

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting
June 2, 2009

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00 pm at the Oriental Town Hall.

Present were: Mayor Sage and Commissioners Bohmert, Cox, Inger, Kellam and Styron
Town Manager Cahoon and Chief Casassa
Planning Board members Marlowe and Barton
Long Range Planning member Sage
6 members of the public

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

Town Manager Cahoon distributed the 2008/2009 Town Audit for the board to review. The auditor, Mr. David Singleton, will officially present it at a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to approve the April 30 agenda minutes. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to approve the May 5 minutes with one correction. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the May 6, May 12, and May 19 budget minutes with corrections. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

In between motions the board ascertained that the town attorney did approve the \$800 donation from the Oriental Boat Show provided nothing was expected in return. (It was not.)

The county's 'senior citizens tax exempt list', mentioned at one of the budget meetings, was also discussed. Mr. Cahoon informed the Board that the new information would not be available until August. At that time he will be asked to verify the people on the list.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT – At the Board's request Mr. Davis was not present at the meeting. The Court of Appeals has not yet issued its ruling on the South Avenue case.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Cahoon reported that the Special Meeting scheduled for June 4 at 5:00 pm had been properly advertized.

He then presented a resolution needed in order for D.O.T. to approve the Town's request to make North Street "no parking" along the narrower side of the street.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the 'No Parking on one side of North Street' resolution with corrections. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

The Board then discussed Mr. Cahoon's proposed revisions to the Town's job application form. Commissioner Cox commented that it would be useful to request a D.D.214 for former military

applicants. No action was taken at this time however this item will be placed on a future agenda. He also reminded them that he will present an Ethics Policy for their consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - None

PLANNING BOARD REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Two recommended changes to the GMO were presented; Article X, Section 160 Final Plat and a Consistency Statement and public hearings were requested. A question was raised about Sea Horse Landing's performance bond; does the bond include the fee to bury the power line for the future bike path as per the conditions of their building permit? It does not and Mr. Cahoon reported that the owners no longer plan to fund that project. He will search through the files to find the conditions of the permit. Other discrepancies in the plat were pointed out. Commissioner Inger stated that Bay River was negotiating with the owners to create a lagoon on part of the property.

Mr. Barton pointed out a correction to the report he submitted on the Coastal Growth Strategies Course and also reported that money might be available again for the Duck Pond project.

TOURISM BOARD REPORT - A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Due to the difficulty in attaining a full board;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to reduce the number of board members from 7 to 5. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

PARKS & REC REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. At the Agenda Workshop the board approved the purchase of a custom made bike rack for the Town Beach.

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

LONG RANGE PLANNING REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Mrs. Sage said the committee is now meeting about every two weeks to work on the draft vision.

BAY RIVER REPORT – Commissioner Inger reported again about the negotiations with Sea Horse Landing to build an 'infiltration basin'. On June 8th there will be a mediation with Gwinn Hedrick and his suit against Bay River. Bay River is working on an agreement to get the impact fees paid upfront rather than later. The permit for Bojangles has been received but the restaurant won't open until late next year.

POLICE REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Commissioner Bohmert inquired about the mileage on the police cars; where does he go? (Patrolling, courthouse, conferences.) Commissioner Kellam reported that after a discussion with Chief Casassa and Mr. Cahoon, there will be no more personal use of the patrol cars and the patrol car shall not leave the county without the manager's permission. Being considered is having police lights put in the Chief's personal car in case he has to return to Oriental quickly to respond to an emergency.

Commissioner Styron suggested that the board consider having Chief Casassa work 5 days a week and have the county cover the 2 days he is off completely (he would not be 'on call' during those 2 days).

Chief Casassa made a plea to the board to consider his safety as they decide whether or not to hire another officer. Should he need back-up when out on a call, the distance the back-up has to travel is very important to him.

Under the Mutual Aid Agreement, Chief Casassa will have back up during the Croaker Festival from the Newport Police Department.

MOTION: Commissioner Kellam made a motion to accept the Mutual Aid offered by the Newport Police Department during the Croaker Festival. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

Regarding the police boat, Commissioner Kellam stated that, now that the town is down to one officer, she felt the policy should be put on hold and Commissioner Styron concurred and added putting a hold on expenditures. An offer for a donated bimini has been made. Commissioner Bohmert asked if the boat can be returned; Chief Casassa will look into this. Until the board decides what to do with it the boat will be moved to the water plant. The decision to keep it or not will be addressed at the next month's meeting.

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

BUDGET AMENDMENTS –

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

AGENDA WORKSHOP – The Board agreed to change the next Agenda Workshop from July 2 to June 25th at 4:30 pm.

PROGRESS ENERGY FRANCHISE AGREEMENT -

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve, for the second time, the Progress Energy Franchise Agreement. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 5-0.

GDS CONTRACT -

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to approve, with corrections, the GDS Contract. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0

SET PUBLIC HEARING –

MOTION: Commissioner Styron made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for the adoption of the 2009/2010 Budget on June 11, 2009 at 5:00 pm. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT PERIOD - Commissioner Inger reported on the meeting she attended with the NCLM on May 19. A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Commissioner Cox asked her about the suggestion that Oriental take back its own tax collections. This will be explored further. Commissioner Inger asked the town staff to double check Bay River's charge off list.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

NON AGENDA ITEMS –

MUNICIPAL RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE –

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adopt the Municipal Records Retention Schedule. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 5-0.

There being no further business;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made the motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

William Sage, Mayor

Attest: _____
Randall Cahoon, Town Manager