

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting  
December 1, 2009

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 7:00 pm the Oriental Town Hall.

Present were: Mayor Sage and Commissioners Bohmert, Cox, Inger, Kellam and Inger  
Commissioners-Elect Johnson, Roe and Venturi  
Manager Cahoon and Recording Secretary Wagoner  
Attorneys Davis and Delamar  
Public Works Supervisor Fears and Office Staff Artley  
Chief Casassa  
Long Range Planning member Sage  
11 members of the public

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the October 29 Agenda Workshop minutes (with corrections) and the November 10<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> minutes. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

**RELEASE OF CLOSED MINUTES** - After some discussion;

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to release the following Closed Session minutes; February 11<sup>th</sup>, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Town Manager Applicant interviews minutes. All but the present town manager's name will be redacted from the minutes. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to release the following Closed Session minutes; March 4<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005; October 24<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> and September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Police Chief interview minutes. Names will be redacted. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to release the following Closed Session minutes; March 6<sup>th</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Property purchase on South Water St. minutes. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 5-0.

**TOWN MANAGER SUPERVISOR** -

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion that the immediate day-to-day supervisor of the town manager is the mayor. Should the mayor be unavailable a commissioner will be appointed by the Mayor. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

**PARADE PERMIT FEE ORDINANCE** -

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the parade fee ordinance. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 5-0.

The Mayor then thanked the departing board members Commissioners Cox, Kellam, and Inger.

**NEW BOARD IS SWORN IN** – County Commissioner /Attorney Paul Delamar was present to do the swearing in. The new board, consisting of Mayor Sage and Commissioners Johnson, Roe, Venturi, Styron and Bohmert, were welcomed.

**TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT** – Mr. Davis reported that there is still no news on the South Avenue lawsuit. Having just received it, he stated he would review the Wooten contract as the Board requested at the November 10 meeting and report back to Mr. Cahoon. Mayor Sage added that the Town, as well as each commissioner, the mayor and the town manager, is a defendant in a case brought against the town by Mr. Tony Tharp of Pamlicotoday.com. No response has been filed as yet and they are consulting with legal counsel.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT** - A copy of the reports is in the minutes book. Mr. Cahoon mentioned that this month's water bill is different due to printer issues. Concerning payment of an invoice for parts purchased for the water system; Mr. Cahoon presented a budget amendment to shift money within the General Fund to cover the cost. Commissioner Venturi pointed out that parts for the water system should be paid from the Water Fund and in this case, should come out of Line item #56500.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – Mr. Tony Tharp of Pamlicotoday.com stated that he made two requests for documents and to date the town has not had the courtesy of a response. Mr. Art Tierney voiced his concerns with the speed limits on Broad St. stating they need to be lowered. Moving the 'Welcome To Oriental' planter and sign to the triangle property at Silverbrook and HWY 55 was also discussed.

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT** – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. One applicant has submitted a letter requesting to serve on this board and another person will submit a letter soon.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to appoint Mrs. Dee Sage to the Planning Board. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0. She will serve out Mr. Miller's term which ends June 2011.

**TOURISM BOARD REPORT** – This board did not meet this month.

**PARKS & REC REPORT** – The Board did meet but the minutes were not available. Ms. Venturi reported that they will meet with Mr. Rob Will on December 8 to discuss the bike path.

**BAY RIVER REPORT** – A copy of the report is in the minutes book.

**POLICE REPORT** – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. An arrest for the recent break-ins has been made. The county is handling the case.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** - Commissioner Johnson voiced concerns about the condition of the financial statements and about the comments made by the auditors. Commissioner Venturi requested that the monthly financial statements include the previous year's statement as well. Commissioner Styron wondered why the town's audits have gone so smoothly in the past and now, with the new auditors, everything seems to be wrong. As "nothing has changed at the town hall", he has questions for the auditors. Mr. Cahoon cautioned the Board to take the auditors' comments with a grain of salt, that some of them are misleading.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENT PERIOD** - Mayor Sage reported that the board members met the previous week and assigned the board/committee liaisons. They will formally announce this at the next Agenda Workshop including appointing the Mayor Pro-tem. Concerning that meeting;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to change the Agenda Workshop to December 30, 2009 at 4:30 pm. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS** – Regarding the Water Shortage Response Plan;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adopt the plan. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Venturi asked Mr. Cahoon to include any letters he references in his manager's reports.

There being no further business to discuss;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made the motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Roe. Vote 5-0. The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.

---

William Sage, Mayor

---

Randall Cahoon, Town Manager