

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021 AT 4:30 PM

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

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

2. Council Interviews with RSU 26 Board of Director Candidates *(Video record time 2:17:58 - 1:24:00)*

The three candidates for the Interim RSU 26 Director position (Thomas “TJ” Herlihy, Elizabeth “Beth” Hufnagel, and Leo Kenney) met with Councilors. The 20-minute individual interviews provided an opportunity for Council members to learn more about the candidates.

The Council stated they were impressed with all three candidates. After discussing the candidates at length, **the Council decided to recommend the appointment of Beth Hufnagel as the Interim RSU 26 Board of Director.**

3. Review of FY22 Municipal Budget and Proposed related Budget Orders *(Video record time 1:26:25 - 1:39:55)*

Ms. Wilson discussed the recent revaluation, increased assessments and the opportunity for residents to talk with Vision and/or the Assessor.

The Council reviewed the FY22 proposed budget prior to the creation of the budget orders. The Council was in agreement with the proposed budget orders, fee schedule, due dates, interest rates, etc and referred it to Council for adoption on June 28, 2021.

4. Initial Discussion of Council’s FY22 Work Plan *(Video record time 1:39:56 - 2:48:14)*

Council had an initial discussion of the FY22 Council Work Plan and reviewed the progress made on the FY21 Plan for the coming year.

Council and staff also considered the following items:

- Reduced Meeting Schedule - Council expressed a desire for a regular monthly schedule of one regular meeting, three committee meetings, and a workshop either at the regular meeting or on a 5th Monday of the month. Meetings would be approximately two hours, at most.

- Collective bargaining agreements for both police and fire personnel expire on June 30, 2022. This will take significant time as staff undertakes initial bargaining preparation and seeks to identify Council goals related to successor agreements.
- Expanding the charge for the Environmental Ad Hoc Committee to co-lead regional climate action planning and internal priorities related to reducing the town's carbon footprint and to hold regularly scheduled public meetings.
- Discussion and review of Town-owned facilities and properties.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee work and review.
- Comprehensive Plan items and affordable housing issues.
- Council to revisit the fluoridation of public water issue before moving forward.

Ms. Wilson will tweak the Council Work Plan as discussed.

5. Brief Town Manager's Report (*Video record time 2:48:15 - 2:52:17*)

Ms. Wilson provided a brief update on the recreation program agreement with the University of Maine and municipal pool lifeguard training.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:42 p.m.

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