

**TOWN OF ORONO**  
**COUNCIL VIRTUAL BUDGET WORKSHOP**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020 AT 4:00PM**

**WATCH ONLINE AT**  
<https://zoom.us/j/99413172708>  
**(LINK AVAILABLE AT ORONO.ORG)**

*Comments can be submitted via email before the meeting at [info@orono.org](mailto:info@orono.org)  
and during the meeting by using Zoom comment features.*

**MINUTES**

**1. Roll Call**

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

**2. Town Council Statement on condemning Police Brutality and Systematic Racism**

The Council discussed making a statement on condemning police brutality and systematic racism that disproportionately affects black people in our country. *(The Orono Town Council statement can be found at [www.orono.org](http://www.orono.org).)*

Public Comments:

Stephen Cousineau - I know I am just one citizen of this town; however, I want to express my thoughts on the recent events. A statement from our town leaders and police department condemning the murder of George Floyd and racism would be powerful. It would help the citizens of this town know and understand that our town and our police department know with no ubiquity that what happened to George Floyd was murder. This statement will help bolster our community to continue to go forth and fight for the rights of all.

Stephen Cousineau - I speak from the experience of having served the public in law enforcement for 5 years. I know in my heart and from experience that the majority of law enforcement truly serve their communities to protect and serve. I realize that there is a strong bond in law enforcement to stay silent and not criticize brother and sister officers. I realize there is a strong need in law enforcement to know absolutely that their fellow officers always have their back. However, NOW is the time for all law enforcement who believe in the ethos to protect and serve to stand together to denounce racism to denounce police brutality and denounce murder of minorities by police officers. Ignoring these things because they happen somewhere else will just allow them to continue to happen and to one day possibly happen here in our town. A statement by our town officials and our police department will not only help the community but it will help the very officers who help make our community safe.

Elijah McGill - I am another citizen who thinks this is crucial. I know we live in one of the whitest states in the country. However, we do have community members and citizens and friends who are not. For the safety of those community members, and for their comfort living in our town, this town needs a statement. We're at an unprecedented moment in American history, and action is necessary. Hopefully in the future that could be policy, but at the moment, simply a published statement would be a huge step in the right direction. By acknowledging the values of this town, and announcing them to the world, we would be on the right side of history. Just a simple, direct statement would be so much better than nothing. As Martin Luther King said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends".

### **3. FY21 Municipal Budget Discussion**

#### **Public Infrastructure**

- **Public Works**
  - General Maintenance
  - Winter Maintenance
  - Solid Waste Management (Including CDD Landfill)
  - Cemeteries
  - Fleet Maintenance

### **4. Brief Town Manager Report**

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

- Staff is working to safely open the parks and specifically address expanding parking for Gould's Landing and designate parking by residents only at Nadeau-Savoy Park.
- UMaine RAD Summer Camps are not going to be allowed.
- LGBTQ sculptures around town that will also have social media posts.
- State request for HazMat team during President Trump's visit to Maine - Town will seek reimbursement for providing the service.
- Keep Maine Healthy - municipalities public information/education for Covid-19.
- Bridge signs - Keep social distancing, 6-feet apart.
- Flags on the bridge - public initiative process.

### **5. Adjourned at 6:02pm**

Minutes are not verbatim. A video-recorded version is available on the Town's website at [www.orono.org](http://www.orono.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy W. Ward, Executive Assistant