

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting  
November 10, 2009

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:00 pm the Oriental Town Hall.

Present were: Mayor Sage and Commissioners Bohmert, Cox, Kellam and Inger  
Manager Cahoon and Recording Secretary Wagoner  
Public Works Supervisor Fears  
Chief Casassa  
Newly elected commissioners Johnson and Venturi  
11 members of the public

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES –**

MOTION: Commissioner Cox made a motion to re-approve the January 6, 2009 minutes. (*This was done because the motion to approve the minutes was omitted.*) Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the October 1, 2009 minutes with one correction and the October 13, 2009 minutes. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the October 13, 2009 Closed Minutes with corrections. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 4-0.

**TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT –** Mr. Davis was ill and did not attend the meeting. There was no update on the South Avenue lawsuit. Regarding opening closed minutes; the Board members were each given a packet of closed minutes to review. This will be revisited at the Agenda Meeting on November 30. Commissioner Cox cautioned the new Board to be careful with proper closed session protocols as, in the past, board members tended to stray from the topic of the closed meeting and sometimes, a closed session was not needed at all.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS –** A copy of his reports is in the minutes book. Regarding the purchase of radio read meters – as it is in the budget, the Board gave Mr. Cahoon approval to purchase 55 meters. Regarding an invoice from James L. Cayton Assoc., the Board directed Mr. Cahoon to have Mr. Davis review the contract. And regarding an invoice for \$300 to pay Mr. Fears for diving services, after hearing Mr. Fears' request;

MOTION: Commissioner Cox made a motion to transfer the old town garbage truck to Mr. Fears in lieu of the \$300 payment. Mr. Fears has 30 days to remove the truck. Mr. Cahoon is to try to get Wooten to pay the James L. Cayton invoice and to have Mr. Davis review the contract. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve spending \$1651.50 for playground mulch. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 4-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve spending up to \$40,000 on sidewalk repair. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Cahoon also reported that the repair to the break wall will begin the second week of January 2010.

Regarding the hiring of new police officers;

MOTION: Commissioner Kellam made a motion to direct Mr. Cahoon to place an advertisement in the local media outlets for 2 part time officers with 2 years minimum experience. Hours not to exceed 19 hours. The closing date for receiving applications is 2 weeks from the time the ad is run. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 4-0.

The county sheriff's office will be contacted to inquire about applicants they may be able to recommend. The Board then discussed a request from the Town of Bayboro to share a police officer with them. After a lengthy discussion, no action was taken.

Chief Casassa was asked about his progress with starting up a Community Watch Program and he informed the Board that he understood that a commissioner would help him with the project so did not start. This matter will be revisited at a later date.

**MAREE LOFTIN'S NO PARKING REQUEST** - The Board considered Mrs. Loftin's request to make it "No Parking" in front of her building at the corner of Factory St. and Hodges St. and to extend the no parking beyond her driveway towards the Bean. She cited safety concerns related to the ingress and egress to her parking lot; while it is a private parking lot, the public uses it (though Commissioner Bohmert stated that she was once asked to move her car from the lot). After more discussion;

MOTION: Commissioner Kellam made a motion to have a "No Parking" sign 25' from the corner of Factory St. on Hodges St. in front of the Inland Waterway Treasure Company building and paint the curbs on either side of the driveway on Hodges St. yellow for 5'. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 4-0.

**HANDICAPPED PARKING IN FRONT OF BAPTIST CHURCH** - A request was made to reduce the handicapped parking in front of the Baptist Church on Broad St.;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to reduce the handicapped parking spaces from 3 to 1 in front of Baptist Church on Broad St. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 4-0.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** -

1. John Laguardia asked about the chain of command regarding the police department. He voiced dismay at how the hiring process of the new police officers appeared to be new to the board and over complicated. He was surprised to learn that the Silos and Circle 10 Gallery, both recently robbed, were outside the town limits and being handled by the sheriff's department. He asked why the hiring process is taking so long. *(Mr. Cahoon replied that he waited for instruction from the Board before acting and that State Statute prevents us from patrolling beyond the city limits.)*

2. Barb Venturi clarified a point made by the manager – the Oriental police department does have a 1-mile ETJ jurisdiction. Chief Casassa confirmed this.

3. Bama Deal asked the Board to make protecting the citizens and businesses their priority by providing more police coverage.

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT** – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Under consideration is a revision to Chapter G - Section 9 of the General Ordinances. After some discussion, the Board agreed to send this back to the Planning Board with the recommendation that they confer with Skip Lee, the

County Building Inspector, to see what requirements they have concerning trash debris versus building supplies left in the yard and to incorporate their language into our ordinance.

**TOURISM BOARD** – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Commissioner Inger asked that the Oriental History Museum’s budget be resubmitted to include more formal details (name, date, signature).

**PARKS & REC COMMITTEE REPORT** – They did not meet.

**BAY RIVER REPORT** – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Commissioner Cox inquired about the progress of the inter local agreement. (They have not yet met to discuss this.)

**POLICE REPORT** – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Chief Casassa reported that a 2006 Ford Crown Vic police car is available for \$5,700. No action was taken.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** – A copy of the statements is in the minutes book. Commissioner Inger asked if water bill receipts were still being sent out. (They are not.)

**NEW COMPUTER** – The computer has been ordered.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to pay for the computer out of the Water Fund. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 4-0.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Commissioner Cox had several items he wished to try to wrap up before the new board takes office:

1. Assume responsibility for portions of North St. and White Farm Rd. This was discussed but no action was taken.

2. Replace temporary rumble strips with permanent ones - As they were only put in place in September, the Board opted to give the temporary strips more time.

3. Reduce speed limit on Midyette Street;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to reduce the speed limit on Midyette St., between HWY 55 and North St., from 25 mph to 15 mph. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 4-0.

4. “Chicken Ordinance” – this was discussed but no action was taken.

**COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENT** - Commissioner Bohmert reported that it will take a CAMA major permit to proceed with the Duck Pond Project by removing a portion of Main St. to open up Raccoon Creek. She is looking for grant money. Commissioner Inger stated that she recently visited the Wild Life Ramp area and witnessed trucks and trailers parked haphazardly, taking up more parking space than necessary. She wondered if the Wild Life commission would consider spray painting the gravel to delineate the parking spaces.

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS** – Commissioner Kellam asked the Board to consider a proposed evaluation for the town manager;

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adopt the manager’s evaluation. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 4-0.

The town manager's evaluation will be completed by the agenda meeting. Commissioners Inger and Kellam will tally the results. Mr. Cahoon will have his self-evaluation completed by November 16. The Board will meet in a Special Meeting on Monday, November 23 at 4:30 pm to do Mr. Cahoon's evaluation with him.

There being no further business:

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Cox.  
Vote 4-0.

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William Sage, Mayor

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Randall Cahoon, Town Manager