

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022 AT 5:00PM**

**IN-PERSON: COUNCIL CHAMBER – MUNICIPAL BUILDING
ZOOM WEBINAR ON-LINE: <https://zoom.us/j/91763108983>
DIAL IN TO ZOOM WEBINAR: 1(312) 626-6799 ID: 917 6310 8983**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: (In Person) Council Chair Tom Perry, Cheryl Robertson, Geoffrey Wingard, and Town Manager Sophie Wilson, (Via Zoom) Meghan Gardner and Laurie Osher. Absent: Terry Greenier.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

- a. Council Discussion: Identifying Priorities and Next Steps for Developing a Formal Town Plan Related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)** *(Video record time 0:38 - 55:58)*

Councilors discussed the information received from the Ad Hoc Community Committee, the staff report on operational DEI efforts, and their own experience/research in an effort to provide the next steps for developing a formal Town Plan related to DEI.

Councilor Robertson spoke of the large amount of information provided, including the Matrix, DEI report and staff operational report provided. Councilor Wingard was thankful for all the information which helped him to define areas of progress and areas to address as a Council. It was noted there are some things that might not be a municipal responsibility. Councilors noted, as they head into budget season, they may need to have a frank discussion on allocating funds. It was noted the DEI Ad Hoc Committee operated with a lack of operational knowledge. Councilors suggested working with the Tool Kit and Matrix to gain more information.

Councilor Robertson suggested discussing the Committee's purpose and charge. Councilor Gardner said she would suggest recommending a JEDI Committee that could start working with staff on job postings. The Matrix and the Tool Kit could help with the specific charge for the Committee. Councilor Osher suggested an educational and cultural piece for the community as an option.

Regarding the next steps, the Council agreed to look at the Matrix and Took Kit and come up with discussion points and launch into a practical way to develop the JEDI Committee. Ms. Wilson suggested Council spend time coming up with priorities and she would work on a draft JEDI Committee charge. Ms. Wilson suggested discussing this further at the Council Workshop.

3. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Leasing Library Self-Check-Out Equipment

This item was eliminated.

b. Service Level and Operational Expectations for Summer 2022 Municipal Pool and Gould's Landing Facilities *(Video record time 57:04 - 1:16:01)*

In preparation for the FY23 Municipal Budget process, staff provided background and sought feedback regarding the service level expected at the municipal pool and Gould's Landing during summer 2022.

Ms. Wilson stated last year we entered into an agreement with UMaine to provide lifeguards at the pool. The core hour would be noon to 7pm and add in swim lessons. Next steps would be to expand the weekend hours that would be fully staffed with lifeguards.

It was noted that UMaine lifeguards cannot handle cash. Staff recommended continuing with the ticket, no cash method. The goal would be to have the pool as accessible to the public as possible. Councilors agreed with staff's recommendations and would like to reevaluate the pool occupancy as the year proceeds.

Gould's Landing

Ms. Wilson stated there has been private security that has worked with the Police Department at Gould's Landing for the last two years. She noted it has worked well for residents who said it made a difference in their enjoyment of the area. This year we would use a different company that would cost about \$20,000 depending on the weather. Ms. Wilson stated the security company has been beneficial with less trash, less illegal parking, etc. Councilors agreed to move forward with a contract for security.

4. Town Manager's Report

Ms. Wilson reported on the following items:

- Chief Low & Deputy Chief Sirois did a tremendous job on the SAFER Grant with hopes of hearing about the grant by June/July.
- State settlement. Orono will receive 0.209% of the State's settlement. Chief Low and Deputy Chief Sirois will come back to the Finance Committee with suggestions on how to spend the funds which will need to be approved by Council.
- Acceptance of approximately \$50,000 in Defendant in Rem drug money.
- Public Safety team met and interviewed four companies for the Public Safety Building Assessment (RFQ). The finalist will be forwarded to the Council agenda for consideration.

- Community Services Facility Assessment RFQs are due February 10th.
- Bargaining has started with the Unions.

5. Adjourn

Councilor Robertson motioned and Councilor Wingard seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:23 p.m.

Minutes are summary only. A video-recorded version is available on the Town's website at www.orono.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant