

Town of Oriental
Town Board Special Meeting: Budget Meeting
May 17, 2013

A special Meeting was called by the Town of Oriental Town Board to discuss the Budget for fiscal year 2013-2014. The meeting was held at Oriental Town Hall on Friday, May 17, 2013, beginning at 4:00PM.

Mayor Sage determined that a quorum was present. He opened the meeting at 4:05 PM

Present: Mayor Bill Sage; Commissioners Johnson, Styron, Summers, Venturi, Bessette, Town Manager Maxbauer, Deputy Clerk Johnson-Clark, and public

Absent: Commissioner Bessette

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a **motion** to go into closed Session pursuant to Statue 143318 11 A-6 to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Johnson seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed 4-0. Commissioner moved to Closed Session at 4:08 PM.

Commissioners moved back to Open Session at 4:34 PM.

Mayor Sage announced Town Manager Maxbauer is accelerating his departure into retirement. His last day will be June 30, 2013. His reason for early departure is that Town Manager Maxbauer has announced his plans to sign up to run as a Town Commissioner in the upcoming November election. Mayor Sage thanked Mr. Maxbauer for his service to the Town and all that he has accomplished on the Town's behalf.

Town Manager Maxbauer thanked Mayor Sage and began discussing the FEMA monies expected on or before June 10, 2013. He further stated there is an additional \$71,000. being requested from FEMA.

Mr. Maxbauer suggested the Commissioners come out to the Water Plant so that they will have a better understanding of what is needed when they are working on the Town's Water Fund Budget. He stated that the Town Water rates are \$31.00 per 5,000 gallon and that we are less than Pamlico County by \$5.75. The \$31.00 rate does not qualify us for a loan from the State.

Mr. Maxbauer informed the Board that he has the necessary licensure to renovate the Water plant with existing Public Works staff opposed to contracting it out at higher rates. He suggested using the Town Manager to oversee the staff and renovate the plant. He believes it is in the best interest of the Town to not sell the Water plant as rates are higher in Pamlico County and this would cause our citizens to pay even higher rates. Mr. Maxbauer feels that a modest increase to the base rate would allow the Town to have a stronger capital reserve.

Commissioner Johnson stated he does not want to raise taxes as it would put a burden on the lower income tax payers even if it did help to fund the Cox litigation. Mayor Sage said that

there will be legal expenses with the Cox litigation that will have to be paid for. Commissioner Styron felt that a \$.01 increase is needed. Mayor Sage asked the other Commissioners if they agreed with a \$.01 increase. Commissioners Summers and Venturi agreed and Commissioner Johnson objected. It was decided to put the \$.01 rate increase equaling \$21,600.00 in revenue on the Budget sheet. It will be restricted to pay for the litigation that Cox is causing the tax payers to incur.

A Town Water Plant tour was set for Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 8:00 AM.

A Budget meeting was set for Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 11 AM at the Town Hall.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the Meeting. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

William R. Sage, Mayor

Robert J. Maxbauer, Town Manager