

Town of Oriental  
Town Board Meeting  
November 4, 2014

The Town of Oriental Town Board of Commissioners held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 7:00 PM. Mayor Sage determined a quorum to be present, and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Sage, Commissioners Overcash, White, Venturi, Summers and Winfrey, Town Manager Miller, Town Attorney Davis, Police Chief Dwaine Moore, Deputy Town Clerk Beyer and public

Mayor Sage asked for approval of the Agenda and the Consent Agenda.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Overcash made a Motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Consent Agenda had 2 minor corrections to the October 7, 2014 Minutes. Commissioner Venturi requested that on page 1, paragraph 8, second sentence, be corrected to read "...the notice was not posted *within the time specified according to statute*; and page 4, paragraph 9, first sentence, to read, "...already costing money, *and with \$968 being spent this month, and a cumulative total of \$60,411.*

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with corrections made to the October 7, 2014 Minutes. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

There was no one signed up for Public Comment.

The next agenda item for discussion concerned customer deposits for water service. Town Manager Miller recommended to the Board to increase the deposits on both residential and commercial customer deposits. This would eliminate the issue of recouping monies lost due to non-payment of bills; the deposits would cover the past due amounts. This change would apply to new residents and businesses only. A chart of these increased deposit amounts is referenced hereto and incorporated herein these Minutes.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Overcash made a Motion to adopt the proposed Customer Water Deposits as presented, and to also incorporate these new rates into General Ordinance Chapter S, Town Rates and Fees. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Town Manager Miller next presented a discussion concerning increasing water rates. It was approved during the October, 7, 2014 Town Board Meeting to maintain the Summer Rates until January, 2015. With \$31,000 to \$34,000 anticipated in water plant repairs, the rate increase would help offset some of these repair costs.

Commissioner Summers stated that this should come as a recommendation from the Water Advisory Board. The WAB's next meeting will be Monday, November 17, 2014 at 1:30 PM.

The next agenda item presented for consideration was charging off of unpaid water accounts. It does not appear possible to recoup these past due accounts, and Town Manager recommended charging off these delinquent accounts.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to allow the charge off of delinquent water accounts. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Venturi presented the NCDOT Bicycle Plan Grant Resolution for Board approval and support. The NCDOT will extend grant monies to qualified small towns; these monies will fund architectural or planning firms in designing the bike path. A copy of this Resolution is referenced hereto and incorporated herein these Minutes. The Board, with no objection, recommended the Planning Board be involved with this endeavor.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to adopt the Resolution to support the efforts to apply for the NCDOT's Bicycle Plan Grant. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Town Manager presented her report, beginning with the yard waste and yard debris dumpster. Even though the burn ban has been rescinded, the residents continue to utilize this service.

The Workman's Comp insurance audit netted a difference of premium of \$6635. This amount is due and payable, and was not considered in this year's budget. The premiums are determined by what type of work each employee does. Based on the variety of tasks the Public Works employees complete daily, the premium is higher. Moving forward, the Public Works staff will record each task completed during their workday, thereby making classification easier at audit time next year.

NC Rural Water Association's Mike Hill will be here in January to help map out the valves and water lines in Town limits.

A handicapped spot will be dedicated and paved at Town Hall, and there will also be curb and gutter installed at South Water street to aid in better draining parts of that street.

A preliminary floor plan drawing for the public restrooms was presented. These restrooms will be located at the South Avenue property adjacent to Town Dock #2.

At the conclusion of the Town Manager's report, Mayor Sage reminded everyone that even though the burn ban has been rescinded, the Town's General Ordinance Chapter C, Fire Protection and Prevention should be adhered to and respected.

At 8:00 PM, the Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

There are two GMO amendments noticed publicly; Article II, Sections 31, and 34, Board of Adjustment meeting frequency change and election of officers, and addition of proposed Section 89 to Article VI, Developmental Standards for Specific Uses.

The Board presented the Amendment to Article II, Sections 31 and 34, Board of Adjustment. There being no public comment concerning this Amendment, the public hearing was closed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner White made a Motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The next public hearing was presented for consideration concerning a new Section to be added to Article VI, Developmental Standards for Specific Uses. Public Comment was opened, with Dee Sage commenting that this Amendment eliminates the tourism aspect of having an RV park.

Planning Board Chairman Dammeyer stated that the Board worked diligently to prevent a prohibitive tone to this Amendment.

Commissioner Summers presented his objections, to which Commissioner White expressed his disappointment in the Board and these objections. Based on the length of time the board members had this proposed Amendment, their objections or comments should have been submitted well before the Public Hearing.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Overcash made a Motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Overcash made a Motion to table this GMO Amendment to Article VI. Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Discussion followed.

Town Attorney Scott Davis recommended the Planning Board make their changes, then send to his offices to look it over.

Motion passed 5-0.

Committee and Board Reports were presented, with Commissioner Venturi noting discussion at the Tourism Board meeting about the electrical panels installed in Town at Lou Mac park and adjacent areas. Since they are unobtrusive, it was decided to very little to them cosmetically.

The Planning Board swore in new board member Dick Flaherty.

Commissioner Comment and Discussion period began with Commissioner Summers inviting all to the Veteran's Day parade in Bayboro at 10:00 AM Saturday, November 8, with a free for veterans luncheon immediately following.

Commissioner Venturi announced that a flotilla of sailboats from Sail Magazine will be arriving Thursday, November 6, 2014 at Town Dock #2.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to reserve Town Dock #2 from noon Thursday, November 6, 2014 until midday Friday, November 7, 2014. Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Sage inquired as to ‘shaving’ the uneven portions of Town sidewalks, citing trip hazards if this wasn’t done. Town Manager Miller was directed to look into the Public Works staff possibly doing this work in house.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Overcash made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Winfrey seconded.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

---

Bill Sage, Mayor

---

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager