

**TOWN OF ORONO
SPECIAL REMOTE COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020 at 4:00 P.M.**

**WATCH ONLINE AT
meet.google.com/hyv-ktzr-mrj
(LINK AVAILABLE AT WWW.ORONO.ORG)**

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ACCEPTED AT
INFO@ORONO.ORG**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

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

2. Presentation - Public Health Emergency Update

Fire Chief Geoffrey Low provided the latest updates on Covid-19 in Maine. He also stated staff and local agencies have conducted a senior citizens assessment, have developed a list of seniors in the community and are ready if there are needs.

Community Development Director Dave Milan spoke on the state of businesses in Orono. He noted most restaurants are modifying their way of delivering their services, lodging is down and the Orono Farmers' Market is operating as a qualified grocery service. He noted they are practicing sound procedures during this time. He referenced the oronoconnects.com website his department has developed to aid businesses. Mr. Milan spoke of the federal programs that will be available to help. He also stated he is working with DECD to provide local TIF funds to aid businesses. He commented the use of social media and the Town's website are helping to provide marketing and information to the community.

3. Election of Council Chairperson

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Tom Perry to nominate Cindy Mehnert as Council Chairperson. Ms. Mehnert accepted the nomination. All voted in favor, 7-0.

4. Agenda Review

Ms. Mehnert requested taking Order 20-46 off the consent agenda to be taken up separately under New Business.

5. Approval of Minutes of March 9, 2020 and March 25, 2020

Moved by Terry Greenier and seconded by Sam Kunz. All voted in favor, 7-0.

6. Public Hearings - None

7. Acknowledgments by Council Members

Tom Perry stated he is impressed with the work the Town Manager and Department Heads have done during this difficult time. He acknowledged the staff for their continued exemplary work.

Cheryl Robertson acknowledged the work that everyone is doing during this historical and unprecedented time. She stated she was impressed with the grocery and delivery people.

Laurie Osher acknowledged the Orono Farmers' Market and noted she was impressed with their signage and safe social distancing. She encouraged the Town to work with the University to help the Market move to the steam plant parking lot before their agreement time of May 10th.

Sam Kunz echoed the earlier comments. He acknowledged the incredible work of Public Works and Public Safety with the recent storm that took down trees and power lines. He also thanked everyone for taking the Stay at Home order seriously.

Meghan Gardner acknowledged the Town departments for making everything work (i.e. Town Office and registrations, Community Development's aid to businesses and Public Works clearing the roads and sidewalks).

Terry Greenier commended the entire staff for their efforts during this crisis. He commented he shares any Facebook information from the Town to his personal and Council Facebook pages with the public and encouraged everyone to do so. He encouraged residents to support local restaurants that have been hit hard and order from them once a week.

8. Unfinished Business - None

9. Consent Agenda

Order 20-46 to be taken up separately under New Business.

Order 20-40 Order, authorizing the Town of Orono's participation in the Maine Municipal Association Workers' Compensation Safety Incentive Program and, further, confirming the Town of Orono's commitment to providing a safe environment for its employees, citizens, and visiting public.

Order 20-41 Order, confirming the employment contract of William Murphy as Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Orono, effective January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022.

Order 20-42 Order, re-appointing the following Board/Committee Members:

- ***Planning Board:***
Michael Costello (move from Associate seat to 5-year term, regular seat: expiring 2025)
- ***Board of Appeals:***
William Devoe, Mary Cathcart and Paul Smith (5-year terms, regular seat: expiring 2025)
- ***Board of Assessment Review:***
Brett Grandchamp (3-year term, regular seat: expiring 2023)
- ***Library Board of Trustees:***
Katherine Edes (3-year term, regular seat: expiring 2023)
Ana Neary (1-year term, youth regular seat: expiring 2021)
- ***OEDC Council Representative:***
Cheryl Robertson (3-year term, expiring January, 2023)
- ***OTO Fiber Corporation Council Designee:***
Geoffrey Gordon (3-year term, expiring 2023)
- ***Personnel Board of Appeals:***
Fredrica Smith (3-year term, regular seat: expiring 2023)
- ***Trails Committee:***
Jeffrey Boal, Gail White, David Thompson, David Frankel, Glen Koehler, Kate Locke and Jim Rose (2-year terms: expiring 2022)
- ***Tree Board:***
David Thompson and Pat Thompson (3-year terms: expiring 2023)

Order 20-43 Order, confirming the following 1-year appointments of the Town Manager:

Assessor	Michael Noble
Tree Warden	Robert Yerxa
Road Commissioner	Robert Yerxa
Code Enforcement Officer	William Murphy
Building Inspector	William Murphy
Electrical Inspector	William Murphy
Local Plumbing Inspector	William Murphy

Order 20-44 Order, confirming the Town Manager’s 1-year appointment of Michael Noble as Alternate Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector and Alternate Local Plumbing Inspector.

Order 20-45 Order, confirming the Town Manager’s 1-year appointment of David Russell as Alternate Code Enforcement Officer, Alternate Building Inspector, Alternate Electrical Inspector and Alternate Local Plumbing Inspector.

Order 19-47 Order, appointing Council Members to the following standing Council committees:

<u>Finance & Operations</u>	<u>Community Dev</u>	<u>Comp Plan Implementation</u>
Tom Perry (Chair)	Terry Greenier (Chair)	Meghan Gardner (Chair)
Cindy Mehnert	Tom Perry	Terry Greenier
Laurie Osher	Sam Kunz	Sam Kunz
Meghan Gardner	Cheryl Robertson	Laurie Osher
		Cheryl Robertson

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Tom Perry to approve the consent agenda. All voted in favor, 7-0.

10. New Business

Order 20-46 Order, appointing Election Clerks for two-year terms, as recommended by the Democratic and Republican Parties.

Democrats

Abigail Despres
Alan Cobo-Lewis
Angelina Fournier
Cathryn Marquez
Craig Butler
Daniel Lambert
Devon Lammert
Emily Turner
Jack Blease
Jewell Powers
Joschka Winterling
Kelena Spencer
Kyleen Nixon
Laurie Sidelko
Mackenzie Creamer
Mary Anne Hillery
Pamela Simon
Rebekah Novak
Samuel Kunz
Terri Hutchinson
Thomas Spitz
William Willkomm

Adam Toothaker
Amanda Bertana
Ben Cotton
Connie Perry
Cynthia Blease
Debra Brooks
Elizabeth Brand
Geoffrey Gordon
Janice Poulsen
Joanna Toothaker
Judith Hakola
Kerry Sweet
Lauren Genenbacer
Lisa Buck
Madilyn Newcomb
Mary Cathcart
Paula Moore
Robert Tredwell
Suzanne Gordon
Tim McInnis
Townsend Lamore
Yvette Grady

Aidan Andrews
Angela Kohtala
Caitlyn Rooms
Cormac Coyle
Cynthia Mehnert
Declan Downey
Ellen White
Gwethalyn Phillips
Jennifer Jain
Jodi Clayton
Julie Monroe
Kevin Fitzpatrick
Laurie O'Brien
M. Scarlett Tudor
Mark Haggerty
Meredith Ares
Porter Washington
Rosemary Sidelinker
Taylor Holmes
Thomas Perry
Trudy Trembly

Republicans

Allison Applebee
Dennis Cross

Daniel LaPointe
Donna Slopey

David Chase
Douglas Palmeter

**Dylan Richmond
Genia Boko
Jacob Ward
Judy Cyr
Margaret Russell
Nancy Grant
Ryan Ratledge
Stephen Monroe
Travis Blackmer
William Libby**

**Francine Palmeter
Gwen Fenderson
Janet Goodrich
Judith Sullivan
Mark Brewer
Patricia Thompson
Sally Brooker
Stuart Colbath
Trea Ratledge**

**Gary Noyes
Jacob Eckert
John Beckett
Keragan Ward
Marlene Doucette
Robert Bass
Scott Abbott
Theresa Legere
Wanda Thomas**

Unenrolled

**Alexandros Giannos
Frank Kelly
Lisa Feldman
Roger Feeley**

**Catherine Scott
Hannah Hotbrook
Lisa Fox
Samuel Regan**

**Connor Hughes
Hannah Marsh
Madeline Hanlon
Stephan Dexter**

Moved and friendly amended by Sam Kunz and seconded by Tom Perry to correct the list and remove Douglas Flagg, Marion Grandchamp and Katherine Taylor. All voted in favor of the order as amended, 7-0.

Ms. Mehnert commented Douglas Flagg and Marion Grandchamp have passed away and should be removed from the list. Mr. Perry noted Katherine Taylor has relocated and should also be removed from the list.

Order 20-48 Order, appointing Leo Kenney as the RSU#26 Director filling a current vacancy until the Annual Municipal Election in March 2021.

Moved and friendly amended by Tom Perry and seconded by Cheryl Robertson to appoint Leo Kenney as the RSU#26 Director. All voted in favor of the order as amended, 7-0.

Ms. Mehnert noted that Paul Pangburn has withdrawn his application. Councilors spoke in support of Leo Kenney, noting he has previously served on the RSU#26 Board of Directors and they have been pleased with his performance. Ms. Mehnert noted he also has had previous experience with school construction.

Ms. Mehnert requested Town Manager Wilson reach out to Mr. Kenney and have him sworn in as soon as possible.

(Governor Mills' executive order allows the Town Council to renew business licenses without public hearing. Staff is recommending approval of the licenses).

Order 20-49 Order, approving a Class XI - Restaurant/Lounge - Malt, Spirituous & Vinous Liquor License, Special Amusement Permit for Music, Dancing &

Entertainment and Victualer's License for Woodman's LLC, d/b/a Woodman's Bar & Grill, 31 Main Street.

Moved by Laurie Osher and seconded by Tom Perry. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Police Chief Ewing recommended approval of the license, but wanted the record to reflect the Orono Police Department has addressed two minor administrative liquor violations in the last year. He provided details of the violations.

Order 20-50 Order, approving a Class I - Malt, Spirituous & Vinous Liquor License, Special Amusement Permit for Music, Dancing and Entertainment and Victualer's License to Wardwell, LLC, d/b/a The Family Dog, 6 Mill Street.

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Cheryl Robertson. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Ms. Wilson stated staff has reviewed the State licenses and prior inspections and there were no issues. She also noted there are no outstanding taxes or sewer fees.

Order 20-51 Order, approving a Notice of Election that postpones the Municipal Referendum Election originally scheduled to be held on June 9, 2020 to November 3, 2020 with polls open from 7AM to 8PM.

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Tom Perry. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Ms. Wilson explained a Notice of Election regarding fluoridation of the water supply was called for June 9, 2020 before Covid-19. At the last Council Workshop, Council indicated a desire to postpone the election for the public to be able to fully participate in the process. The State of Maine has provided a way of allowing the Town to postpone the election with this order and move it to the November 3, 2020 election. Ms. Wilson noted this move will give the public time to be educated on the topic.

Order 20-52 Order, approving the transfer of any portion of the Defendant in Rem \$5,034.64, as set forth in Penobscot Court Criminal Action Docket No. CR-19-732, State v. Darrel Joseph Ross, pursuant to 15 M.R.S.A. Sec. 5824(3) & Sec. 5826(6); further, authorizing the Town Manager, if approved by the court, to transfer 15% of the funds received to the Penobscot County District Attorney.

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Tom Perry. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Police Chief Josh Ewing stated the funds were the result of a traffic stop where drugs and money were found. With Council's consent and a valid court order, the forfeiture funds would be receipted into the Town's State Asset Forfeiture Account for a future use approved by Council. Chief Ewing explained 15% of the funds received would be transferred to the District Attorney's

Office as an administrative fee.

Order 20-53 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to expend up to an additional \$35,000 for change orders associated with the current contract between the Town of Orono and Tanko Streetlighting, Inc. of San Francisco, CA for the Streetlight Project with such funds drawn from the approved FY20 Capital Infrastructure Budget; and, further, to authorize the Town Manager to make such budget adjustments as necessary between the Miscellaneous Electrical and Streetlight Project budget lines for this purpose.

Moved by Cheryl Robertson and seconded by Sam Kunz. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Public Works Director Rob Yexa explained why it is more feasible to purchase new fixtures for the decorative lights as opposed to retrofitting the existing 20-year old lights. He recommended replacing them with the same decorative style that was purchased for the Town Office project as it limits the styles and part supplies needed for inventory. He noted funds have been placed into the Capital Miscellaneous Electrical Infrastructure budget for the last two years to fund this potential budget cost. There is currently \$50,082 remaining in this miscellaneous account. Mr. Yexa stated there are 24 total fixtures to be replaced which should be completed by the fall and create a 50-60% savings on electricity use.

When asked about the economic hit to the municipality due to Covid-19, Ms. Wilson described why it was difficult to predict. She noted funds were set aside for this project.

11. Council Committee/Representative Reports

Ms. Mehnert stated she is a new member of the Orono Land Trust (OLT) Board of Directors and noted the OLT intends to keep the trails open and post social distancing information. She encouraged the public to visit the OLT website for trail information.

12. Future Agenda Items/Items of Concern

Laurie Osher requested helping the Orono Farmers' Market to move to the campus location earlier. Ms. Wilson explained that UMaine is closed until May 17th or longer. They are not comfortable providing the space at this time. An arrangement between the Town, RSU#26 and the Farmers' Market has been made for the Asa Adams School parking lot.

Sam Kunz asked about precautions being taken for the traditional Maine Day event. Police Chief Josh Ewing stated his department is monitoring social media and doesn't anticipate any Maine Day celebrations, but will keep monitoring.

Megan Gardner noted there may be house parties on that day, but the Police Department is aware. Mr. Kunz hopes young people remain aware of the situation.

Mr. Kunz asked if there were any incentives for hazardous tree removal. Ms. Wilson described trees within the Town's right-of-way that Public Works is monitoring.

Ms. Ryder described FEMA reimbursement funds that may be able to be used for tree removal. Mr. Yerxa stated he is working with the Tree Board to conduct an audit over the next 12 months to update the survey. He noted they are constantly working to identify hazardous trees. Ms. Wilson described the Town's right-of-way. Mr. Yerxa noted the general road right-of-way is 50ft wide and he is willing to look at any tree to see if it is in the right-of-way.

Terry Greenier asked about the rental property impact for April. Mr. Milan stated April rents are generally paid and the large student complexes are at 50-60% capacity for the spring. He noted the concern is more for the fall season.

Ms. Mehnert asked about committee business and where we stand with the marijuana vote.

Ms. Wilson provided the following updates:

- Marijuana issue will be brought back for discussion for possible November vote or next year depending on the length of the public health issue
- Renewing the Envisionet TIF District - deadline is July 13, 2020
- FY21 Budget (expense side) to Council the end of April - Council Workshops
- Stillwater River trail is closed from Brownie's Beach to the Orono-Veazie Water District
- IAFF contract draft to bring to Council for a vote at a special meeting

13. Public Petitions - None

14. Public Comments - None

15. Adjournment

At 5:24pm, Sam Kunz moved and Laurie Osher seconded to adjourn. All voted in favor, 7-0.

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