

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

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 7:00 pm the Oriental Town Hall.

Present were: Mayor Sage and Commissioners Bohmert, Cox, and Kellam
Manager Cahoon and Recording Secretary Wagoner
Public Works Supervisor Fears and Office Staff Artley
Planning Board Chairman Marlowe
Long Range Planning members Sage and Venturi
Police Chief Casassa
15 members of the public

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the August 27 Agenda and September 1 Board meetings minutes. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 3-0

PUBLIC HEARING – ORIENTAL LONG RANGE VISION – Mayor Sage gave a brief history of the process that led to this Public Hearing and stated that the Vision would be the foundation of all Town ordinances and of the Comprehensive Plan that the Planning Board will now complete. Long Range Planning Co-Chairman, Barb Venturi, pointed out that the Vision was a draft and she welcomed comments and questions to clarify any points. Mrs. Sage thanked the public for the overwhelming response to the questionnaire. Mr. Harvey Hardison commended the committee for the hard work and the positive results.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 3-0.

Commissioner Kellam voiced some concerns with the wording in two areas. After more discussion;

MOTION: Commissioner Kellam made a motion to approve the Oriental Vision with two changes:

B. Business and Commerce

~~Participate in public/private partnerships to coordinate~~ Assisting in the coordination of community resources, activities and services among the town, its businesses, and volunteers.

Town Governance and General Operations

Oriental's all-volunteer governing boards and committees are responsible for enacting and/or ~~enforcing~~ reviewing the town's procedures and ordinances. ~~The paid staff tends to~~ The town manager and staff manage the daily operations and enforcement of ordinances. A long range vision will assist these individuals in anticipating the town's needs while honoring its heritage.

Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 3-0.

NCDOT PRESENTATION – Mr. Carlos Moya-Astudillo presented the draft of the Pamlico County Comprehensive Transportation Plan as well as a resolution to approve it. Commissioner Cox pointed out that the plan spans the next 30 years and will be reviewed about every 5 years. After a brief discussion;

MOTION: Commissioner Cox made a motion to adopt the Resolution Adopting the Pamlico County Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the Town of Oriental. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 3-0.

This information will be posted on the town's website.

MEETING DATES - As the next meeting date falls on November 3, Election Day;

MOTION: Commissioner Kellam made a motion to change the November meeting date to the 10th. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 3-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Cox made a motion to change the November agenda meeting date to Monday, November 30th at 4:30 pm. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 3-0.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT – Mr. Davis did not attend the meeting. There was no update on the South Avenue case. Regarding opening closed minutes, there are minutes that need to be opened however the book containing the minutes cannot be located. This will be taken up again at the next meeting.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS – Copies of the reports are in the minutes book.

Regarding a bid received from The Anderson Construction Co. to repave approximately 31.5 sq.yds. of roadway; an additional 22.5 sq.yds. of repaving was piggy-backed on work Bay River was having done in the area.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to spend \$3,400 of Powell Bill money to cover the cost of the repaving. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 3-0.

Public Works Supervisor Robert Fears was present to make a plea for a new truck. The existing trucks are in bad shape, have a lot of miles on them and are in and out of the repair shop on a regular basis. (As one truck is in the shop he has to use his own truck.) He stated he could probably find a good used truck. No action was taken but this will be revisited next year.

Concerning event insurance, Mr. Cahoon reported that he was approached by Missy Baskervill about getting insurance coverage for the Spirit of Christmas parade. This is possible for a fee of \$10. The parade permit will be revised to clarify who may ask for parade insurance. (*Note: the ordinance amendment to add the \$10 parade permit to the fee schedule was overlooked and will be adopted at the next meeting.*)

CHICKENS – Ms. Lori Wagoner requested that the Board review the General Ordinance governing chickens in residential neighborhoods as she would like to have some but under the current rules, she cannot. After some discussion, while no action was taken, the Board agreed to review this further. The County Health Dept. will be contacted to see if there are any existing rules governing backyard chickens.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD -

1. Mrs. Dee Sage inquired about the tree on Church St. that was scheduled to be removed (it is

on Pamlico Tree Care's list to be taken down later in October).

2. Ms. Barb Venturi stated that a year after presenting the plans for the widening of HWY 55 to a 5-lane road, NCDOT 's website made it clear that they no longer supported 5-lane highways because they are so dangerous. She was therefore surprised that the transportation plan presented earlier did not address this issue. She also mentioned that lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on HWY 55 here in town would make the road safer.

GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS -

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the amendment to Chapter F prohibiting parking on the southeast side of Midyette St. from Hodges St. to the Wild Life Ramp. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 3-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the amendment to Chapter F prohibiting parking in front of and within 15' either side of fire hydrants. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 3-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the amendments to Chapter G regarding mowing. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 3-0.

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

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

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to appoint Mrs. Jackie Wall to the Tourism Board. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 3-0. She will finish out Ms. Pugh's term which expires March 2010.

PARKS & REC COMMITTEE REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. After the resignation of Christie Foster there is now one open seat.

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

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT TERMS – Mr. Cahoon pointed out that the terms of two of the Board of Adjustment members have expired. No action was taken.

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. Commissioner Kellam reported that since Mr. Careway's resignation in May the sheriff's department has responded 20 times to calls in Oriental when Chief Casassa was off duty.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – A copy of the statements is in the minutes book. Regarding a budget amendment to the Parks & Rec department;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the budget amendment to create a line item (#666) for grant money received. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 3-0.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT PERIOD - Commissioner Cox relayed the news that the County is looking for volunteers to do a head count of Pamlico County residents for the Census.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None

There being no further business;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made the motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 3-0. The meeting ended at 9:05 pm.

William Sage, Mayor

Attest _____
Randall Cahoon, Town Manager