

Town of Oriental  
Town Board Meeting  
January 7, 2014

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 7:00 PM. Mayor Sage called the meeting to order and determined a quorum to be present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Sage.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Sage, Commissioners Overcash, White, Venturi, Summers and Winfrey, Town Manager Cutler, Police Captain Moore, Deputy Town Clerk Beyer and public.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Venturi requested to move Agenda Item 11, Town Manager Search to the end of the Agenda, as the Board will enter into Closed Session to discuss Personnel Matters concerning the Search for Town Manager. There were no objections from the Board.

Mayor Sage asked for Board approval of the Consent Agenda; Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The floor was then opened for Public Comment. Art Tierney requested that money be allocated in the upcoming new budget towards the purchase of new banners. Mr. Tierney also discussed transient boaters overusing the docks in town. The time limit should be better advertised, and the time limit strictly enforced. He also suggested allowing only mono-hulled boats be allowed to dock.

The auditors from the firm of Carr Riggs and Ingram presented their annual report for the 2012-2013 Fiscal year. Andy Darnell presented a clean opinion, noting that, even with the completion of Town Hall, there was no outstanding debt. Mr. Darnell also noted that property tax collection was at 94%. There were two weaknesses noted on the report; the pre-audit certification stamp was not visible on the invoices; this has been corrected, and, there were receipts missing in relation to credit card billing statements, and the procedure on receipts has also been corrected. Mr. Darnell stressed the importance of presenting receipts for each credit card purchase. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Venturi asked for Mr. Darnell's opinion of the Town's financial position, to which he answered that he feels the Town's position is strong.

Mayor Sage then presented the next item on the Agenda, which was Chris Venters, Superintendent of Bay River Metropolitan Sewer District. He began his presentation with a definition of a Metropolitan Sewer District, of which there are only 3 or 4 in the State. Oriental is District 1 and Pamlico County and Bayboro are both District 2 in the Bay River District. Each District has a representative that attends the Board meetings.

District 1's representatives are Deborah Khouri and George Smith. Mr. Venters likened the District's processes to a three legged stool, in that the stool will not function properly unless all three legs are operational. He described the first leg as being collection, with Eric Harper being the operator in charge. The collection lagoon for Oriental is located off White Farm Road and its capacity is 200,000 gallons. Scott Taber is in charge of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Eric Harper is in charge of disposal. Oriental shares the disposal portion with the County. Mr. Venters stated that the moratorium issued was specific to Oriental, and was due to a transmission line that had to be rebuilt. There are several improvements that are forthcoming for the Town consisting of new lines and lift station upgrades. Mr. Venters then discussed sewer capacity. Oriental has currently a treatment capacity of 200,000 gallons/day at the lagoon on White Farm Road. There is a sewer treatment plant that is not in use which has a 500,000/day capacity. The 500,000 gallon facility was put in place in anticipation of a sharp increase in growth, thereby demanding additional sewer capacity. This growth did not occur, and the facility currently is not in use. Approximately 700 households (including River Dunes) are generating 100,000 gallons/day of sewage; half the capacity of the lagoon system. Bay River significantly reduced their rates for Oriental. The \$7,750 tap on fee includes \$5,000 worth of equipment, with maintenance and support given free of charge. Their previous rate was over \$12,000.

The Town Board was given the opportunity to ask Mr. Venters questions concerning the Metropolitan Sewer District.

The next agenda item concerned the Dedication Plaque for Town Hall. **MOTION:** Commissioner Overcash made a Motion to accept the plaque as noted in proof with changes. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Discussion followed. Commissioners White, Winfrey and Summers voted Nay. Motion did not carry.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to remount the original plaque on the front door; and hang the new plaque inside Town Hall. Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Discussion followed. Commissioner Venturi suggested using the black granite plaque that was previously ordered; but that needs corrections to some of the names. It was also suggested that the plaque be redone on white granite instead of the black. Commissioners White, Venturi and Overcash voted Nay. Motion did not carry.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to place the original white marble plaque outside the Church Street entrance and the black granite plaque be hung inside Town Hall. Commissioner White seconded. Commissioner Venturi voted Nay. Motion passed 4-1.

The Town Board Retreat was the next agenda item; the Town Board discussed their hope to have the new Town Manager present at the retreat. Interviews for Town Manager will commence the first week of February.

Town Manager Cutler presented the Town Manager Report beginning with the Water Plant repairs. Since the cost of the repairs has gone over budget, a Budget Amendment will be necessary. Due to the unexpected death of Glen Snader, who led the Water Plant upgrade and repairs, a new engineer is being sought.

The plant is still running very well with no problems. We are still waiting on resin to arrive for the number 2 softener. The inside of the building is being repainted, and the replacement of the brine tanks is still pending securing a new engineer.

The tennis courts were painted and completed and someone walked across the wet paint. Other than correcting this damage, the net just needs to be installed.

The new Town Dock's power supply remains Chris Fulcher's. The Town is trying to get permission from CAMA to extend the dock. It was discussed that the 48 hour docking limit should be posted prominently, as it is being abused by boat owners. The Boat House is on the setback line; but Chris Fulcher will waive those setback lines. Town Attorney Scott Davis suggested amending the Table of Permissible Uses. The boathouse should be preserved and maintained, perhaps as a visitor's center or a public restroom. Commissioner Winfrey offered his assistance in inspection of the boathouse. Town Manager Cutler will meet with him as well. Chris Fulcher has offered to loan his crane for use of moving the boathouse. Findings from this inspection will be presented at a later date.

The \$13,000 owed for the unemployment reimbursement to the Employment Security Commission will not be due and payable until the next fiscal year.

The railing has been removed from the dinghy dock and the repair has been made on the Midyette Street railing. Nothing has been done with the floating dock so it is unknown if it is waterlogged. Town Manager Cutler will contact the dock repair company to inspect the dock.

Several Ordinance changes, hereto referenced and incorporated herein, were presented as the next agenda item. Commissioner Venturi added an Amendment to Chapter E, as referenced hereto and incorporated herein.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve all the amendments *except* the Chapter E amendment. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Venturi outlined the suggested changes beginning with a time limit placed at the dinghy dock of no overnight docking. Town Manager Cutler felt it too restrictive to prohibit this at the dinghy dock.

With no objection from the Board, this Ordinance Amendment will be tabled until the January 30, 2014 Agenda Workshop meeting.

For the next agenda item, Captain Dwaine Moore presented his monthly police department report, and began with the bank robbery suspects being apprehended. One remains at large, but the FBI has issued a warrant for this final suspect. There was a home invasion reported outside of town limits, and that suspect was apprehended as well.

The Committee and Board reports were the next item on the agenda. The Minutes were read and no further comments were recorded.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to go into Closed Session per NCGS 143.18.11a(6) Personnel Matters, the search for a new Town Manager. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board went into Closed Session at 9:03 PM.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:40 PM and moved to the final agenda item, Commissioner Comment and Discussion. Commissioner Summers submitted a draft resolution to present at the County Commissioners meeting on January 21, 2014. He suggested the entire Town Board attend the County Commissioner meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to adopt the draft resolution. Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Discussion followed. Motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Overcash made a Motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 PM.

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Bill Sage, Mayor

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Wyatt Cutler, Town Manager