

**TOWN OF ORONO
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019
5:00 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION
6:00 PM MEETING**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

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

2. Executive Session Pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(D) to Discuss Collective Bargaining Negotiations with International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO Local 3106

At 5:05 p.m., Tom Perry motioned and Cheryl Robertson seconded to move into executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations with International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO Local 3106. All voted in favor, 7-0.

At 5:55 p.m., Sam Kunz motioned and Cheryl Robertson seconded to move into regular session. All voted in favor, 7-0.

3. Presentation and Update on Old Town - Orono Fiber Corporation Infrastructure Project

Members of the OTO Fiber Corporation Board of Directors briefed Council on its on-going effort to build “last mile” fiber in Orono and Old Town. The Corporation was formed as the result of an interlocal agreement between the Town of Orono, City of Old Town, and University of Maine System. The organization has been utilizing Northern Border Region Commission (NBRC) funds to scope, design, and construct a pilot project to bring connectivity from the Three-Ring Binder to businesses (and neighborhoods) in Old Town and Orono.

4. Consent Agenda

Order 19-132 Order, setting September 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. as the date for a public hearing to consider Ordinance Amendments to the Town of Orono Ordinances, Chapter 18 Land Use, Section 18-113 Vernal Pools Overlay District, (b) Applicability, approving partial delegated permitting authority for Vernal Pools with conditions.

Order 19-133 Order, setting September 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. as the date for a public hearing to consider Ordinance Amendments to the Town of Orono Ordinances, Chapter 18 Land Use, Section 18-145 Wireless Telecommunications Facilities.

Order 19-134 Order, setting September 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. as the date for a public hearing to consider Ordinance Amendments to the Town of Orono Ordinances, Chapter 18 Land Use, Section 18-151 Temporary Markets, and other related sections.

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

5. New Business

Order 19-135 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to sign and execute transit agreements with the City of Bangor for the Black Bear Express and Community Connector services.

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

Assistant Town Manager Belle Ryder stated that the Town of Orono has a long-standing relationship with the City of Bangor to provide both local and regional public transit (bus) services. The contract costs are reflected in the FY20 Municipal Operating Budget and reflect a continuation of existing service levels.

The Black Bear Express is fully funded through a local partnership (University of Maine 50%/Town of Orono 50%) with the Town's portion (approximately \$100,000/year) paid from Downtown and Transit Oriented Tax Increment Financing Funds. The Town, University and City of Bangor form an advisory board that evaluates the service, tracks the budget (expenses/revenues), and proposes changes; however, the City of Bangor is responsible for and maintains all authority over the day to day operations of the shuttle bus. (This is a contracted service.) The proposed agreement seeks to continue existing services and relationship expectations.

The Community Connector is a regional service, also run by the City of Bangor, that provides interconnected public transit in Orono, Old Town, Veazie, Bangor, Brewer, and Hampden. The Town has a seat on its regional advisory group; however, like the shuttle, the City of Bangor provides the service and the other communities choose to participate or not. The proposed contract stems from considerable work by the advisory group to find a more equitable, transparent, and stable cost structure (assessment of operating costs) as well as to fund future capital equipment (bus purchase and major repair) costs. (The Town's annual cost of approximately \$73,050 is funded through general fund taxes.)

Order 19-136 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to contract with PL Custom d/b/a Sugarloaf Ambulance and Rescue of Wilton, Maine to remount an existing ambulance patient care box onto a new chassis at a cost not to exceed \$128,000 with funds drawn from the approved FY20 Capital Equipment Budget.

Moved by Tom Perry and seconded by Meghan Gardner. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Ms. Wilson explained that the Fire Department purchases an ambulance once every three years which replaces the oldest ambulance in the fleet and moves the frontline ambulance to the secondary role. The Council has adopted the practice of raising and appropriating funds (\$60,000/year) for two years and then purchasing a new ambulance for \$175,000-\$190,000 in the third year of this cycle. As part of this cycle, Chief Low carefully evaluated the ambulance slated to be taken out of the fleet this year and determined that while the cab and chassis need to be replaced, the patient care box (which sits upon the flat chassis) can be reused. Sugarloaf Ambulance and Rescue has agreed to take off the old box and mount it onto a new truck (cab and chassis) which will save the Town considerable money.

Approaching the purchase in this manner involves using a sole source vendor as the existing box is a PL Custom (Sugarloaf Ambulance) product. It is critical to have it remounted in accordance with PL Custom standards and processes. In doing this, there is no question of liability or responsibility if a component of the patient care box breaks or fails. The Town has previously done business with this company and found it to be responsive, reliable, and engaged in matters related to customer support, service, and sales.

Staff had planned to bring this purchase forward at its September meeting; however, the idle system (critical to operations) is not working correctly and needs to be repaired as soon as possible. Sugarloaf Ambulance has agreed to take the ambulance early, honor the original pricing, and provide the Town with a loaner until the new ambulance is ready.

Order 19-137 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to expend up to \$75,000 of Cemetery Perpetual Care Funds for improvements to Riverside Cemetery to include repair of roadways, retaining wall, and resetting/repair of monuments and monument foundations; and, further, to authorize the Town Manager to engage Thomas A. Stevens Cemetery Restorations of Newcastle, Maine to reset/repair monuments at a cost not to exceed \$24,750 and monument foundations at a cost of \$350 each.

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

Ms. Wilson explained that several years ago, Council authorized the use of up to \$75,000 for improvements to the roads, retaining wall (in the rear section), and a few miscellaneous other smaller projects in Riverside Cemetery. Staff addressed the miscellaneous other projects in previous years with approximately \$5,000 of perpetual care funds. The Cemetery Fund currently stands at approximately \$340,000 (invested funds).

Staff proposes to add \$5,000 of funds to the total project, bringing the total expense out of perpetual care to \$80,000, and spending up to \$75,000 this year as follows:

- \$15,000 rebuilding the retaining wall at the rear of the cemetery.
- \$25,000 paving or re-graveling roads in the cemetery.
- \$25,000 resetting and repairing monuments in the cemetery.
- \$10,000 addressing (repairing) foundations heaved by frost.

Order 19-138 Order, authorizing the purchase of a 2019 Ford F350 from Whited Ford of Bangor, Maine in the amount of \$30,607 and an additional \$4,000 for miscellaneous accessories for a total price of \$34,607 to be drawn from the approved FY20 WPCF Capital Budget.

Moved by Meghan Gardner and seconded by Cheryl Robertson. All voted in favor, 7-0.

WPCF Superintendent Joe Madigan stated WPCF is looking to replace its 2006 truck used primarily to haul the flusher with a new, larger truck. Staff requested quotes and received: Whited Ford (\$30,607); Quirk (\$30,901); and O'Connor (\$31,000) - all under the \$43,000 budget approved by Council for the project.

Order 19-139 Order, accepting a \$9,500 Grant from Dirigo Safety, LLC to implement Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) by the Orono Police Department, and authorizing the Town Manager to sign the agreement.

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

Ms. Wilson explained that the Police Department utilizes these grant funds to offset costs associated with additional police details in the fall, spring, and with Maine Day. Unfortunately, there are significantly less funds available this year due to growing agency requests.

6. Adjournment

At 6:45pm, Tom Perry moved, and Sam Kunz 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