

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 AT 4:30 P.M.**

WATCH ONLINE AT

<https://zoom.us/j/98865385631>

For Dial in Only call 1-312-626-6799 Webinar ID: 988 6538 5631

(LINK AVAILABLE AT ORONO.ORG)

Comments can be submitted via email prior to the meeting start time at info@orono.org and during the meeting by using Zoom comment features.

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Terry Greenier (Community Development Chair), Cindy Mehnert, Tom Perry, Meghan Gardner, Laurie Osher, Cheryl Robertson, Town Manager Sophie Wilson, Police Chief Josh Ewing and Town Planner Kyle Drexler.

2. Police Department 101 (Overview of Police Operations in Orono)

Chief Ewing gave a brief presentation and answered questions regarding the values and operations of the Orono Police Department. The presentation aimed at providing a better understanding of the organization's community policing strategies/values, policies and practices, training, and accountability (including supervision practices, how to make complaints, investigations, potential outcomes post-investigation, appeal process, etc.).

3. Amending the Land Use Ordinance to regulate Solar Installations

Town Planner Kyle Drexler stated the Town does not currently have a mechanism to regulate or define solar energy systems within the Land Use Ordinance. As these projects become more common, this creates potential issues as the unique aspects of solar projects cannot be addressed through the review process under current ordinance language. This amendment aims to create solar energy systems as a land use, define and zone this use, and create performance standards to guide the development of these projects to meet best practices so that no negative impacts are created within the community and the review process can address and focus on the proper parts of these projects. Mr. Drexler stated this is a first draft of ordinance language, and some research is still being done on best practices and how to best structure this ordinance to fit in with our community. He described small solar installations as individual use, medium solar installations as 2-3 businesses and large solar installations as farm style use.

4. Minor Amendment to the Signage Ordinance

Ms. Wilson stated digital and electronic signs are not currently allowed in the Town's existing signage ordinance. She commented that a thorough review of the existing sign ordinance is

needed, but for now this amendment would specifically create an exemption for the Town so it can operate a digital sign outside of the Town Office. She spoke of Covid grant funds that are available (at a 50% match) to purchase the sign to communicate with the public. The total cost is \$30,000; 50% would be paid with the Covid funds and 50% with Downtown Transit-Oriented TIF funds. Beyond the Town's existing ordinance, there is also State law on the operation of changeable signs and this is addressed in the draft amendment.

5. Brief Town Manager's Update

Ms. Wilson gave a brief update on the following items:

- Virtual financial field audit will take place next week. All of the requested information has been provided to the Auditors ahead of time.
- The Preliminary Official Statement for the refinancing of the bonds is in draft form which will be provided to Council once it is finalized. The bond rating calls are next week.
- The Tree Board will have a meeting to discuss the two silver maples on Hamlin Street.
- The Appeals Board held a hearing on two appeals. Ms. Wilson thanked the volunteers for their work.
- Council Workshop Agenda - Citizen request for Universal Healthcare, discussion with Penobscot Nation on honoring Orono's History and Racial Justice and Equity in Orono and Redevelopment of 98 Penobscot Street (Old Public Works Garage)
- Scott Scripture Memorial Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- Revaluation update

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Minutes are summary only. A video 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