

Town of Oriental Board of Commissioners Special Meeting
February 16, 2009

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on February 16, 2009 at 3:30 pm at the Oriental Town Hall

Present were: Mayor Sage and Commissioners Bohmert, Cox, Kellam, Inger and Styron
16 members of the public

Mayor Sage opened the meeting.

NOISE ORDINANCE – The board first discussed what things commissioners can and cannot have posted on the town’s website.

MOTION: Commissioner Cox made a motion to have Commissioner Bohmert’s version of the proposed noise ordinance, along with Commissioner Cox’s, posted on the town’s website. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Kellam prepared a comparison between the two proposed ordinances. She stated that, contrary to what Dr. Nagel told the group, her research says that doubling the distance decreases the decibel level by 6 and not 3 decibels. (She will get this verified with Dr. Nagel.)

After more discussion the Board decided that Commissioners Bohmert and Cox will work together on obtaining a new decibel meter and calibrator and setting up the trials with Mr. McIlhenny’s assistance with getting the band. The sound measurements will be taken at 3 different places (the Tiki Bar, the Harbor Deli and the Stallings House) that routinely have live, outdoor music. The decibel readings will be compared with the numbers in the two proposals.

Commissioner Kellam went on record stating that, while she understands that the other board members wish to hear firsthand what the band registers on the decibel meter, she opposes the tests as they are not scientific. There are too many variables. She would prefer that the board vote to adopt one of the proposed noise ordinances and see how well the decibel restrictions work.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion that she and Commissioner Cox will perform the decibel reading tests at the Tiki Bar, the Harbor Marina and the Stallings House. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 2-3 with Commissioners Cox, Kellam and Inger voting no. The motion did not pass.

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to go ahead with the demonstration using speakers and the decibel meter. The levels will be tested using each proposal noting any variances that occur while testing. The purchase of the decibel meter and calibrator and the testing will be done as soon as possible. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Kellam voting no.

STEPS GRANT – The town of Bayboro has procured a STEP grant. Each grant recipient is assigned a coach – Ms. Chilton Rogers is Bayboro’s coach. They have held several meetings and the coach is encouraging all the local municipalities to participate in, and hopefully benefit from, the grant by submitting a profile from each town. Mrs. Dee Sage created the profile for Oriental (a copy of the profile is in the minutes book).

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to send the Oriental profile to the next meeting. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 5-0.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – The mayor asked the board to review the plan and be prepared to vote on it at the agenda meeting on February 26, 2009.

CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERS PROGRAM – The Rural Center is hosting a workshop in Raleigh on March 10. Attendance to this workshop is mandatory in order to pursue grants. Commissioner Kellam volunteered to attend.

PERSONNEL –

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to go into closed session according to G/S 143-319.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 5-0.

-- CLOSED SESSION--

BACK IN OPEN SESSION -

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to offer the town manager position to Randall Cahoon, with a starting salary of \$50,000, subject to the results of the background check. At Mr. Cahoon’s request, a one year contract will be written. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Inger will notify Mr. Cahoon.

There being no further business;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made the motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

William Sage, Mayor

Heidi Artley, Interim Town Manager