

Town of Oriental
Town Board Special Meeting:
Budget Meeting
May 23, 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 Thursday, May 23, 2013, beginning at 11:00 AM.

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

Absent: Commissioners Bessette, Venturi

Mayor Sage determined that a quorum was present. Meeting called to order at 11:03 AM.

Town Manager Maxbauer began discussion concerning the Water Plant improvements and renovations. A \$1 increase in Base Rate A was discussed to bring the Town rates to meet the criteria for grant consideration.

Discussion continued concerning options for the Water Plant and time frames for upgrades and renovations.

The General Fund was then discussed, and the number of employees and benefits that are included in this portion of the budget.

Commissioner Venturi arrived at 11:30 AM.

Neil Cole from FEMA will be at Town Hall June 6 through June 7, 2013 to inspect the Town's paperwork, begin the audit and attempt to expedite the process of releasing the funds to the Town. Commissioner Summers cautioned not to add this money into the budget until it is officially released to the Town.

At 12:00 PM, the firm of Green Engineering, represented by Mr. Rodney Tart and Mr. Leo Green, entered the Board Room to report on their findings at the Water Plant. Mr. Tart and Mr. Green both possess extensive backgrounds in rebuilding and upgrading water treatment plants. Mr. Tart has concluded that the following items need immediate attention: humidity is very high, and as a result of the high humidity, the controls are affected, as well as the electrical system. The floor is inadequate, and the roof is also in need of repair and most likely, replacement. There is also concern over the raw water tank and its inadequate aeration. It was suggested that an aerator be installed inside the tank.

Commissioner Summers asked if building a separate room to house the controls and electrical components would offset some of the issues being experienced currently. Mr. Tart indicated that it would, but felt further studying would be necessary to determine what avenue is best.

Funding for these upgrades and improvements was then discussed. It will take an estimated \$500,000 to \$1 million to implement. Mr. Tart reminded the Board that the trends are changing concerning water plants and a capital improvement plan and fund was suggested. The Town is considered a rural and town and would qualify for federal grant consideration, but Mr. Green stated that there are no available state funds for grants towards the improvements needed for the Water Plant. There are, however, no or low interest loans available for such improvements. Mr. Green would like to do a more in-depth analysis of the Town's Water Plant to give the Board a better understanding of costs.

The Town Manager stated that the current Public Works employees were qualified to make the upgrades and improvements to the Water Plant, which would reduce the amount of funding needed to facilitate the improvements and upgrades. Town Manager Maxbauer stated that he has the necessary licenses and qualifications to oversee the Plant and its renovations for a period of 6 months

MOTION: Commissioner Summers moved to adjourn the Meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

William R. Sage, Mayor

Robert J. Maxbauer, Town Manager