



## ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD AGENDA WORKSHOP

Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 4pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Quarterly Agenda Workshop on Thursday, January 25, 2018 was called to order at  
7 4pm. The Mayor Sally Belangia determined a quorum to be present. She said we have a Public Comment period, if  
8 you wish to speak please make sure you are signed up on the correct sheet.  
9

10 Present: Mayor Sally Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner  
11 Price, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Dammeyer, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director  
12 Tammy Cox, Administrative Assistant Jeannine Russo, Officer Nic Blayney and Members of the Public.  
13

### 14 1. Approval of Agenda

15 (a) **Commissioner Price** made a **MOTION** to approve the Agenda. Seconded by  
16 **Commissioner White**. Motion passed 5-0.  
17

### 18 2. Public Comment Period.

19 **Bill Hines, Link Lane**—Mr. Hines encourages the Board to react quickly to the Resolution as Governor Cooper is  
20 trying to stop the seismic blasting which will lead to offshore drilling which affects, in our area, recreational and  
21 commercial fishing. Mr. Hines stated the way they fought this in Florida was at the state and local levels and feels  
22 we need to do this at the local level. Several areas on the coast have put in Resolutions but there are several areas not  
23 on the coast are also putting in resolutions. Manager Miller stated the Board will have the paperwork and a draft  
24 after the meeting. The only Public Hearing in the state will be in Raleigh on February 26, unless it is moved back  
25 due to the shutdown. Manager Miller told the Board that they will have the Resolution at the next meeting on  
26 February 6. Mr. Hines is signed up to be a speaker and he is available any time to answer questions. Mr. Hines  
27 stated that while visiting Beaufort, he noticed they had public kayak racks and on January 1 of each year, people put  
28 their names in to store their boats. Twelve names are then drawn and they can store their boats there for that year.  
29 Manager Miller stated we currently have a design for an 18-rack kayak holder and a draft for how the process would  
30 work on our next agenda.  
31

32 **Larry Summers**—Spoke about a few projects that had been brought up in the past. One was the extension of the  
33 dinghy dock and the net house. Back in 2012 he had volunteers willing to help and states he would gladly “ramrod”  
34 this project and believes the Town could do something with it. As for the dinghy dock, he believes we need to take a  
35 different approach to it. If a grant was to be obtained, this is based on the state definition of a boat being 26’, every  
36 multiple of 26’ would give space for a boat on either side. If we extended the dock out approximately 100’, this  
37 would bring a lot of boats, which he believes would help with the grant and also with the boat show.  
38

39 **Grace Evans** – Ms. Evans asked if there could be a separate parking area at the Wildlife Ramp for people who  
40 might be visiting or joining someone going out on a boat. She also inquired about a pipe sticking out of the ground  
41 across from her property. Manager Miller stated this is part of the Bay River Sewer project, over which the Town  
42 has no control.  
43

44 **Sandy Donaldson, Dolphin Road** – She is a member of Sea Harbour Yacht Club, has lived here 14 years. She  
45 states there have been three dredgings of Pierce Creek in that time. As a member of SHYC, the members have  
46 contributed assessments each year and the neighborhood makes contributions to the dredging fund as well. Ms.  
47 Donaldson feels that there are three or four businesses on Whittaker Creek that may have gotten grants to help with  
48 the dredging and that there are many people who live on Whittaker Creek. She does not feel that the rest of the  
49 Town should help fund their dredging. She also believes Commissioner White should recuse himself, should this be  
50 put to a vote, as he lives on Whittaker Creek and would benefit from this dredging.  
51

### 52 REGULAR BUSINESS

53  
54 3. **Public Hearing** – SUP for short term rental for 309 High St.

55 Public Hearing requested by Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe for short-term, part-time rental at 309 High Street. The live just a  
56 few houses away in their own home. The Planning Board took this up at two meetings. There was no evidence  
57 presented at either meeting for the required items that the Board would be able to deny the Special Use Permit for.  
58

59 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Commissioner**  
60 **Dammeyer**. Motion passed. 5-0.

61  
62 **Mayor Belangia**: The Public Comment period, I have a few people signed up for that. There are three minutes. We  
63 have Louis Athey.

64 **Louis Athey**: I am a little late for the process but I am going to make these comments anyway. I am Lou Athey.  
65 This is my wife Lucy. We operate The Inn at Oriental, which is a B & B right next door to Town Hall. We are here  
66 to comment on this Special Use Permit application and other facets of this process. There seems to be a push to  
67 approve these non-compliance uses, which is probably (inaudible) but I must point out that the more you go down  
68 this path, the more likely it is there will not be a B & B in Oriental. (Inaudible) so I speak with some degree of  
69 authority on that. This may or may not be important to you, but it is occasionally important to us. We are currently  
70 suffering from conditions of a Special Use Permit of the business next door. (Inaudible) of the brew pub which is  
71 very popular in the community that is run by, what I assume to be, fine people. The problem is the Special Use  
72 Permit of a pub has now extended to a venue for outdoor music, live and recorded, corn hole tournaments that go on  
73 into the night, all very popular here in Oriental, except with us. These activities have a huge impact on 50% of our  
74 guest rooms and it is our understanding that one of the most important criteria for the issuance of a Special Use  
75 Permit is whether it diminishes harmony in the neighborhood. This is a case, we can assure you, that the Special Use  
76 Permit is not working as intended.

77 **Manager Miller**: Can I clarify the process?

78 **Mayor Belangia**: Yes, please.

79 **Manager Miller**: Mr. Athey, I just wanted to clarify the process. When we have a public hearing for a Special Use  
80 Permit, you are welcome. We advertise it in advance of the Planning Board hearing it. We advertise it again legally  
81 in advance of this Town Board hearing it and they are, by law, required to grant the permit unless there is evidence  
82 presented, and evidence would be in the form of an appraisal from a realtor or a study that is published, or  
83 something like that, brought at the time that the Special Use Permit is requested. This Board is under legal  
84 obligation to grant the permit unless evidence is presented at the time of the Special Use Hearing.

85 **Louis Athey**: Is that permit irrevocable?

86 **Manager Miller**: It is revocable if they do something that is against the permitted use. So if he were to turn it into  
87 some other use than what was permitted, then there is a way to revoke it legally.

88 **Louis Athey**: So basically, you could turn the whole town into short-term rental.

89 **Manager Miller**: Unless you can give me some evidence that can....

90 **Louis Athey**: Well, I just tried. That is the best I can do.

91 **Lucy Athey**: Remember too, the Special Use Permit was issued before they opened so we were not aware that it  
92 would be anything (inaudible)

93 **Manager Miller**: We do have a noise ordinance and there is an avenue to remedy, if the noise goes above and  
94 beyond what was advertised or what is permitted or we can have a conversation offline about a remedy that you  
95 have access to for issues that you are having but feel free to come to my office.

96 **Mayor Belangia**: Is there anybody else here for the Public Hearing of 309 High Street? Do I have a Motion to close  
97 the Public Hearing?

98  
99 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Commissioner Price**. No  
100 discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

101  
102 Mayor Belangia stated that the Board of Commissioners shall issue the permit unless:

- 103  
104 1) The permit is not within its jurisdiction (property is within jurisdiction of TOO)  
105  
106 2) The application is incomplete (the application has been deemed complete by the Land  
107 Use Administrator and the Planning Board.)  
108  
109 3) If completed as proposed:

110 a) will not comply with one or more requirements of this chapter (GMO)  
111 Does any member of the Public have any evidence to offer concerning compliance with the GMO?

112  
113 b) will materially endanger public health or safety  
114 Does any member of the public have any comment on endangerment of public health and  
115 safety?

116  
117 c) will substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property  
118 Does any member of the Public have any evidence to offer that indicates that the project will  
119 injure the value of adjoining or abutting property?

120  
121 d) will not be in harmony with existing uses/development in the area.  
122 Does any member of the public have any evidence that the project is not in harmony with  
123 existing uses in the area?

124  
125 e) will not be in conformity of the Land Use Plan or other plan, officially adopted  
126 by the Town.  
127 Does any member of the public have evidence that the project is not in conformity with existing  
128 plans?

129  
130 **Commissioner White** made one **MOTION** that capsulizes all seven points. Commissioner White stated that the  
131 Planning Board met twice on this issue, on December 7 and January 17 of this year. Board is hearing tonight on  
132 January 25. Commissioner White’s comments are in relation to those meetings.

133  
134 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** that the permit is within its jurisdiction, the application is complete, the  
135 application complies with the GMO. There has been no evidence submitted during the Planning session meetings or  
136 today that say that it would injure adjoining or abutting property values. No evidence today or during the Planning  
137 meeting has been submitted that it will endanger public health and safety. Additionally, no evidence has been  
138 submitted today or at the Planning meetings that it would not be in harmony with existing developments and uses  
139 and no evidence has been submitted, either at the Planning meetings are today, that it would not conform with the  
140 Land Use Plan and therefore makes a **MOTION** to approve the SUP. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**.

141 **Commissioner Overcash** added that this had been gone over in two sessions at the Planning Board with adequate  
142 notification so it has been thoroughly researched. Motion passed 5-0.

143  
144 **4. Public Hearing** – for change to the GMO Permissible Use Table and definitions  
145 Many corrections had been made to the Permissible Use Table and Definitions in November and it was brought to  
146 our attention by one of our citizens that one of the changes was not compliant with General Statutes. Manager Miller  
147 showed what was enacted in November with changes proposed today. Manufactured homes cannot be restricted to  
148 one class or totally from all zones. The man from the School of Government said “We went a really long way down  
149 a really wrong road for the very right reason.” The reason was to prevent the most vulnerable population from living  
150 in the most vulnerable homes in the most vulnerable areas. Previously, there was not a modular home definition and  
151 they had been treated as site built homes. Now, we have a modular home definition and we are still treating them as  
152 site built homes. We are re-doing the mobile home/manufactured home definition. We now have a more descriptive  
153 version of what a mobile home is and delineates it from an RV. Manufactured Homes Classes A and B have  
154 standards for each of those. Originally, Class A and B had a 3 ½ to 12 pitch roof and since site built houses are  
155 restricted to a 4-12 pitch, it is not unreasonable to restrict mobile homes to the same pitch for the same reasons so we  
156 can require that. We do not have a minimum requirement for stick built homes. Some subdivisions do, but that has  
157 to do with covenants, not the Town, and since we do not restrict stick built homes, we will not restrict mobile  
158 homes. There is a minimum width of 16’. This was left in by the Planning Board. They also left in things referring to  
159 insurance and standards and removing hitch wheels, made the pitch compliant with stick built. These are the new  
160 standards for a manufactured home. They added Wind 2 Zone, as that is what Pamlico County uses, and was not in  
161 either of our definitions. Class A and Class B are being removed. Modular Home is being added. This will be a  
162 legally acceptable correction to the changes made in November to the GMO. There is an accompanying Statement  
163 of Compliance and Consistency from the Planning Board. This is also consistent with the Pamlico County Hazard  
164 Mitigation Plan.

165  
166 Mayor Belangia stated that no one from the public signed up to speak. Commissioner White asked about the  
167 numbering of one of the items. Manager Miller stated that all of these items will be renumbered.  
168

169 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to accept the changes to the GMO Permissible Use Table and  
170 Definitions. Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**. Motion passed 5-0.  
171

172 **5. Resolution confirming ability of Law Firm to conduct Ethics Training (Required of all newly elected**  
173 **officials)**

174 Manager Miller asked the Board to approve a Resolution supporting the training that Commissioners Dammeyer and  
175 Simmons are required to take and the Board is supporting that the law firm named is qualified to do the ethics  
176 education. They have traditionally done this but this Resolution needs to be renewed annually.  
177

178 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to approve the Resolution. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion  
179 passed 5-0. Manager Miller stated Commissioners are only required to take this one time once they are elected.  
180

181 **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

182  
183 **6. Spills**

184 **MST I Hasnauer and MST II Blackwell** from the Coast Guard were introduced. They are specialists in marine  
185 security and safety and environmental protection. They respond to and investigate oil and chemical spills and  
186 provide oversight during clean up. MSTs also conduct safety and security inspections of waterfront facilities. They  
187 examine commercial ships. Petty Officer Blackwell responded to our spill in December and was able to give us  
188 direction. Workers from Mr. Fulcher's shrimp boat crew were deploying pads and helping scoop up the mess. It may  
189 have been less than five gallons but looked worse as the whole harbor was covered. By the next day, it had  
190 dissipated. A boom had been placed on the other side of Hodges Street in the duck pond as a precautionary measure  
191 and was clean when it was removed. Photos were shown of the slick. Manager Miller asked for direction for any  
192 future spills such as supplies, disposal, legal or financial issues. Manager Miller stated that the Town is under  
193 different rules than the Coast Guard.

194 **MST I Hasnauer:** Unfortunately, this is not a simple situation to resolve. There are many facets. The need more  
195 information before they can present a resolution. He states the citizens of Oriental have been, on his previous visits,  
196 helpful and concerned. He would like to continue the dialog past this meeting, more discussion offline. MST I  
197 Hasnauer and MST II Blackwell do emergency management and pollution response. The way they would treat an oil  
198 spill may be different than a non-pollution responder.

199 **MST II Blackwell:** He explained they are located in Atlantic Beach. There is a 24-hour number but as they are  
200 located in Atlantic Beach, if they are off duty when the call comes, it could take time for them to get to us.  
201 Hobucken responded to our last call initially. There were reports that it came in from the Neuse and was not from a  
202 commercial or recreational boat in harbor. Mr. Fulcher had his employees throw sorbent pads out there. For diesel,  
203 this is the best way. Hard containment booms may not be beneficial as the winds may change by the time they are  
204 deployed. Only MSTs have the authority to open up the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and mitigate spills, whether  
205 the responsible party is known or unknown. MST II Blackwell stated that Station Hobucken does have a response  
206 trailer with boom and pads but they do not have the authority to hire a contractor to clean up anything that happens  
207 in Oriental. The NRC (National Response Center) is the best way to get information out – Coast Guard, State, EPA.  
208 That call is then forwarded to the Command Center in Wilmington who then calls the response team in Atlantic  
209 Beach. Calls to the NRC are covered under the privacy act and callers names will not be divulged. If the Town has  
210 sorbent pads and uses them for a known spill, a claim will be made against the responsible party to recoup costs.  
211 Manager Miller stated we boom and sorbent pads and extra to reimburse Mr. Fulcher as he responded quickly with  
212 two bales. MST II Blackwell stated the claims process is easy and he would be happy to help walk us through it. If  
213 the responsible party is not known, they can start the process immediately. Manager Miller introduced Lisa  
214 Thompson, Chair of Harbor Waterfronts Advisory Committee, and stated that when something happens, we want to  
215 address it and not have to wait the, possibly, three hours for them to respond, when in many cases it will be gone.  
216 Manager Miller also stated she does not want this to become an EPA nightmare and had been told that there are  
217 facilities where you can take these pads for proper disposal. We want to know what our options are so we can  
218 respond more quickly. Our biggest concern is that we do not incur, maybe, a \$10,000 fine or process to dispose of  
219 what the Town has, rightfully, cleaned up out of the harbor.

220 **MST I Hasnauer:** He stated that diesel is not classified as hazardous waste and you need no special treatment for  
221 this. However, you do need, or should have special training if you are an employee of an organization or  
222 government, the same training as the MSTs required by OSHA, called HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations  
223 and Emergency Response). You need this training if you are working for an organization where you can be exposed  
224 to a hazardous substance. He will speak to us further about this. He stated our biggest problem here in Oriental is  
225 “time and distance” with a Coast Guard led response. One of the fundamental rules of the National Response  
226 framework is that an emergency response that threatens health and human safety always starts at the local level as  
227 you are right there, but will be done as a partnership. Sorbent pads actually do not prevent the spread of the  
228 substance, it cleans it. Containment boom contains it there but keeps it concentrated. They will teach us also about  
229 time and cost reimbursement. Commissioner White stated we need to prevent these events, hard to identify where  
230 the source is coming from. MST Hasnauer stated maybe a heightened law enforcement presence or speak with  
231 Station Hobucken and see if they can do extra patrols. Manager Miller stated Officer Blayney does patrol the  
232 waterfront. We should encourage boaters to report sightings.  
233 **Manager Miller:** We would be happy to help; we just need to know what we need to do.  
234 **Commissioner Dammeyer:** Should we have an available disposal site near the harbor for oil and fuel as he has  
235 personally witnessed boaters filling soda bottles with old oil and leaving them by the trash cans.  
236 **MST II Blackwell:** Stated there are problems with those sites not being used properly.  
237 **Manager Miller:** There was a time when the Marina had collection receptacles and they were removed for that  
238 reason. MST I Hasnauer stated that when a spill happens, if nothing is done the effects will linger. Whatever we  
239 come up with has to work. Manager Miller expressed her thanks to them for coming.

## 240 7. Whittaker Pointe erosion issue

241 Manager Miller introduced Dr. Lexia Weaver from the North Carolina Coastal Federation, who had spoken with us  
242 previously on this issue. Manager Miller chose to make this presentation at this time to assure the residents that this  
243 is a transparent process. While this does not affect everyone in Town, it is a significant problem for a good portion  
244 of our residents. There are two boatyards that would be affected who employ a number of people, a lot of revenue  
245 and sales tax involved. If boaters cannot reach the services they are used to coming to, they will bypass us and go to  
246 Beaufort. This will affect our shops and restaurants as well so it truly affects the whole town. There is a project  
247 already permitted by the state, a dredging grant, of \$360,000. Part of that grant is \$120,000 match that the Town  
248 cannot assist with. The match needs to be spent at the beginning of the project. It would make more sense for this  
249 problem to be solved before the creek is dredged so it does not fill back in again. This problem must be solved or  
250 dredging the creek will be a short-term solution. The match has to be raised before dredging can start, this is  
251 between the businesses and the residences out there by donation. If the Town were involved, it would be a special  
252 assessment. Manager Miller explained this process, part of which requires the Town’s audit to be up to date, which  
253 it is not so we are not in a position to go forward with this until, at the earliest, the close of this fiscal year in June.  
254 The problem is while we are waiting, we run the risk of another storm coming and doing more damage. Larger  
255 vessels will not be able to enter the channel, businesses will be impacted, loss of employment, waterfront property  
256 values, transient boaters and visitors, fishing and marinas will all be affected. One example, in the 1940s, the getty  
257 on Raccoon Creek was built with residents contributions, keeps the harbor secure, protects from potential storms, is  
258 a primary nursery. Mr. Jim Blackerby, Oriental resident and geologist, has created a presentation showing the  
259 migration of the land over time from maps and the impact and timelines. Mr. Blackerby thanked the Town for giving  
260 him the opportunity to present his findings. In attendance was Mr. Ted Tyndall, formerly of CAMA.

- 261 • Whittaker Point plays a crucial role in protecting our waterfront, does much more than keep the channel  
262 open
- 263 • Maps were taken from Google Pro and our own Oriental History Museum. Mr. Blackerby began with  
264 showing our location and the location of Whittaker Point
- 265 • There was a storm in 1933 where an entire block was lost, approximately 2.5 acres. There were actions  
266 taken in the 1940s to stabilize the area because of this storm.
- 267 • Whittaker Point characteristics: Breaching, scalloped shorelines – occurrence of wave action, area where  
268 there were once beaches. The point was stabilized in 2002 but these have begun to fail and erosion has  
269 begun again.
- 270 • Mr. Blackerby used static landmarks and Google Earth Pro area calculators and lateral measurement tools  
271 to help with statistics
- 272
- 273

- 274 • A historical map from 1934 was presented showing Whittaker Point, which was, at that point in time, about  
275 18.5 acres. In 1964, erosion was obvious leaving approximately 9.6 acres. In 1993, after quite a few storms,  
276 the point was approximately 6.25 acres. The map showed the progression of where it was in 1934 to  
277 present and where stabilization had, at one point, been done in 2002 with rock and wave attenuators. The  
278 barrier was stabilized to an extent. After Irene in 2001, there is a possible narrow breach and it is down the  
279 3.5 acres. 2015 measurements were used as they were unavailable for the 2017 map, which is 3.16 acres  
280 with a full breach and the barrier has continued to erode.
- 281 • Area vs. year – in 1933 there were approximately 18.5 acres and in 2015, we are down to about 1/6 of that.  
282 Things slowed in 2002 due to stabilization attempts. Mr. Blackerby believes erosion has begun again  
283 because work has not been continued.
- 284 • Life without the Point – affects ecosystem, commercial and residential. Agrees with Manager Miller – it  
285 affects all of us. Ecosystem: Becomes high-energy impacted (inaudible) shoreline. There is already quite a  
286 bit of wave action due to movement of this barrier system or erosion of it. Environmental: Environments  
287 associated with the barrier system completely destroyed. Marsh system impacted. Commercial interests,  
288 jobs, tax revenue and residential will all be impacted. Possibility of surge effects, not only for those on the  
289 creek.
- 290 • Erosion control and maintenance history: Remnants of bulkheads and rock are visible. They have helped to  
291 slow the change. Wave attenuators shown have tried to keep the breach from getting larger – need repair.  
292 Parts of them have been pushed over by the waves. We need them to be larger or better built. The barrier  
293 has provided a lot of protection in many ways. Without it, radical changes will be seen in and around the  
294 creek. Dredging the channel may be pointless, stated that may be too harsh of a term, but if we do not take  
295 care of the erosion, continued sediment (inaudible) from it into the lower areas of the channel.
- 296 • Three reasons to start work: Point is critical need of repair. The more erosion that happens, the more it will  
297 cost to fix. The tropical systems and storms are not going away.
- 298 • Mr. Blackerby showed a National Weather Service map over a time frame of 21 years showing storms  
299 systems coming across the Oriental area within a 75 mile radius. There were four Category 2, five Category  
300 1 and many others. This does not take into account nor'easters. In closing, Mr. Blackerby expressed his  
301 appreciation for the time.

302  
303 Manager Miller stated that since Mr. Blackerby brought this to our attention, several meetings have been held with  
304 people who are very much involved with the dredging project and some of the land interests in that area. Dr. Lexia  
305 Weaver from North Carolina Coastal Federation, who is in attendance and joined Manager Miller at one of the  
306 meetings, is currently working on an oyster bedding project on the other side of this point. Manager Miller asked her  
307 if should think of any path for us knowing that we are not a large town with an unlimited budget but we want to do  
308 what is best for the Town and the people affected most. Grants were discussed. Projects with oyster shells, resetting  
309 the wave attenuators, potential for wavers were all discussed. Manager Miller chose to have the public be a party  
310 and hear how these conversations go.

311  
312 Dr. Lexia Weaver stated that erosion is happening all over the state from the outer banks to Wilmington. Bulkheads  
313 and sea walls have, unfortunately, been the initial response and as a result losing a lot of our marsh ecosystems.  
314 These bulkheads also require a lot of maintenance. Coastal Federation and NOAA and other agencies are promoting  
315 living shorelines – these are basically offshore structures – can be rock, can be bags filled with oyster shells or a  
316 marsh planting depending on wave energy. This area is tricky as it is a high fetch, high wave energy area. Several  
317 recommendations have been presented, one being wave maker attenuators. There are grant opportunities for these.  
318 She has personally never worked with these but has seen how they work. Dr. Weaver does not believe the oyster  
319 bags can withstand this wave energy in this area. She spoke about three-year Resiliency Grants from NOAA, aimed  
320 at protecting communities – infrastructure, homes, jobs, businesses and thinks this project is a good candidate. Pre-  
321 proposal is due in March, full proposal is due in May. Grants are anywhere from \$75,000 to \$2,000,000. These  
322 generally run about \$800/foot. We can apply and see what happens. There are also other grants and we may do this  
323 in phases. The Town or the Federation can be the applicant. They can also be the fiscal agent and manage the whole  
324 thing, permitting, etc.

325  
326 Manager Miller stated right now they want to lay out the problem, people that can assist us in finding solutions. The  
327 discussion they wanted to have this evening is that there is an issue and we need to think about how to solve it.  
328 Manager Miller thanked Dr. Weaver and Mr. Blackerby for their significant contributions to our conversations and

329 helping us find some direction. Commissioner Overcash asked Dr. Weaver where she is based. Her office is in  
330 Newport. (She has a Ph. D in Marine Science but focuses on coastal restorations). Commissioner White stated there  
331 are two projects going. The first is the dredging of Whittaker Creek. Ben Hollowell and Henry Frazer have secured a  
332 grant. The Town cannot be a part of that grant as they have already secured it. Mr. Frazer is now in the process  
333 trying to raise the \$120,000 to start the grant. He is also hesitant to dredge if this will happen again. Commissioner  
334 White stated the last time the channel was dredged was 1998. Lisa Thompson stated the same people that are  
335 working with the Friends of Whittaker Creek under a different title own the point. A resident asked what they have  
336 been doing to remediate during their ownership. Manager Miller stated she does not know, only knows what has  
337 happened in the last six months. There had been a getty requested in the late 90s, early 2000s rejected. Manager  
338 Miller tried to see why it was rejected, matter of digging through the paperwork to see why. Ted Tyndall, formerly  
339 of CAMA, stated it was not denied, it was withdrawn by the applicant. There was an agency that objected to it, at  
340 that time was the Division of Water Quality. They wanted to see a modeling of Whittaker Creek and the impacts so  
341 the applicant withdrew the application and Division of Coastal Management stopped processing of the application.  
342

343 Missy Tenhet: Believes this is not a one-time thing and that a hurricane would take out whatever is done. It is a  
344 long-term investment for the town if the town takes it on. Expressed appreciation for all of the work Mr. Blackerby  
345 has put into this but is not sure the “dots connect exactly as he says they do.” Does not mean to discredit him but he  
346 is a geologist and believes he has very much a vested interest, due to where he lives, in this project and having the  
347 town do it.  
348

349 Manager Miller stated no one said the Town was going to take on this project and if it stays in the hands of private  
350 ownership and they do nothing, who is impacted? Time for us to deal with the issue and have those discussions.  
351 Missy Tenhet believes we need to have serious studies done by the qualified people and that would be a lot of  
352 money and does not believe we should go any further with “educated guesses” and the first step should be truly  
353 expert opinions on what the problem is and what the (inaudible) are.  
354

355 Commissioner Dammeyer asked Dr. Weaver if she disagreed with the general direction of Mr. Blackerby’s. She was  
356 in agreement. Commissioner Dammeyer stated “You have a person with a Doctorate who is agreeing in general with  
357 the thrust of his presentation.” Ms. Tenhet stated she does not doubt their education and interest, appreciates that and  
358 shares that interest but believes in order to get proper studies, proper remedies, you need serious, costly studies. Dr.  
359 Weaver stated they would need to be designed properly (width, height, length that the structures need to be, possibly  
360 included in the cost. Mayor Belangia stated we are not making any decisions tonight.  
361

### 362 **8. Dog Park**

363 Manager Miller presented documents for review to include parts of a brochure, dog park rules and behavior, contact  
364 phone numbers – Town Hall and Animal Control – how to enter. This has been vetted by Swansboro’s attorney  
365 where they have opened a dog park. Registration form and waiver stated the Town cannot be held liable for  
366 anything. Manager Miller spoke about the fees and stated that for every animal registered, it takes staff time to keep  
367 spread sheet, confirm that shots are up to date and feels that there should be a nominal fee for each animal  
368 registered. Commissioner White brought up the issue of enforcement. Commissioner Overcash replied Berkeley Hill  
369 of Pamlico County Animal Control will be stopping by and people with registered animals will be told to report an  
370 unregistered animal. Manager Miller stated we can also lock them out by using a combination lock. Discussion  
371 continues, strictly informational. Talked about mowing, water fountain, doggy stations with bags. Commissioner  
372 Overcash said we may offer the space for K-9 training and agility courses in the future.  
373

### 374 **9. CRAC nomination**

375 Lisa Thompson has volunteered to serve on the Coastal Resources Advisory Council and Manager Miller believes is  
376 the best representative we can send to represent our interests.  
377

378 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to appoint Lisa Thompson to the Coastal Resources Advisory Council.  
379 Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**. Motion passed 5-0.  
380

### 381 **10. Manager’s Notes**

- 382 • Monday, February 5, Town Hall will be closed as we encourage employees to take vacation days during the  
383        low part of the season.

- 384 • Town Board meeting on Tuesday, February 6. Please send agenda items ASAP.  
385 • Commissioners Simmons and Dammeyer will be attending ethics class in New Bern.  
386 • Next Quarterly Agenda Meeting is scheduled for the end of March. March 2 is currently scheduled for  
387 Annual Retreat and March 6 is regularly scheduled meeting. March 30 we are closed for Good Friday.  
388 Commissioner White asked if we could combine it with our March 2 Retreat in lieu of. All were in  
389 agreement. Budget sessions will be set at that time.  
390

391 **11. Commissioners Comments**

392 Commissioner Overcash asked Manager Miller about a meeting in Swansboro where there was discussion about  
393 bridges being redone that lead to Oriental. Beth Bucksot, Planning and Economic Development, attended and she  
394 stated that they are moving forward with the Highway 55 widening project, will not affect our curb and gutter. We  
395 are currently mapping our lines, in some places a few inches from asphalt and some several feet. We need to  
396 coordinate before they lay or widen. We are not aware if bridges will be done at the same time or separately. Our  
397 preference is to have them offset and laid new and then the old ones destroyed, no word on that yet.  
398

399 **12. Adjourn**

400 **Commissioner Simmons** made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by **Commissioner Price**. Motion passed 5-0.

401 Meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.  
402  
403  
404  
405  
406  
407

408 \_\_\_\_\_  
Sally Belangia, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_ Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

409  
410  
411 Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_  
412