

Town of Oriental
Town Board Retreat
March 21, 2014

The Town of Oriental held its annual retreat on Friday, March 21, 2014 at Pamlico Community College. Mayor Sage determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

PRESENT: Mayor Sage, Commissioners Overcash, White, Venturi, Summers and Winfrey; Town Manager Cutler, Diane Miller, Assistant Town Manager Artley, Jason Collett Director of Public Works, Drew Cox, Public Works, Captain Dwaine Moore, Police Department, Board of Adjustment Chairman and Waste Management Coordinator Joe Valinoti, Jim Edwards, Chairman Parks & Rec Advisory Committee and guest, Larry Bellamy, Planning Board Chairman Eric Dammeyer, Tourism Board Representative Marsha Paplham, Tree Board Chairman Bob Miller and Tree Board member Ken King, Water Advisory Board Chairman Jim Barton, Facilitator Judy Hills, ECC, Deputy Town Clerk Beyer and Public

Mayor Sage then asked for a Motion appointing Diane Miller as the new Town Manager and Town Clerk.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to appoint Diane Miller as the Town of Oriental's new Town Manager and Town Clerk. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Sage then swore in Diane Miller, with her stepson, Charlie Millea, holding the bible.

After a brief introduction of the Board chairmen, Town Employees and Town Board, Wyatt Cutler introduced Judy Hills, from Eastern Carolina Council on Government, who facilitated the meeting. Judy explained the purpose of the retreat, which is to prioritize the needs of the Town and its Boards, and to set goals, both long term and short term.

A summary was given by Mr. Cutler of the history of the Town, such as the lawsuits, new construction and upcoming events and activities. Also discussed were current fiscal issues, such as dock repair and construction, disaster preparedness, vehicle replacement for police and public works, health insurance for employees, and water plant repairs.

Judy presented a Power Point presentation concerning the roles of the Town Board, Mayor, Town Manager, and Town Clerk in a Manager-Council form of government and how to make these relationships work positively.

Presentations were then given by each Department Head, beginning with Wyatt and the Manager and Finance Officer Reports, followed by Public Works Director Jason Collett. Mr. Collett indicated the need for at least one if not two Town vehicles for Public Works, and also a dump trailer. He also outlined the savings in man hours and lost revenue radio read meters would offer.

Police Captain Moore also expressed a need for a new police vehicle, stating the Durango was in disrepair and would need replacing soon. He also pointed out the need for dash board cameras and Viper radios in each police car.

The individual Boards were then given the floor for their presentations. Jim Edwards, Parks and Rec Advisory Committee, outlined the duties of the Committee, and also the short term and long term goals. The Committee is very dedicated to the implementation of the Bicycle Plan, as well as maintenance and upkeep of the parks.

Marsha Paplham, Tourism Board, outlined the Board's biggest project, brochures being done entirely by the Graphic Arts Program students at ECU. These should be completed at the end of the semester, and they are expecting them to be ready for distribution by the beginning of summer.

Eric Dammeyer, Chairman of the Planning Board outlined his Board's activities next. The Planning Board will be going through the GMO a section at a time, beginning with grammatical and syntax errors. Then, each Board member will have a section assigned, and they will go through the language portion, looking for vagueness or difficult to understand portions. Once the Board has completed their edits, they will present their recommendations to the Town Board for approval.

The Water Advisory Board is a newly formed Board, being approved by the Town Board in February, 2014. Jim Barton, Chairman of the Water Board presented the past accomplishments, and future endeavors of this Board. The Board's primary concern at this time is ensuring compliance with State water regulations and also putting together a concise, workable budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This Board will work closely with the Town Manager and the Public Works Director as well.

Commissioner Venturi is the Chair of the Harbor Water Fronts Committee, and she suggested following the Long Range Comprehensive Plan as to where the wants and needs of the various Boards want to go. The Harbor Water Fronts Committee's Harbor Plan is almost ready for release; a culmination of over a year's worth of work and studying done by Committee members. This Plan is going to be the starting point for many activities, uses and changes to the water fronts of the Town.

After the Boards gave their presentations, the Town Board then wrote down a summary of the items that may need to be discussed further in tomorrow's Retreat session.

The Board then recessed the Retreat until 8:30 AM Saturday, March 22, 2014.

Bill Sage, Mayor

Diane Miller, Town Manager