

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 20th, 2025

Council Members Present:

Michael Perkins, Chairman
Dana Wrigley Vice Chairman
Kelly Roderick

Dave Groder
Robert Nutting

Others Present:

Kelly Pinney-Michaud, Town Manager
Chief Rick Stubbert, OPD
Adam Clement, OFD
Matt Hunt-A2Z Computers

Kathleen Paradis, Town Clerk
SGT. Adam Sirois OPD
Jon Cox
Ray Gruber

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Council Chairman Michael Perkins and led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Roll Call:** Roll call was taken, all five council members present.
2. **To consider approving the minutes of July 30, 2025, meeting and July 30, 2025, Public Hearing, and sign the warrant.** A motion was made by Chair Michael Perkins and seconded by David Groder and voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the council meeting for July 30, 2025. It was moved by Dana Wrigley and seconded by David Groder and voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the public hearing and be attested by Town Clerk Kathleen Paradis and to sign the warrant.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Appoint New Health Officer:** The Town Manger informed the council that Anthony Thibodeau has stepped down from being the town's health officer. She recommended that Nate Smart, our Code Enforcement Officer, become the town of Oakland's new officer. Nate will get his certification and be sworn in as the new Health Officer by the Town Clerk. It was moved by Dana Wrigley, seconded by David Groder and voted 5-0 to make Mr. Smart our new Health Officer.
2. **VOYA HRA Flex Spending/HRA Benefits Administrator:** Town Manager Kelly Pinney-Michaud informed the council that VOYA purchased Benefit Strategies a few years ago and Voya has decided not to service companies under 200 employees. She informed

the council that she will be working with the Finance Director to find a new administrator for our program.

3. **Transfer Station Operator Training:** Town Manager informed the council that the transfer station employees would like to attend training on Wednesday August 20, which would mean that the transfer station would have to be closed on that day. It was asked if this was mandatory training and the town manager answered yes. Dana Wrigley made a motion to close the transfer station and have the employees attend the training. It was seconded by Kelly Roderick and voted 5-0.
4. **MOU w/State of Maine, RSU18 and Town for ATV access on Williams Court:** Town Manager updated the council on the ATV access trail that would connect the trail from Williams Court to the quanzet hut which is 1100ft. We have received a grant to build this section of the trail. This will also go before the School Board at their next meeting on August 20. Laura Tracy stated that it is on the agenda and did not see a problem with it.
5. **Anonymous Donation \$5k to clean up and secure the Cascade Mill Building:** The Town Manager updated the council on the Cascade Mill clean up process. Phase I was the title search which was completed. Phase 2-Asbestos-when they were cleaning the mill they found asbestos, old trailers, and other items in the building. The Town Manager would like to use the \$5,000 donation to cut down trees, remove the old items in the building. She also stated that Jeff Hall Public Works director and his crew had cut trees on both sides of the road as it had migrated over and now you can travel both lanes. Dana Wrigley made a motion to accept the donation. It was seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 5-0.
6. **Paid Family Medical Leave:** The Town Manager stated that she along with the Cheryl Gould, Finance Director have met with individuals from Cross Insurance. Right now, it is a 1% share to the State, the employee pays half, and the town pays half. After the meeting with Cross Insurance and looking over several plans, the Town Manager recommend we move to Met Life as our Paid Family Medical Leave Administrator. This would save \$28,000 from now until May 2026. Dave Groder asked about the Met Life Policy. The Town Manager explained that we have the same coverage paying .85 not 1.00 saving \$4,000 annually once the program begins in May 2026. This also includes a life insurance policy where each full-time employee is covered for \$10,000 insurance. Robert Nutting asked if we get money back from the State that we've paid in already. Kelly Pinney-Michaud stated that we should and then reimburse the employees their share. A motion was made by Dana Wrigley and seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 5-0 to go with Met Life.
7. **Sewer Commitment:** The Sewer Commitment for the months of April-June was signed by the town council.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Lakeview Cemetery Stump removal & Fence Update: Town Manager informed the council that we received another bid for the remove of 25 stumps for \$2800 from All Seasons Tree Service. AJ Cain from the Sexton Garage has already removed 25 stumps and the fencing as well that was rotted into the ground over the years. It would only cost the town \$3400 to take the additional stumps out and replace the fencing. The money would come from the Cemetery Fund Transfer. Kelly Roderick asked that at the previous meeting we had stated that we would wait to take out stumps. The Town Manager stated that it was correct, but AJ began doing some work and all the stumps were entangled into the fence. The fence will be removed and upgraded with a black pole and chain link fence, and we would take out the wood fencing in the upper part of the cemetery and replace it with black fencing as well. Dana Wrigley made a motion that we continue to have the trees and fencing done. It was seconded by David Groder and voted 5-0 to complete the job.

b. Cascade Building: Town Manager stated that she had already touched upon this earlier when she was speaking about the anonymous donation. She invited the council members to take a ride down to check out the work that is being done.

Other Business:

Thirsty Mule Liquor License: Town Clerk Kathleen Paradis asked the council if they would approve the annual liquor license for the Thirsty Mule? Chief Stubbett stated that they have not had any issues or problems there. Dana Wrigley made a motion to approve the license, and it was seconded by David Groder and voted 5-0.

Oakfest Update: Kathleen Paradis gave an update on this year's annual Oakfest event. She stated that the attendance numbers seem to be down, but that the care show was a tremendous success and most food vendors had sold out and the craft vendors had a wonderful day as well. She also informed the council that this was her last hear of being on the Oakfest Committee. She asked the crowd in attendance if anyone would be interested. Dana Wrigley stated that it was a great weekend and that we dodged the rain. Kathleen explained she believed it was "Cass Shining on us."

It was moved by Kelly Roderick, seconded by Dana Wrigley, and voted 5-0 to end the council meeting at 6:30pm and moved into executive session.

Dana Wrigley made a motion to enter executive session and Robert Nutting seconded to begin the meeting at 6:34pm.

At 6:48pm a motion was made by Michael Perkins and seconded by Dana Wrigley to end the executive session. No votes were taken.

Adjourn: It was motioned by David Groder and seconded by Dana Wrigley to adjourn the executive session at 6:49pm.