this question. Staff met with colleagues in Veazie and OVWD last week to discuss the process and will be meeting with OVWD Board of Trustees on Tuesday (2/24) evening to further discuss the

concern that has been raised, logistics of fluoridation, and potential referendum timeline (should the Orono and Veazie Town Councils agree to call simultaneous elections for this purpose).

For those who would like to research further, this is a link to the beginning of Title 22, Chapter 601, Subchapter 5 which governs the fluoridation of public water supplies:

<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/22/title22sec2651-A.html>

The Committee agreed to forward this issue to the Council to consider calling a Municipal Referendum Election.

4. Appointments of Volunteers to Town Boards and Committees

Ms. Wilson noted several vacancies on various boards and committees. She informed the Committee that a candidate should be coming forward to be considered for the Orono-Veazie Water District vacancy.

5. Brief Town Manager's Report

Ms. Wilson provided a brief update on current issues.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm. Minutes are summary only.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant