

**TOWN OF ORONO
FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 AT 8:00 A.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Tom Perry (Finance Chair), Council Chair Cindy Mehnert, Meghan Gardner, Terry Greenier, Laurie Osher, Town Manager Sophie Wilson, Fire Chief Geoff Low and Finance Director Connie Thorne.

2. Budget Trends for Council Discussion

a. Fire Department Overtime Budget

Ms. Wilson and Fire Chief Geoff Low explained that the Fire Department budget is trending towards an over expense. Chief Low explained the unscheduled overtime, sick coverage and vacation coverage that is trending towards being \$23,000 overdrawn, if the current trend continues.

3. FY19 Carry Forward Requests

a. Authorization to Expend Funds from TIF for KACH Evaluation (\$10,000)

Ms. Wilson explained the request to carry forward \$10,000 from the FY19 TIF funds for the Keith Anderson Community House evaluation.

The Committee agreed to forward the FY19 Carry Forward request of \$10,000 from the TIF Account for the KACH Evaluation to the October 21, 2019 Council agenda.

4. Tax Collector's Report

a. FY20 Tax Collections

Ms. Wilson stated that the FY20 tax collection is at \$13M, including real estate and personal property taxes. To date, over \$2.4M has been collected, which is more than past years. The tax due date is September 30th.

b. Prior Year Collections

Ms. Wilson stated that the prior year's collection is going well. More will be cleaned up by the end of December. She thanked the Town Clerk and her team for their efforts. She explained the tax write-off that will occur with tax-acquired property at 30 Island Avenue. She noted that staff is working to properly foreclose on property formerly owned by Linda Cook.

Tom Perry noted that taxpayers are pleased that the tax mill rate is down.

5. Treasurer's Report

- a. Cash Position and Items of Interest**
- b. August Financials**

Ms. Wilson reported that the tax on hand is at \$10.7M. Staff continues to work to get the best interest rate. Ms. Wilson noted The First Advisors will be in to review the Town's portfolio with Council in November. Ms. Thorne reviewed the current interest rate increase with the cemetery account and the general fund account.

6. Brief Town Manager Update

Ms. Wilson gave a brief update on the following:

- Completion of Mill Street repairs.
- Main Street reconstruction project in progress.
- Upcoming paving projects with Thibodeau Construction.
- Two zone change requests will be on the Council Workshop agenda: Extending the Village Commercial District to include Alpenglow, 92 Main Street; and Contract Zone Amendment, 117 Mill Street.
- Town Manager to meet with UMaine President's office personnel to discuss building a town/gown relationship in light of new University personnel.

7. Schedule Next Meeting - 10/15/2019 at 8:00AM

8. Adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes are summary only. An audio recording of the meeting is available on the Town's website at www.orono.org under Agendas and Minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant