

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting
January 2, 2007

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Oriental Town Hall. Present were Mayor Styron and Commissioners Bohmert, Herlands, Inger, Johnson, and Venturi. There were 17 members of the public present.

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

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the November 30th minutes. Second by Commissioner Herlands. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Herlands made a motion to approve the December 4th minutes after the addition of a statement made by Pamlico County Emergency Manager Ben Barnett concerning the SUP sought by Mr. Bysheim in which he concluded that the proposed project would reduce the safety of persons and property should a fire occur. This motion was deferred until the recording of the meeting could be heard to verify this.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the December 5th minutes after adding to page one, paragraph seven: “The Board questioned Mr. Williams about parking, drainage and elevation of the property. In response to a question concerning parking opportunities for visitors and deliveries to the project, Mr. Williams stated that the parking area for the adjourning Oriental Harbor Marina Complex was a “public parking lot.” Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

The Planning Board Report was given by Chairman Sage (copy of report in minutes book).

Town Attorney Davis stated that a date has been set for the hearing on the South Avenue issue.

Mr. Joe Valinoti, Recycle Coordinator, reported that due to the increase in trash and the number of complaints, Town ‘n Country Grocery has requested that the recycle bins be taken away from their parking lot. At this time the County has not designated a new location for the recycle center. Oriental owns the newspaper container and a new place will need to be found to put it. As the Town already has a recycling program which includes newspaper, the bin might be used to recycle cardboard. Mr. Valinoti, Mr. Cutler and the County manager will continue to work on this matter.

The Tourism report was given by Commissioner Bohmert. (copy of report in minutes book). The board still needs one more member.

As neither board met in December, there was no report from the Parks & Recreation Committee nor Bay River.

The Police report was given by Chief Casassa (copy of report in minutes book).

Mr. Cutler gave the Manager’s report:

- There was a break in the 10” line on Straight Road. A special sleeve is needed to complete the repair. Negotiations are under way to determine who will pay for the repair. (Progress Energy put the hole in it when they put in another grounding rod.)

- Construction of the sidewalk on Freemason Street has begun in accordance with the agreement made with builder John Sheppard.
- The old 10,000 steel tank, other metal, old water meters and old mowers have been sold for scrape. We still have not found a home or a good option for the old garbage truck.
- The storage addition (bathrooms, etc.) to the water plant has begun.

Mr. Cutler was asked about the status of the new cottage on Freemason Street which had problems with the placement of and material used in the driveway. He will look into it.

Commissioner Herlands requested the Board start thinking about scheduling budget workshops and that the various boards and committees start working on their budget requests.

Kathy Enzerink stated the Stakeholders did not meet the last two weeks of December but will be meeting January 3rd and 4th. On some topics the committee is split and will probably be submitting two recommendations to the Planning Board.

The financial statement was reviewed (copy of statement in minutes book).

Commissioner Venturi gave an update on the Long Range Planning (copy of update in minutes book). She now has more people on the committee however three of them are commissioners. Mr. Cutler will check with the town attorney to see if this is permissible.

The town hall renovation was discussed. Commissioner Venturi will talk with the First Responders about moving their response van to the fire station within the year so the renovation can include that bay. People are encouraged to submit their design suggestions.

Commissioner Bohmert gave an update on upcoming State requirements for storm water runoff management (copy of report in minutes book).

In accordance with the requirements of the Code of General Ordinances, Commissioner Johnson made a motion to continue holding the Town Board meetings the first Tuesday of each month. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

During the Commissioner's comment period, Commissioner Bohmert requested that Mr. Cutler talk with Scott Davis about a drainage ordinance. She also voiced her opinion that the Town's sign ordinance is not business friendly. She asked the Board to consider dropping the sign permit fee.

Commissioner Johnson made the motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Meeting ended at 9:05 pm.

Mayor

Town Manager