

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL VIRTUAL WORKSHOP
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 AT 4:00PM**

**WATCH ONLINE AT
<https://zoom.us/j/96265535099>
(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, Laurie Osher, Meghan Gardner, Sam Kunz, Cheryl Robertson, Terry Greenier and Town Manager Sophie Wilson.

2. A conversation with James Francis, Penobscot Nation's Tribal Historian, and Darren Ranco, Chair of Native American Programs at UMaine, about Orono's rich history and connections to the Penobscot Nation.

Darren Ranco, Chair of Native American Programs at the University of Maine, provided historical information about Chief Joseph Orono and his diplomacy and leadership with the Penobscot Nation.

James Francis, Penobscot Nation's Tribal Historian, provided historical information about Orono's rich landscape, the Penobscot Nation and the importance of the Penobscot River area.

Council thanked Mr. Ranco and Mr. Francis for their presentations and insight about Chief Orono and the Penobscot Nation. They briefly discussed collaborative signage to bring the cultures closer together. Ms. Mehnert stated she would reach out after Council identifies what they would like to do.

3. Detailed discussion regarding the Bond Refunding and proposed New Borrowing for infrastructure projects.

Ms. Wilson reviewed the proposed bond refunding which would save approximately \$500,000 over the life of the bonds with the lower rates. She and staff discussed the infrastructure needs and the proposed projects for new \$2.2M borrowing: College/Chapel Infrastructure, Frost Lane (Mahoney Development), Route 2 Culvert, Margin Street drainage, Main Street Sidewalk project and sewer main on Hillside Road. They also discussed bonding \$250,000 to assist Old Town-Orono Fiber Corporation as part of the pilot fiber infrastructure (drops and connections) in Orono (along Kelley Road, Main St, downtown, Bennoch Road and Noyes Drive).

Council will hold a public hearing on September 14, 2020 on the bond refunding and proposed new borrowing for infrastructure projects.

4. Update on COVID-19 Educational Campaign, review of proposed resolution language, and discussion of potential ordinance language.

Ms. Wilson presented emergency ordinance language requiring people to wear face covering in Orono and requiring residential housing complexes to implement operation plans in an effort to reduce the risk of exposure to Covid-19. Council reviewed the mask covering options for inside/outside and decided to bring the two options forward.

Council agreed to hold a Special Council Meeting public hearing on August 26, 2020 to consider the Emergency Ordinance.

5. Brief Town Manager Report

Ms. Wilson gave an update on the following items:

- Mill Street and Margin Street sewer improvements to be made to address a CSO issue.
- Second Health Maine Covid-19 Grant received.
- Covid-19 expense issues with FEMA grant received.
- Community Development Committee Meeting, August 20, 2020.

6. Adjourn

At 6:58pm, Tom Perry moved and Terry Greenier 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