

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting  
April 3, 2007

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Oriental Town Hall. Present were Mayor Styron and Commissioners Bohmert, Inger, Johnson, and Venturi. Also present were Planning Board members Cox, Olson and Sage as well as 22 members of the public.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the March 6<sup>th</sup> minutes. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the March 6<sup>th</sup> Closed Session minutes. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the March 5<sup>th</sup> minutes. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to approve the March 1<sup>st</sup> minutes. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.

**PROPOSED RESTORATION OF ARTIFICIAL REEF – DOLPHIN POINT**

Mr. Jim Francesconi, of the Marine Fisheries, gave a presentation on restoring an artificial reef off of Dolphin Point (a copy of the report is in the minutes book). Created in the 1970's, over the years hurricanes have broken up the reef and dislodged it from its original placement site. Mr. Francesconi requested assistance from the Town in obtaining a grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation to either rebuild the reef and/or to enlarge the reef site to include the original site along with the site the reef now sits on. According to Mr. Clay Cahoon, this project could be combined with creating an Oyster Bay Sanctuary. The Board expressed an interest in helping with the reef's restoration. The grant application deadline is August 1, 2007. Citizen Ron Zielinski volunteered to help with the project.

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT** – Was given by Chairman Dee Sage (copy of report in minutes book).

**TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT** – Concerning the South Avenue litigation, Mr. Davis reported that he will be meeting with Attorney Stubbs to discuss a motion which was filed to convert the bankruptcy Chapter 11 (reorganization) to a Chapter 7 (liquidation). It might be possible to resolve the issue without going to court.

Commissioner Venturi inquired about the time frame in creating 4 year staggered terms for the Commissioners. As it needs a charter amendment, is there time left on the legislator calendar to address this before the November elections? Mr. Davis will look into this.

**TOURISM BOARD REPORT** – This report was given by Secretary Jennifer Pare (a copy of report in is the minutes book). Regarding the conflict between the Get Loose on the Neuse concert and the Tarpon Tournament, the board requested that the Town Board make the decision on whether to leave the concert at Lou Mac Park or to move it to the Tarpon Tournament location at the Whittaker Pointe subdivision (end of White Farm Rd).  
**MOTION:** Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to leave the concert at Lou Mac Park and to reschedule it to be held from 4:30 to 6:30. The motion died for lack of second.  
**MOTION:** Commissioner Inger made a motion to move the concert to the Tarpon Tournament headquarters at Whittaker Pointe and for the Rotary to assist the Tourism Board with advertisements and with transportation to the concert.  
Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 2-2 with Commissioners Bohmert and Johnson voting against. Mayor Styron voted to break the tie; vote 3-2. Motion carried.

**PARKS & RECREATION** - report is in the minutes book.

**BAY RIVER REPORT** – report is in the minutes book.

**POLICE REPORT** – Chief Casassa reported that Minnesott Beach had requested assistance from the Oriental Police Dept. in controlling speeders. As it is not a simple matter of borrowing a cop he suggested that they seek help from the Highway Patrol.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** –

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venturi made a motion to nominate Mr. Charlie Overcash (presently the alternate) to the board and to nominate Mr. Doug Carmichael as the alternate. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.

**MANAGER’S REPORT** - a copy of the report is in the minutes book.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Johnson made a motion authorizing Mr. Cutler to purchase 16 radio-read water meters. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.  
Mr. Cutler suggested that all new subdivisions be required to install radio-read meters.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING** –

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venturi made a motion to nominate Mr. Marvin Bullock and Mr. Ben Hollowell to the Long Range Planning Committee. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**MAIN STREET CLOSURE** – Petition

A petition opposing the closing of Main Street at Raccoon Creek was received. The petitioners do not seem aware that the closure will be to cars only – a pedestrian and bicycle bridge will be built. Alternatives to closing the road were discussed. Barricades could be used to close the street to vehicles but a lot of people just ignore them or worse, drive over them.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Melinda Penkava wanted to know when the public will be invited to provide input on the Town's decision to purchase land to be used for parking, restrooms and a visitor's center.

**NON AGENDA ITEMS:**

The ECC's proposal for a shared professional planner was distributed for review.

Commissioner Inger made a motion to go into closed session as permitted in General Statute 143-318.11. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 4-0.3

**Closed Session:**

A revision was made to the second appraisal because the square footage was incorrect. The new appraisal is \$468,000. Mr. Frazer is willing to sell the property to us for \$430,000 and donate back \$31,000. Four parking spaces for Mr. Frazer (as part of the negotiations) were discussed also. To pay for the property, one option is to make a deposit and apply for a bridge loan in anticipation of the grant money. A casual poll shows that the majority of the Commissioners are in favor of buying the property. A public hearing may be held when the Board is ready to start designing the structure that will go on the property.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venturi made a motion to go out of closed session. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venturi made a motion to continue this meeting until April 12, 2007 at 9:00 am. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Meeting ended at 10:30 pm.

---

Mayor

---

Town Manager