



## Town of Oriental

PO Box 472  
507 Church Street  
Oriental, NC 28571

### MEETING MINUTES – *Budget Workshop Meeting May 18, 2010* 5:30 PM

In attendance: Commissioners Candy Bohmert, Sherrill Styron, Warren Johnson, and Barb Venturi; Mayor Bill Sage; Town Manager Randall K Cahoon

Absent: Commissioner Jennifer Roe

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Mayor Sage. The Mayor circulated a spreadsheet, prepared by Town Manager Cahoon, detailing the associated costs of providing employees with a 3% COLA (cost of living adjustment) and a 1.5% COLA. He pointed out to the Board that the CPI (consumer price index) has risen 2.7%, and that CPI is one indicator of the “cost of living” that annual compensation increases accommodate.

Cahoon drew the Board’s attention to the final draft of the Bay River Metropolitan Sewerage District (BRMSD) interlocal agreement included in the budget workshop packet. The Mayor noted that billing increases included in the agreement may be a non-starter in terms of acceptance from BRMSD, citing their contention that NC General Statutes lock the per bill fee at “actual cost.” Sage asked the Board to review the final draft in their free time and call him with concerns, if there are any, prior to 5:00 PM on May 20<sup>th</sup> (deadline for submission to BRMSD). Commissioners Johnson and Styron stated they were familiar with the document, and wanted to go on record as having no objections to forwarding it to BRMSD in its current form. Commissioner Bohmert stated her only objection to finalizing an agreement with BRMSD was the pending sewer moratorium, to be imposed by NCDENR on Monday, May 24.

Following this discussion, the Board picked up the FY Budget proposal worksheets at Page Two of the General Fund. Item 52410 (administrative retirement) was discussed at length. Satisfied the stated figure was appropriately corrected, the Board moved to Page Four and worked line by line to the end of the budget worksheet. Among the discussion items was the addition of a fourth vehicle for use by the Public Works Department. Rather than buying a Ford F-150 or similarly sized truck, the Board seemed to be in agreement that a golf cart or other economical means of travel should be explored with an eye toward fuel mileage and low cost of obtaining and maintaining the vehicle. No decision was reached, but the Board agreed to return to the topic once major details of the entire budget are decided.

Tree Board expenses for tree maintenance, Parks and Recreation special projects expenditure for the proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail out near White Farm Road, and two new line items – Waterfront Enhancements, and Contribution to Parks and Recreation Capital Fund – were discussed at great length. Commissioner Venturi proposed an initial contribution from General Fund Balance of either \$1,000 or \$2,000 to start up the Capital Fund be allocated for future equipment purchases. Waterfront Enhancements would cover the cleanup of South Avenue (the subject of the recent Supreme Court case), potential future bulk heading of the site, as well as other riparian clean up and improvement projects.

Commissioner Johnson questioned a continuing fund for a single-event clean up, but other Board members cited examples around town where a cleanup could be labeled “waterfront enhancements” and where Occupancy Tax could legally be expended to finance improvements.

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It was determined by the Board that the full \$9,000 that constitutes the "town's half" of Occupancy Tax collections projected should be applied to this newly created line item in the draft budget.

A reminder of the May 26, 2010 Budget Workshop raised the question of how the Board would meet at 5:30 PM, wrap up by 7:30 PM, and then continue the closed session personnel Special Meeting at 7:30 PM without running into the Tourism Board meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM the same night. The Mayor announced it was his intention to conduct all or part of the meetings of the 26<sup>th</sup> across the street at the Baptist Church in the Fellowship Hall.

The final item of business was a revisit of the question from Commissioner Johnson regarding Attorney Susan Ellis' final bill for her service to the Town. The Mayor announced her fee, as billed and based on delivering 150 hours of legal counsel, is currently approximately \$21,000. A brief discussion ensued.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

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William Sage, Mayor

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Heidi Artley, Town Clerk