

**TOWN OF ORONO  
FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019 AT 8:00 A.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBER – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**MINUTES**

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Tom Perry (Finance Chair), Council Chair Cindy Mehnert, Laurie Osher, Meghan Gardner, Town Manager Sophie Wilson, Public Works Director Rob Yerxa, Town Clerk Shelly Crosby and Parks and Recreation Director Mitch Stone.

**2. Proposed Changes to Cemetery Fee Schedule**

Ms. Wilson stated that the cemetery fees are made up of interment fees and lot prices. She noted that the Town Clerk maintains the records and the Public Works Director is in charge of interments and cemetery maintenance.

Mr. Yerxa noted that the prices have not changed in over 10 years. He also presented a list of 2019 Comparison of Cemetery Fees from area communities.

The Committee reviewed the labor costs involved with interments and administrative costs along with market prices in the area. **The Committee agreed to recommend increasing the prices as follows: Cremains, weekdays \$150; cremains, weekend \$250; full burial, weekdays \$400 and full burial weekends \$550.**

**Changing Landfill Permit Process and Fee Structure**

Ms. Wilson explained the current permit process and fees that are charged based on vehicle size versus the volume of the load. Mr. Yerxa proposed a new landfill fee structure that would include an annual sticker for \$20/calendar year and the purchase of 1-cubic yard tickets for \$10 each (landfill currency) based on volume. Mr. Yerxa noted that all outstanding permits would still be honored. He noted that the first stickers could be purchased in July 2019 and be valid through 2020 (18 months) and annually thereafter.

**The Committee agreed with the proposed changes which will be discussed further during the budget process.**

**3. Public Works Budget Assumptions**

The Committee and staff discussed the current mowing contract with Black Bear Lawn Care and whether to continue the service or have Public Works employees mow the cemetery.

**Tom Perry did not support contracting the mowing service. He noted that the Public Works crew was increased by two people to be able to do the mowing. The Committee discussed the level of service and agreed to support trimming but not cutting services.**

#### **4. Town-UMaine Recreation Program Collaboration Update**

Kristie Deschesne and Dale Russell of UMaine Recreation presented an update on the current program. They spoke of the positive partnership and collaboration efforts.

Mr. Stone reported that everything is operating the same. He will be involved with the recreation program, Mr. Russell will run the program with his staff and parents and other communities will be involved, which will allow the Town to also focus on the parks, trails and community events.

Ms. Deschesne commented that the recreation program is a natural addition to campus recreation. She spoke of the high-quality opportunity for kids without creating separation due to the use of the school gyms.

Mr. Stone explained the scholarship program that is available for participants. Mr. Russell also spoke of the new software allowing others to pay an additional fee to help others.

**Staff will bring back a UMaine Recreation Program renewal agreement.**

#### **5. Review and Highlights of Financial Reports**

Ms. Wilson noted that the monthly financial reports are not ready. She suggested moving the meeting later in the month. **The Committee agreed to move the meeting to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.** The next Finance-Operations Committee meeting will be March 19, 2019.

#### **6. Brief Town Manager Update**

Ms. Wilson stated that staff is working with FEMA for the Wind Storm reimbursement.

#### **7. Schedule Next Meeting - 3/19/2019 at 8:00AM**

#### **8. Adjourned at 9:47 a.m.**

Minutes are summary only. An audio recording of the meeting is available on the Town's website at [www.orono.org](http://www.orono.org) under Agendas and Minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward  
Executive Assistant