

Town of Oriental  
Town Board Meeting  
February 5, 2013

A regular scheduled meeting of the Town of Oriental Town Board was held at Oriental Town Hall on February 5, 2013, beginning at 7:00pm.

**Council Present:** Mayor Sage; Commissioners Bessette, Johnson, Styron, Summers, and Venturi.

**Council Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Town Manager Maxbauer; Deputy Clerk Sandy Johnson-Clark; Police Officer Dwaine Moore; Barbara Baker; Laura Penninger; Heidi Artley; numerous town residents; and media.

Mayor Sage determined that a quorum was present. He opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Styron seconded. Motion passed. 5-0

The consent agenda listing approval of the special meeting minutes from July 9, 2012, the agenda minutes from January 3, 2013, and the regular minutes from January 8, 2013 were discussed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded. Motion passed. 5-0

**Audit Presentation:** Mayor Sage introduced Chris Burton and Andy Darnell from Pittard, Perry, and Crone Accounting Firm. It was noted that a copy of the town audit could be viewed at the town hall. Mr. Burton reported that the Town has received what is known as a clean audit. He found nothing materially wrong. Mr. Burton stated that the audit went very smoothly this year. He then proceeded to review the findings of the audit. It was noted that the only issues Mr. Burton found to be in need of improving were segregation of duties and keeping copies of credit card invoices. It was noted that a few of the invoices were missing, which was understandable considering the congested disarray of the town hall due to working out of a tiny trailer.

**Public Comment:** Several town residents spoke about various issues not listed on the agenda; such as the upcoming Chinese New Year Dragon Run and the subsequent fund raising dinner.

Bill Hines, spokesman for the Lower Neuse River Keeper, spoke about the Town acquiring at least two reusable floating booms in the event there are more marine accidents such as those that have recently occurred. The two 100 foot booms would cost approximately \$3600. There would also need to be at least a 10 x 10 storage place for the booms. Mr. Hines further went on to announce April 6, 2013 as Neuse River Clean-up Day. He is looking for volunteers to help out.

Also, discussed was the matter of having alcohol consumption in the town hall, the town hall renovation budget, and expressions of appreciation for how hard Town Manager Maxbauer worked on the town hall renovation.

**South Avenue Update:** Mayor Sage stated that he had spoken with Attorney Scott Davis, who was unable to attend the meeting due to the fact that he was out of the state. The attorneys are working on procedures and finding a court date. The hope is to have the matter before a Judge before too long. Attorney Davis is expected to attend the next board meeting.

**Tourism Board Request:** The Tourism Board requested to close Hodges Street from the Provision Company to Marsha's Cottage for the Chinese New Year Event to be held February 10, 2013 from 3-7pm.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Johnson made a motion to close Hodges Street from the Provision Company to Marsha's Cottage on Sunday, February 10, 2013 from 3:00 to 7:00pm for the Chinese New Year and the associated festivities. Commissioner Summers seconded.

After some discussion, the motion was amended by Commissioner Johnson to close the street from 2:00pm to 7:00pm. Seconded by Commissioner Summers. Motion passed. 5-0

The proposed amendment to the General Ordinance Chapter H—Disorderly Conduct and Public Nuisances Article I was tabled pending review by the town attorney.

**Town Hall Renovation Project:** Town Manager Maxbauer stated that we have scheduled a grand opening for February 9, 2013 at 11:00am for VIP and 12 noon for the general public to view the facility. He further announced that the Town has received a Certificate of Occupancy. The Fire Marshall gave the town hall an occupancy rating of 60 seated persons.

**Manager's Report:** A manager's monthly report was received and reviewed by the Board, a copy of which to be made a part of these official minutes. No action was taken. Town Manager Maxbauer discussed the upcoming board retreat. It was decided to hold the retreat during a two day span from February 22, 2013 thru February 23, 2013. The location is being debated, pending availability.

Town Manager Maxbauer submitted a request for a budget amendment to the General Fund Balance Appropriated in the amount of \$10,000 to accommodate the additional expenses with regards to the renovation of the town hall. He further went on to explain that the causes for the cost overrun were carefully considered before implementing, such as extending the front porch from 6 foot to 8 foot and substituting ceramic tile on the walls instead of cement board. The ceramic tile was purchased at a very economical price, which prompted the substitution. A meeting with Commissioner Johnson has been scheduled to review a detailed expense listing.

New Deputy Clerk Sandy Johnson-Clark was introduced and welcomed. Also, the Town Manager has submitted requests for proposals to various lending institutions in preparation for obtaining a loan if or when the Town Board decides to pursue a loan to cover the expenses of the town hall renovation. This matter will be discussed at the Board Retreat. There are still monies expected from FEMA and a grant from the NC Department of Emergency Management.

It was noted that the Fire Siren has been re-installed at the Town Hall; the new police car is being detailed; and the conex trailer has been moved to public works and will become a permanent fixture providing storage.

There was some discussion regarding the situation of a broken water pipe and the repair of a water tank.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment dated February 5, 2013 appropriating an additional \$10,000 to the General Fund Balance Appropriation line item and the addition of a Tennis Court Grant line item in the amount of \$10,000. Seconded by Commissioner Styron. All ayes. Motion passed. A copy of which will be made a part of these official minutes.

Commissioner Warren questioned the addition of four new personnel. Town Manager Maxbauer stated that we are in a transitional time from the town hall renovation project and will be shortly starting the public works control room project. As he does not want to lose such skilled workers, he went ahead and transferred them from temporary town hall employees to public works in anticipation of the soon to be started project. The Town Manager understands that he needs to stay in budget and asks the boards understanding regarding this move.

**Police Report:** The police report was received and reviewed by the Board, a copy of which to be made a part of these official minutes. Per Officer Moore, the town had a very good month. No action was taken.

**Committee/Board Reports:** The minutes for the various Committees/Boards were reviewed, a copy of which to be made a part of these official minutes. No action was taken. It was noted that the Tree Board has not submitted a draft copy of the minutes from January's meeting at the time of this Board meeting and will be added at a later date. It was further noted that BRMSD is on schedule with the replacement of sewer pipe.

**Commissioners' Comment/Discussion Period:** Mayor Sage reported that the Mayor's Association met on January 29, 2013 for their quarterly meeting in which they discussed various issues concerning Pamlico County as a whole. There was some discussion regarding the town hall open house event in which VIP's and the public have been invited. It was noted that Bayboro Development Center is looking for the names of individuals who are not in their homes yet due to Hurricane Irene.

There being no further business, Commissioner Venturi made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Johnson seconded. Motion passed. 5-0. Meeting was adjourned.

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William R. Sage, Mayor

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Robert J. Maxbauer, Town Manager