

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL VIRTUAL BUDGET WORKSHOP
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020 AT 4:00PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT
<https://zoom.us/j/92643222186>

(LINK AVAILABLE AT ORONO.ORG)

*Comments can be submitted via email before the meeting at info@orono.org
and during the meeting by using Zoom comment features.*

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Cindy Mehnert, Tom Perry, Meghan Gardner, Sam Kunz, Cheryl Robertson, Terry Greenier and Town Manager Sophie Wilson. Absent: Laurie Osher.

2. FY21 Municipal Budget Discussion

- **General Overview and Revenue Projections**

Ms. Wilson presented a general overview of the FY21 budget and the revenue projections. She also presented information about other communities. Council said they would like Orono to be like Bath, Brunswick, Hampden, etc. She spoke of the similarities in population and size with the major difference being the amount of tax exemption properties in Orono. She also spoke of the economic uncertainty in these times.

Ms. Wilson noted the proposed FY21 municipal budget projects a 1.8% increase taking into account an increase to the undesignated fund balance, elimination of the appropriations to reserves, reduced capital infrastructure, delayed filling of anticipated vacancies, cut in expenditures and a delay of needed equipment.

Ms. Wilson presented a three-tier review of services. She also presented services and expenses that are obligations or mandates that cannot be cut.

- **Council Discussion**

Councilors discussed the projected revenues, fund balance and expenditures. Councilors were okay with the optimistic view of revenues, agreed with no cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and were okay with holding off on filling vacant positions. Mr Perry was not okay with closing the pool and ice rink. Councilors were committed to not cutting or laying off staff.

The Councilors discussed the anticipated RSU#26 budget increase due to the passage of the school construction bond. They agreed the school has its own budget and they would not be cutting the municipal budget to absorb the school budget. The public was encouraged to get involved in the Town and RSU#26 meetings.

3. Brief Town Manager Report - None

4. Adjourn

At 5:25pm, Sam Kunz moved and Cheryl Robertson seconded to adjourn. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Minutes are not verbatim. A video-recorded version is available on the Town's website at www.orono.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant