

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting
January 6, 2009

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 pm at the Oriental Town Hall.

Present were: Mayor Sage and Commissioners Cox, Kellam, Inger and Styron
Planning Board members Miller, Marlowe, Creighton, and Barton
Tourism Board member McIlhenny
Long Range Planning members Venturi, Reid, Roe and Sage
County Commissioner Ken Heath
Chief Casassa
50 members of the public

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

MOTION: Commissioner Styron made a motion to approve the Dec.2, 2008 and Nov.20, 2008 Agenda minutes. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING – ANNEXATION & ZONING OF CATHOLIC CHURCH – The church has withdrawn its petition for annexation.

PUBLIC HEARING – ADOPT NEW ZONING MAP - When the map was updated it included the church annexation. As the petition has been withdrawn a new map will have to be made and the public hearing rescheduled.

GDS – The town's contract with GDS is up for renewal in June 2009. Ms. Tracy Nestor, GDS' Municipal Marketing Representative, informed the Board that there would be no rate increase and that they would pick up recyclables on the extra 5th Monday that occurs four months of the year. Instead of leasing them, the town has the option of purchasing the trash and recycle cans it uses and would recoup the cost in about 3 years. Grant money is available for this purchase.

WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN – This plan protects the areas surrounding the Town's wells.

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to adopt the Wellhead Protection Plan. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 4-0.

BAY RIVER PRESENTATION – ART HOUGH – This was deferred until the next meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT – None

PLANNING BOARD REPORT – No meeting was held in December.

TOURISM BOARD REPORT – No meeting was held in December.

PARKS & REC COMMITTEE REPORT – No meeting was held in December

BAY RIVER REPORT – Commissioner Inger asked to defer this report until the next meeting.

POLICE REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Commissioner Kellam informed the Board and the public that the Oriental Police Dept. now has a website where people can fill out House Check forms online. This website is reached through the Town’s website.

MANAGER’S REPORT –

1. Mr. Cutler informed the Board that the new recycling site is up and running. There is also a container there to collect oyster shells which are used to recreate and encourage more oyster habitats.
2. The water plant is finally running smoothly and all the pumps are functioning properly.
3. As tradition would have it, there was a major leak on New Year’s Eve at 4:00 pm when construction workers hit an unmarked (and unknown) water line on HWY 55.

TOWN MANAGER POSITION - Commissioners Inger, Kellam and Cox have been rating the applications and will narrow the choices down to 13 at which time a special meeting may be called to discuss those applicants. The top choices will be contacted to see if they are still interested in the job and if the starting salary is acceptable.

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

TREE ORDINANCE – The Tree Board has requested that an addition be made to the Tree Ordinance. This addition will target contractors who clear-cut lots, including town trees, when preparing for construction.

MOTION: Commissioner Kellam made a motion to adopt the ordinance with the addition of “...shall have a civil penalty of \$50...” Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 3-1 with Commissioner Styron voting no.

ROOF PITCH – At the commissioners’ request, Attorney Davis prepared an ordinance that addresses commercial roof pitch.

MOTION: Commissioner Cox made a motion to have the Planning Board review the proposed ordinance and make a recommendation to the Town Board. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 4-0.

In anticipation of the Planning Board recommending the ordinance;

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for the roof pitch ordinance on February 3, 2009. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 4-0.

NOISE ORDINANCE -

MOTION: Commissioner Cox made a motion to not appoint a Stakeholders Committee. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Cox made a motion to adopt the revised Noise Ordinance he presented at the meeting. This motion died for lack of a second.

After discussion it was decided that the decibel meter the town purchased will be sent to Raleigh to verify that it works properly. Mr. Cutler will talk with Attorney Davis to find a professional sound engineer who can work with the Board to teach them how to properly use the meter and to establish decibel limits for the ordinance.

LONG RANGE PLANNING – In an effort to get feedback from the public for the Master Plan, committee member Venturi presented the Board with the questionnaire that will be sent to everyone on the Oriental water billing list and will also be in the Pamlico News as an insert (PN is providing this service free of charge). The committee sought funds for postage and permission to have the town staff assist with processing the questionnaires as they are returned.

MOTION: Commissioner Styron made a motion to allow the expenditure of up to \$500 for the postage to mail the questionnaire. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - Jim Barton, Larry Walker and Barb Venturi emphasized the importance of getting a professional sound engineer to help determine acceptable noise levels. Bob Baskervill suggested the town should go back to its old rule of having all music ending at 11:00 pm and to allow extended playing until 12:00 only for special occasions. Michael Vardy pointed out how the new structures surrounding the Tiki Bar create an amphitheater. Karen Prince voiced her appreciation of what the Board is trying to do and emphasized that everyone needs to compromise to some degree to work this out peacefully. Carol Dixon voiced her disappointment in the Board's decision to not appoint a Stakeholder Committee and stated that, given how the Board keeps changing its strategies, the Board's credibility is quite low. Bama Deal, a musicologist, informed the Board that a study was done to measure sound levels using dose meters in several locations at once. She said she could supply names of people who could help the town board. Tom McIlhenny questioned the changes to the ordinance.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENT - Commissioner Cox stated that he would like to again pursue traffic calming methods.

NON AGENDA ITEMS –

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to approve the amendment to the Personnel Policy regarding retirement benefits. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to adopt the Golf Cart Ordinance. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Styron made a motion to schedule a public hearing to adopt the revised GMO map at the February 3, 2009 meeting. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Styron made the motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 4-0. Meeting ended at 9:20 pm.

William Sage, Mayor

Wyatt Cutler, Town Manager