

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting
January 5, 2010

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, at 7:00 pm the Oriental Town Hall.

Present were: Mayor Sage and Commissioners Venturi, Styron, Roe and Johnson
Manager Cahoon and Recording Secretary Wagoner
Office Staff Artley and Chief Casassa
Planning Board members Sage and Hardison
Tourism Board Chairman McIlhenny
Former town manager Cutler
11 members of the public

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

MOTION: Commissioner Styron made a motion to approve the December 1, 2009, closed session minutes. Second by Commissioner Roe. Vote 3-1 with Commissioner Venturi voting no.

MOTION: Commissioner Styron made a motion to approve the December 1, 2009, regular meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 3-1 with Commissioner Venturi voting no.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a motion to approve the December 14, 2009, Special meeting. Second by Commissioner Roe. Vote 4-0.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT – Mr. Davis was not present. Mayor Sage reported that the NC Superior Court still has not ruled on the South Avenue case.

AUDIT REPORT - Auditors Chris Burton and Madonna Stafford of Pittard, Perry & Crone were present to review the audit. Mr. Burton stated that the town received a 'clean opinion' – nothing was found to be materially wrong with the financial statements. He briefly reviewed the audit itself and then answered questions about the list of deficiencies.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion requesting Mr. Cahoon to prepare a document with bullet points addressing each deficiency listed. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 4-0.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Precision Safe Sidewalks plans to have the sidewalk repairs completed by March 24, 2010. Regarding a payment to James L. Cayton & Assoc. for work done on the diffuser – the matter has now been resolved with Mr. Cayton agreeing to accept \$1682.50 as payment in full

STEVE WILLIAMS' REQUEST FOR BILL ADJUSTMENT – After some discussion;

MOTION: Commissioner Roe made a motion to have Mr. Cahoon handle this matter as this is an administrative issue as outlined in the General Ordinance, Chapter K. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – None

PLANNING BOARD, PARKS & REC COMMITTEE AND TOURISM BOARD REPORTS – They did not meet in December.

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.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – A copy of the statements is in the minutes book. As requested, Mr. Cahoon added two new columns to the statements, one showing a percentage comparison to the previous year and the other the actual year-ago totals. Mr. Cahoon pointed out a refund posted in the Water Fund that is a result of an invoice being paid twice and that Blue Cross/Blue Shield has raised its rates.

Mr. Cahoon was asked the status of hiring a part time police officer - the advertisement has not yet been placed as he is awaiting confirmation of the salary. Commissioner Johnson asked that the Board wait until the budgeting process begins before going ahead with the ad. The decision to hire one to two part time officers will be taken up at the February meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a motion to instruct Mr. Cahoon to place the advertisement in four publications for the part time positions listing the salary as \$10-\$14/hour. Motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Johnson pointed out that there is no policy setting a cap on dipping into the fund balance and offered to bring one to the table next month.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENT PERIOD - Mayor Sage announced the STEP meeting scheduled for the following night at the community college at 7:00 pm and encouraged everyone to attend. Commissioner Venturi voiced her disappointment with the handling of the Christmas party. The new commissioners were not invited and the cost of the party was more than double the previous year's. She hopes it is not handled in the same manner this year. Also, in looking through the books she noticed that the insurance payment for Mrs. Artley has increased substantially. Mr. Cahoon agreed to discuss this with her privately as it is a personnel matter.

NON AGENDA ITEMS – None

There being no further business to discuss;

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made the motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 4-0. Meeting ended at 10:00 pm.

William Sage, Mayor

Randall Cahoon, Town Manager