

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021 AT 5:00 PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT

<https://zoom.us/j/93194379869>

For Dial in Only call 1-312-626-6799 Webinar ID: 931 9437 9869

(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), Tom Perry, Cheryl Robertson, Sam Kunz, Town Manager Sophie Wilson and Town Planner Kyle Drexler.

2. Community Connector Update (GUEST: Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System (BACTS))

Representatives from BACTS Sarah Devlin, Executive Director and Connie Reed, Transportation Planner attended the meeting to provide an overview of the organization; the Community Connector and Black Bear Orono Express bus services; and current projects that will impact Orono. Councilors asked about expanded routes and times for the bus service, but realized it would need to be post-Covid.

3. Code Enforcement Office's New Approach to Electrical Permits and Inspections

Community Development Director Dave Milan stated that Orono's former Code Enforcement Officer had training and experience as an Electrical Inspector. He noted that Orono's newly appointed Code Enforcement Officer is certified and has experience with general code enforcement, shoreland zoning, building code, and plumbing code; however, does not have certification in electrical code enforcement. Mr. Milan recommended the Town enter into a contract with the City of Old Town for these services with a plan that their current Electrical Inspector (Dave Russell) would train Orono's Code Enforcement Officer to perform the duties starting in July. Revenue from the electrical permits would pay for the services provided through the end of the current fiscal year. Then in July, we would start a one-year contract until the Code Enforcement Officer feels qualified.

4. Marijuana Referendum Public Information Plan

Town Planner Kyle Drexler stated the referendum question adopting a Marijuana Opt In Ordinance will be on the upcoming municipal election ballot (March election). Mr. Drexler's plan is to create a video presentation to post on the Town's website that provides information about the marijuana referendum question and ordinances. The Committee received the draft presentation and provided feedback to Mr. Drexler. Ms. Robertson suggested color coding the charts in the presentation. Mr. Kunz asked about getting information out to residents who do not have internet access. Mr. Drexler noted that information can be mailed to residents.

5. Expansion of OPD's Community Policing Program

Police Chief Ewing described the implementation of an expansion to the Orono Police Department's Community Policing Program. He provided an overview of the Community Policing Program and its goals for expansion. Chief Ewing stated he would be assigning a full-time officer as the Community Services Officer and a part-time officer (the Resource Officer) to assist. Ms. Wilson stated this is a reorganization of the department and does not include any new hires.

6. Brief Town Manager's Update

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

- Working through some student return issues with the three large housing complexes.
- Police Community Policing Program discussed with Union.
- Some staff out on quarantine.
- Website infrastructure changes.
- Finance & Operations Committee Meeting on Monday, January 25th.
- Candidates' Night will be held on February 4th at 6 p.m.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m. 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