



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 7pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on October 2, 2018 was called to order at 7pm. The Mayor Sally
7 Belangia determined a quorum to be present. She said we have a Public Comment period, if you wish to speak
8 please make sure you are signed up on the correct sheet.

9
10 Present: Mayor Sally Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Simmons,
11 Commissioner Dammeyer, Commissioner Price, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy
12 Cox, Administrative Assistant Jeannine Russo, Officer Nic Blayney, Officer Bill Wichrowski and Members of the
13 Public.

14 15 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

16 Mayor Pro Tempore White made a MOTION to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Overcash.
17 Motion passed 5-0.

18 19 1. Consent Agenda (Tab 1)

20 a. Approve Minutes from Regular Town Board Meeting September 5, 2018

21
22 Commissioner Overcash made a MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner
23 Simmons. Motion passed 5-0.

24 25 REGULAR BUSINESS

26 27 2. Public Comment Period

28 Guest Speaker Karen Knapik - Small Business Administration: Ms. Knapik thanked Manager Miller for the
29 opportunity to address the Board. She is here tonight to ensure that residents understand what they have to offer and
30 clarify SBA does not only help businesses. They have the ability to put loans on hold, if awarded, until needed. Low
31 interest loans begin at 2% for most people who receive loans during disasters. Renters can get \$40,000 to replace
32 personal property, includes vehicles. Homeowners can receive up to \$200,000 to repair their damaged property. For
33 homeowners there is also mitigation, much be approved for a significant amount of damage and can be approved for
34 an additional 20% to mitigate – lift homes, divert water, etc. Ms. Knapik suggests that residents see mitigation after
35 they register to get ideas on what is available. Businesses and nonprofits can receive up to \$2,000,000 at slightly
36 higher rates – 2.5 and 3.6 for most. They offer small amounts – unsecured loans up to \$25,000 with no fees
37 associated. When someone applies to FEMA, a majority will be referred to SBA. There is one other grant from
38 FEMA that someone is only eligible for if they are referred to SBA, go through the process and they are not eligible
39 for help, their name is then returned back to FEMA for consideration. There is no minimum limit on that unsecured
40 loan. There is also a refinancing program with people with a high mortgage, also a relocation program. The first step
41 is to apply. Information is available online, SBA.gov/disaster under the Florence tab. Commissioner Overcash
42 inquired about how to apply without being referred by FEMA. Ms. Knapik said there are online applications but it is
43 a much easier process to sit and interview with someone. They are located in the old Rite Aid building by the
44 hospital.

45 46 3. Request to schedule Public Hearing (Tab 2)

47 Manager Miller stated the Planning Board is requesting the Board to schedule a Public Hearing for an SUP request
48 from a gentleman who would like to lease and reopen the old Steamer building. It was once a restaurant/bar but had
49 been grandfathered in and the building has been closed for more than 180 consecutive days so grandfathering
50 expired. For it to open as a restaurant/bar a new SUP must be secured. Planning Board will review the application at
51 the October 17 meeting and will have written recommendations for the Public Hearing to be scheduled for the
52 November meeting.

53

54 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to schedule the Public Hearing for November 7. Seconded by **Mayor**
55 **Pro Tempore White**. Mayor Pro Tempore White had questions about the parking diagram. Manager Miller and
56 Public Works Director Andrew Cox and measured the parking lot. Manager Miller states that the 20 proposed
57 spaces were only removed down to 19 because of the sewer line that sits on one of the parking spaces. Motion
58 passed 5-0.
59

60 **4. Signs (Tab 3)**

61 Manager Miller stated there was discussion following posting of a sign in front of Town Hall. The Board had chosen
62 in February to support the Resolution that went to the legislature opposing fracking for the exploration of oil. When
63 the sign was brought to Town Hall, since the Board had already voted that way, Manager Miller accepted the sign to
64 be displayed on the front lawn. This caused some controversy. Manager Miller presented excerpts from the sign
65 ordinance in the GMO. Portable signs of special interest to the town and not advertising have a 14 day limitation and
66 a permit is not required for temporary signs. 175.1.2 refers to signs for public issues and has a one-week limit. The
67 sign was removed when hurricane clean up began. Manager Miller asked the Board if they would like to adjust
68 something. Commissioner Overcash stated that he asked for this to be on the agenda tonight and believes we do not
69 need signs that cause controversy whether it be for or against an issue. We should only display signs that talk about
70 upcoming events or political signs. Commissioner Overcash wished to make a motion to limit signs on Town Hall
71 property. Manager Miller stated since this in the GMO, there would need to be a Public Hearing. A Public Hearing
72 can be scheduled and take it to the Planning Board and get their recommendation to make a correction with the
73 Board's guidance. Commissioner Dammeyer asked if this could be accomplished with an Ordinance change.
74 Manager Miller stated there are no Ordinances that address signs. Commissioner Dammeyer asked if something
75 could be added to our Ordinance that signs cannot be placed on Town property. Manager Miller stated signs are all
76 regulated in the GMO so this needs to be directed back to the Planning Board, allow them to request the Public
77 Hearing. Commissioner Price asked if this refers to Town property or right of way – we are talking about Town
78 property. Manager Miller stated right of way has different limits. Manager Miller asked if there was a particular
79 direction for Planning Board to pursue. Commissioner Overcash said just the change he mentioned that there would
80 not be any signs other than informational about events or political signs on the Town hall property. Mayor Pro
81 Tempore White asked Commissioner Overcash if he felt the “No Drilling” sign was political? Commissioner
82 Overcash responded it is controversial and we do not need extra confrontation. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated the
83 Board approved this and the person that presented the sign was the same person that came before the Board so the
84 Board may need to think before approving something or showing support. He feels this was not controversial or
85 political as they supported it; everybody has differences of opinion and we could not write an ordinance that would
86 accommodate everybody. It could be a “slippery slope.” Commissioner Simmons stated she felt the Board voted in
87 the Town's interest and sees signs on right of ways for all manner of things but agrees that the Board has to be
88 careful and does not want to put forth her own personal feelings as people in leadership positions do that. The Board
89 did vote for this and standing behind it is what the Board should do. Commissioner Overcash would like to take it to
90 the Planning Board and see where it goes. (Interference) Mayor Belangia stated the Planning Board will review and
91 bring back to the Board.
92

93 **5. Manager's Report (Tab 4)**

- 94 • Additional damages have surfaced. NCLM insurance agent was here today (October 2, 2018) and went to
95 all of the Town's sites, took many photographs and notes. Most damages are flood damages. Some things
96 insurance companies do not cover FEMA does such as infrastructure, roads and piers – piers are only
97 insured against fire. Rebuilding the pier will likely be hazard mitigation through FEMA (Section 406).
- 98 • Engineers have been in to look at the wall. Manager Miller is trying to get FEMA to designate the section
99 of wall that does not exist at the end of South Avenue where it turns back to Vandemere and the real
100 damage was done where there is no wall. The wall ends and there are only 6 x 6s sunk in cement into a
101 grassed surface. The revetments along that wall went down. The original wall put up many years ago is
102 now exposed; was not prior to the storm. They have also looked at the other end at the corner of Freemason
103 and South where the wall ends and there is a significant distance to the beginning of where the fishing pier
104 abutted land. It is two wooden tongue-in-groove walls with gravel holding the river back. The escarpment
105 is fairly deep and Manager Miller would like for them to designate it as exigent and that we create and
106 extend the wall that leads to where the fishing pier begins so there is more of a structure holding it up. Our
107 first step is to secure the revetment and then work on the street. Mayor Pro Tempore White noted that the
108 wall is washed away at Vandemere but the cement wall looks like it is still intact. Manager Miller pulled

109 inspection reports from 2011 with photographs and all of the cracks we had documented were documented
110 in 2011 so there is nothing new. The damage is mostly on seams and there are no new cracks in the wall.
111 The steel further up Vandemere is holding but is rusted badly. One of the engineers suggested putting in
112 **inaudible** to bolster that and put a cement cap over it. Manager Miller feels we need to extend that sheet
113 pile up to the private property.

- 114 • Debris pick up: We had a prepositioned contract that was properly vetted and properly bid. However, we
115 did not post the RFP on the Historically Underutilized Business website, which gives FEMA a 25% chance
116 that they would disapprove our use of that contract. Manager Miller spoke with Mr. Buck (County
117 Manager) and he is aware that Oriental was one of the hardest hit places and the contractor will be starting
118 here. He will try to get the contractor mobilized before Monday. This will happen before Manager Miller
119 can get through the HUB website. This was not used in the past and FEMA paid. We are currently using
120 30-yard roll offs and force labor to pick up C & D debris and green waste. Five or six full dumpsters have
121 been hauled off to date. We are trying to clear a path for the scheduled Ol' Front Porch Music Festival. As
122 we are clearing right of way, people are dragging more debris out, but we are doing our best to clear things
123 as quickly as possible. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated people are hiring contractors and they are
124 dumping on the road sides. Manager Miller stated our residents are doing well at separating their debris
125 pretty well. Commissioner Overcash asked if the County's contractor comes to Oriental, will they stay until
126 finished. Manager Miller stated that is the plan as we were so hard hit. Commissioner Overcash thanked
127 Manager Miller and staff for all of the hours they have been putting in.
- 128 • We lost internet for two and a half weeks and our billing system is cloud based. There will be an extra
129 week on these bills so may be a bit higher. Meters are being read. If a meter is buried, those bills will be
130 estimated until we can get to that meter next month.

131 132 **6. Police Report (Tab 5)**

133 Officer Blayney stated this report looks worse than it is, specifically the larceny calls. These are larceny calls, not
134 actually larceny. Most of these calls were misunderstandings. Not a whole lot of crime. There were trespass
135 complaints, suspicious persons. Throughout the hurricane and the week after Officers Blayney and Wichrowski
136 were on 24-hour shifts, sleeping at Town Hall for a few hours and going back out. Isolated incidents of looting but
137 hard to do anything until it is reported. People had items that were not believed to be theirs but until it is reported, it
138 is hard to prove. Manager Miller shared a story about granite columns that were disassembled by the storm, had
139 been removed from the property one stone at a time. Officer Wichrowski stated that the majority of the time was
140 spent on welfare calls, many of them on people with limited or no mobility. Officers Wichrowski and Blayney
141 checked on them when it was safe to go back out. There were citizen complaints about one particular vehicle who
142 were not guilty of any crimes due to their police work as opposed to the County where they experienced severe
143 looting problems. There was one animal control call.

144
145 Manager Miller commended the staff for the work and tremendous effort they put in. Jesse Burgess lived at the
146 water plant for five days to make sure the water kept pumping and we never lost pressure. Officers Blayney and
147 Wichrowski were also out with the Public Works crew.

148 149 **7. Commissioner's Comments**

150 Commissioner Overcash stated that Eric Kindle and Public Works Director Andrew Cox will hose down Hodges
151 Street to clean it up for the weekend. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked about Whittaker Pointe and the dredging
152 project. Manager Miller spoke with them; they understood and said for us to get settled and will have this discussion
153 at a later date. Mayor Pro Tempore White went out to the point and it is still there! Manager Miller stated the
154 dredging is in worse shape as the survey was almost finished and must start from scratch again. Lisa Thompson
155 stated the second breach widened. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked about donations. Manager Miller stated we are
156 up to \$65,000 so we are approximately \$43,000 away from our goal. There were \$1,000 in donations made in the
157 name of Deaton by other people because of the services they rendered during the storm. Mayor Belangia asked
158 about the speed limit sign. Manager Miller stated she has not heard; we were told within 30 days, but will be in
159 touch with them again. Our "Oriental" sign that was lost during the hurricane was returned without poles so Mr.
160 Winfrey has it to fix it and will reinstall it. Flu shots are tentatively rescheduled for October 24. They are that far out
161 because they are having trouble securing vaccines since the storm. Commissioner Simmons spoke about the staff;
162 how several members suffered big losses themselves and still came to work for the Town and is appreciative. Mayor
163 Pro Tempore White ran into someone who was not from the Town but owns property here and commented that the

164 day after the hurricane Oriental had water, a grocery store with food and public works people working to try to fix it
165 up. This is phenomenal and we need to thank Billy (Flockhart), who had enough basic stuff for people to get what
166 they needed.

167
168 **8. Adjourn**
169 **Commissioner Simmons** made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by **Commissioner Dammeyer**. Motion passed 5-
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173 _____
174 Sally Belangia, Mayor _____ Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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178 Approved _____, 2018_____