

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Special Meeting
October 13, 2009

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 13 at 5:00 pm at the Oriental Town Hall.

Present were: Mayor Sage and Commissioners Bohmert, Cox, Inger and Styron
Town Manager Cahoon and Recording Secretary Wagoner
Public Works Supervisor Fears
21 members of the public

Mayor Sage opened the Special Meeting and explained that its purpose was to discuss hiring additional people for the police department and to discuss personnel issues. He then opened the floor to take comments.

After listening to comments from 15 different people who voiced dismay at the recent rise in crime, Mayor Sage stated that it would be wise to first look at the cop we already have before looking into hiring another one. Several people asked that more preventive measures be taken including establishing a Community Watch Program. Others stated the county should do more patrolling and even hire additional deputies. Mayor Sage requested data on the present crime rate.

Mr. Cahoon reported that there are two possible candidates for a part time police job. He then went over the money in the present budget for another police officer. One citizen cautioned against trying to get the cheapest versus the best and to remember that 'you get what you pay for'.

After a lengthy discussion;

MOTION: Commissioner Styron made a motion to contact both candidates and get more details about expected salary and hours. The part time positions will not exceed 15 hours/week. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.

Chief Casassa was instructed to look for grants that could pay for another officer. And;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to have Chief Casassa set up a Community Watch Program. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 4-0.

Mayor Sage then ended the public portion of the meeting;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to go into closed session according to G.S. 143-319.11(a) (6) to discuss personnel. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 4-0.

William Sage, Mayor

Randall Cahoon, Town Manager