

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021 AT 5:00PM**

**WATCH ONLINE AT
<https://zoom.us/j/93216802741>**

**For Dial in Only call 1-312-626-6799 Webinar ID: 932 1680 2741
(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 Tom Perry, Terry Greenier, Cheryl Robertson, Laurie Osher, Geoffrey Wingard, Meghan Gardner, Laura Mitchell, and Town Manager Sophie Wilson.

2. New Business

Order 21-63 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to execute a Municipal Quit Claim Deed to transfer the Town's ownership interest in Tax Acquired Property currently described as Map 26 Lot 42, 3 Hopes Place, back to the prior owner of record upon receipt of funds.

Moved by Cheryl Robertson and seconded by Terry Greenier. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Ms. Wilson stated the Town acquired this property for non-payment of property taxes. She noted this is the prior owner's primary residence. She stated a family member has stepped in to pay the back taxes just short of some of the administrative fees. Staff is recommending permission to execute the Quit Claim Deed back to the prior assessed owner of record.

Mr. Perry stated this is consistent with the Council's desire to return tax acquired property back to the owner of record whenever possible.

3. Adjourn

At 5:05 p.m., Geoffrey Wingard motioned to adjourn and Laura Mitchell seconded. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Minutes are summary only. A video-recorded version is available on the Town's website at www.orono.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy W. Ward, Executive Assistant

FINANCE-OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021 AT 5:00PM
(Following the Special Council Meeting)

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MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Tom Perry, Terry Greenier, Cheryl Robertson, Laurie Osher, Geoffrey Wingard, Meghan Gardner, Laura Mitchell, and Sophie Wilson.

2. Sub-Committee Report and Discussion Regarding Renovation of the Keith Anderson Community House (KACH) *(Video record time 05:07 - 43:00)*

Ms. Gardiner noted, in October 2020, members of the Keith Anderson Community House (KACH) Facility Subcommittee (Council Chair Perry, Councilor Gardner, Mitch Stone (staff), and John McCormack (Citizen Volunteer)) provided an overview of the group's efforts and findings related to the renovation needs and potential costs of the Keith Anderson Community House.

Mr. McCormack noted it would cost approximately \$30,000 to remove the asbestos and lead paint. Mr. Perry stated the building needs siding, and a dry sprinkler system installed in the attic. Mr. McCormack also noted that an elevator would be important.

The Committee discussed the Keith Anderson Community House having historical significance to the community, being important to the community, and whether the renovations align with the real needs of the building.

Ms. Gardiner asked: whether Council is interested in investing in the building; is willing to move forward with the siding and dry sprinkler system; and, willing to decide on the mechanism for the use of the building.

Councilors spoke of the uniqueness and importance of the building and doing the essentials to the building to preserve it; siding and dry sprinkler system. They discussed that it is a bigger vision issue for the building's use.

Ms. Wilson summarized the Council's thoughts: They are not ready to let go of the building, everyone is frustrated with the facade, siding is needed, and they agree with bringing the architect on to look at the building. Mr. Perry supported preserving the building with the siding and dry sprinkler system and suggested having a partner for future use of the building. Ms. Wilson will move forward with possible options (i.e. USDA funding, a low interest loan).

3. Review of Draft Asset Management Policy *(Video record time 43:02 - 1:09:01)*

Public Works Director Rob Yerxa provided information on a more detailed approach to asset management and reviewed the Asset Management Policy. He noted it is more than keeping an inventory of what the Town has, and more about maintaining quality and vision town wide with a long-term plan. Committee members stated they liked the idea of this comprehensive plan.

Ms. Wilson stated the next steps will be to work on the objectives. The Committee will look at the policy and be ready to discuss it again next month.

4. Evaluating Feasibility of Redeveloping Town Owned Property Located at 98 Penobscot Street (Former Public Works Garage) for Recreation Programming *(Video record time 1:09:02 - 1:47:00)*

Ms. Wilson spoke of the Town's limited access to indoor recreation facilities and that staff is working to develop potential options that would support the community's desire for expanded recreation programming. One such option being considered involves renovating the former Public Works Garage to provide year round indoor space. She noted staff is willing to work with the University to consider a multi-purpose space. Ms. Wilson noted it would take a rough investment of about \$1M. She stated a feasibility study with Sebago Technics would cost \$18,900.

Committee members spoke in support of this vision/idea, stating Parks and Recreation programs are a big part of this community.

Committee members spoke about a community center that would work for everyone. Ms. Wilson suggested taking a step back to look at, not just the feasibility of this space, but all Town owned spaces, and not just youth sports, but community wide needs. She noted staff can also research other communities, and what resources can provide assistance.

The Committee members noted they were not ready to make any decisions; however, they supported the need for a recreational facility, and the idea of working with the University.

5. Committee Appointments to the Council Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee *(Video record time 1:47:01 - 1:59:40)*

On April 12th, Council adopted an order that creates an Ad Hoc Committee composed of community members charged with collecting information and providing advice to the Town Council related to the Town's next steps associated with diversity, equity, and inclusion. Ms. Mitchell noted that she and Ms. Gardner received names of many good candidates that they are bringing forward for consideration. She noted Council Chair Perry will appoint members after consultation with the Committee.

They proposed the following people to be appointed to the DEI Ad Hoc Committee:
Regular Members: Darren Ranco; Anila Karunakar; Cynthia Martinez; Ella Wu; Khawla Abu Sheikh Wise; Dan Carver-Bialer; Dina Yacoubagha; Kevin Roberge; Deb White.
Associate Members: Rev. Malcolm Himschoot and Erin Percival Carter. The Committee unanimously approved the proposed members.

Ms. Wilson stated the next step will be for Councilors Mitchell and Gardner to establish a meeting schedule.

6. Brief Town Manager Report *(Video record time 1:59:11 - 1:06:55)*

Ms. Wilson provided a brief report on the follow items:

- Finance report in Council packet.
- Interim field audit to take place on May 17th (full audit in September).
- Ms. Wilson thanked Council Wingard for a call over the weekend to be able to address an issue. She reminded Councilors to notify her of issues of concern anytime.
- Next meetings - May 3rd, Comp Plan Committee (rentals); May 6th (budget overview).

7. Adjourn

The Council Workshop adjourned at 7:07 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