

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting
June 1, 2010

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 1, 2010, at 7:00 pm the Oriental Town Hall.

Present were: Mayor Sage and Commissioners Roe, Johnson, Styron and Bohmert
Commissioner Venturi arrived at 7:15 pm
Town Manager Cahoon and Recording Secretary Wagoner
Town Staff Fears and Artley
Chief Casassa
Planning Board members Marlowe, Hardison and Sage
Thirty members of the public

Mayor Sage opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Open Session minutes of the May 13, 2010, meeting. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the May 13, 2010 Closed Session minutes. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Roe made a motion to approve the April 27, 2010 Budget Workshop minutes. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the April 27, 2010, Agenda Workshop minutes. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the May 4, 2010 minutes with several corrections. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 4-0. These minutes will be resubmitted to the Board after the corrections are made.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the May 11, 2010 Budget Workshop minutes with corrections. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Roe made a motion to withdraw the May 18, 2010 Budget Workshop minutes to be reviewed by the town manager. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT – Mr. Davis could not attend the meeting.

ORIENTAL ARTIFICIAL REEF RESTORATION PROJECT- Mr. Ron Zielinski, Mr. Wyatt Cutler, and Mr. Jim Francesconi, with the NC Marine Fisheries and manager of the reef, were present to express their gratitude for the Town's support and their hope that it would continue. They then answered questions.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion for the Town to move forward on the OAF Project with Mr. Cutler and Mr. Zielinski writing the grant and Mayor Sage signing it, and the Town holds the money. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 5-0.

TOWN MANGER'S REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. The "Senior Citizens

Exemption List" was included on behalf of Kathy Tyndall, Pamlico County Tax Administrator, who asked that the Board review the list and advise of any discrepancies found.

Commissioner Roe submitted comments to the 2010-2011 Budget;

MOTION: Commissioner Roe made a motion to take line #58200 and reduce it by half leaving it at \$13,825 and take the health care premiums and have it shared at 6% by the town employees leaving 94% being paid by the town tax payers for lines #5240, #60300 and #585, increasing in increments of 4½% over the next four years noting that economic times can change and that some pay raises could go into effect and equal that out. Also noted is that by having the employees share in the premium payments it decreases their tax FICA taxes. This will decrease the insurance premiums paid by \$2,935, giving a total savings of ±\$16,759. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 3-2 with Commissioners Johnson and Venturi voting no.

GUEST SPEAKER – ROSS PEASE – Postponed until a later date.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Mrs. Dee Sage inquired of Commissioner Bohmert the status of the grant for the Duck Pond Project – it is still being processed. Mr. Ron Stevens, Mr. Joe Valinoti and Mr. Paul Olson all stated that the employees should be consulted before changing their benefits packages. Mr. Stevens also inquired about the South Ave. access; when will the clean up begin? Mr. Cahoon reported that he is waiting for final documentation regarding a triangular piece of Mr. Henry's property before proceeding. Mrs. Hamm raised concerns about town right-of-ways. Ms. Melinda Penkava, Mrs. Pat Herlands, Mrs. Elizabeth Cox, and Ms. Kathy Kellam all voiced their concerns about perceived irregularities occurring in town hall. Mr. Jim Barton and Mr. Al Herlands both stated that they sent e-mails to the Board and did not get a response. Mayor Sage acknowledged that they needed to be more responsive and prompt. Mrs. Dina Holton asked about the availability of the town minutes.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to reappoint Mr. Richard Creighton to the Planning Board. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0. His term will expire June 2013.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE II REPORT - Mrs. Sage reported that they are still meeting regularly and work is progressing.

PARKS & REC COMMITTEE REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book.

TOURISM BOARD REPORT – They did not meet.

TREE BOARD REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book.

BAY RIVER REPORT – This report was not available as Ms. Inger has been ill and unable to attend the Bay River meetings. The Board will ask Mr. George Smith, also on the Bay River Board and a citizen of Oriental, if he would be willing to make the reports in Ms. Inger's absence. Mayor Sage reported that the Interlocal Agreement with Bay River was rejected by them as they had issues with the billing fee rate that has increased over the last two years. In an attempt to make the agreement more acceptable to them he proposed to add the following:

“Such billing fee rate shall be equitably adjusted upon mutual agreement between the parties within a reasonable time after submission by Oriental to Bay River of evidence of increases in the costs to Oriental of providing the billing and collection services under this agreement.”

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve this addition to the Interlocal Agreement with Bay River. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Bohmert voting no.

POLICE REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – A copy of the statements is in the minutes book.

Regarding Internal Controls:

MOTION: Commissioner Roe made a motion that the town board adopt the Financial Reporting Guidelines as published by the State of N.C. Dept. of State Treasurer dated April 1984 with the intent of the town manager/town administrator to use as a guideline only to help conform with and in conjunction with the request of the auditor from the audit of 2009 moving forward. Omitting Section G of the report (pertaining to tax collections). Second by Commissioner Venturi. 5-0.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENT PERIOD -

MOTION: Commissioner Roe made a motion to hire Mona Kay Sadler, CPA to look over our payroll system, and make any correction etc. within the system and make a report to the town administrator/town manager on these findings. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Roe made a motion that the use of recording devices by town employees is prohibited unless those being recorded give their consent on each and every occasion. All recordings then become public record and can only be disposed of with Board consent. Any deviation of this will be grounds for disciplinary actions and/or up to immediate termination exempting official public meetings and the police department. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 5-0.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS -

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a motion to terminate the services of Randall K. Cahoon as Oriental Town Manager at the end of the meeting. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 3-2 with Commissioner Roe and Bohmert voting no.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a motion to have Mrs. Heidi Artley, with her consent, to serve as Interim Town Clerk, Budget and Finance Officer for the Town of Oriental. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

There being no further to discuss;

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Johnson.
Vote 5-0.

William Sage, Mayor

Heidi Artley, Interim Town Clerk