

Town of Oriental  
Town Board Meeting  
December 2, 2014

The Town Board of Oriental held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 7:00 PM. The Mayor 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 Scott Davis, Police Chief Moore, Deputy Town Clerk Beyer and public

The Agenda and Consent Agenda were presented for Board approval.

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Minutes from October 30, 2014, November 4, 2014 and November 5, 2014 meetings. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Sage then opened the floor to Public Comment, beginning with Mr. Warren Johnson. Mr. Johnson commented on the water rates and deposits being increased and changed without the input of the Water Advisory Board.

Ms. Lauren Tuttle from ECC presented the final versions of the stormwater brochure to the Board. Lauren will be attending the Spirit of Christmas parade with copies of the brochures on Saturday, December 14, 2014.

Mayor Sage then opened the floor to Public Comment concerning the Public Restroom Construction Project. Mr. Art Tierney recommended shrinking public input and move forward with placement and construction of the restrooms. Ms. Grace Evans expressed concern over the maintenance cost of the restrooms, and suggested a trailer with porta potties. Mr. Jim Edwards suggested moving the net house, to which the Town Manager responded that the restrooms would be the priority as of now, with the net house a secondary project, not included in the grant award. Mr. Gerry Crowley was concerned that there was no HVAC or hot water for the restrooms, and Warren Johnson stated he agreed with the idea of moving the net house.

Commissioner Winfrey reported that the structure would be wood frame, but Town staff would have the capability to hose the interior out to clean. He also stated that it was not a building code requirement to have hot water or HVAC.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Overcash made a Motion to accept the proposed public restroom plans as presented, with continued involvement by Commissioner Winfrey. Commissioner White seconded. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Summers stated that there is no cost summary or what will be included with the construction of the restrooms.

Commissioner White suggested that a plan be in place first, and then the materials and other costs could be better calculated.

Motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Summers voting Nay.

The Board then prepared for Closed Session.

**MOTION:** Commissioner White made a Motion to go into Closed Session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney Client Privilege to discuss Cox v. Town of Oriental.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:50 PM.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:20 PM. The lawsuit Cox v. Town of Oriental has been dismissed. Commissioner Summers stated that over the 3 years this lawsuit has been in the courts, \$69,640 has been spent in legal fees and court costs.

The Cartwright House Bed and Breakfast has submitted a Special Use Permit to continue operating as a B&B after being non-operational for over a period of 180 days. A public hearing was set by the Board on Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

**MOTION:** Commissioner White made a Motion to set the Public Hearing date for the Cartwright House SUP application as Tuesday, January 6, 2015. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Town Board discussed the upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays and determined that a January Agenda Workshop meeting would not be necessary.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to omit the January Agenda Workshop from the January, 2015 meeting schedule. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

A Budget Amendment was presented by the Town Manager to comply with the Auditor's request of breaking down the monthly Admin Fee by several line items instead of one line item. No money has been moved, rather the individual line items will be created and added to the budget to accommodate the monthly Admin Fee.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to approve the Budget Amendment as presented. Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

A draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented to the Board which encompasses all types of hazards. A final draft is forthcoming and will be presented to the Board when it is received.

Town Manager Miller presented her Manager's Report, beginning with the Water Plant and its upgrades. The upgrades are proceeding as planned, and the Board will be updated as the work progresses.

The Water Advisory Board will present their policy for the Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Devices at the February Town Board Meeting.

Mr. Warren Johnson's comments from the Public Comment portion of the meeting were addressed. Town Manager Miller reminded Mr. Johnson that the water rates were not raised, rather the Summer rates were kept in effect until January 1, 2015. The deposits were increased to accommodate the charge offs.

E-Billing and an online payment program is being looked at; the Town Manager is hoping to have a program in place as soon as possible.

Chief Dwaine Moore presented his police report indicating a very quiet month in November. He reminded everyone of Bayboro's Christmas parade on December 6, 2014 and the Spirit of Christmas in Oriental on December 12 and 13, 2014.

The Committees and Board Reports followed, with the Tourism Board presenting their applicant for the vacant seat. Mr. Brett Doman has submitted his request to be a member of the Tourism Board.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to nominate and appoint Bret Doman as the newest Tourism Board member. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Water Advisory Board also presented a candidate application for their vacant seat; Mr. Steve Serjeant submitted a request to become a member of the WAB.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to nominate and appoint Steve Serjeant to the Water Advisory Board. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Overcash requested checking into the Right Of Way on Neuse Drive near his home as someone has planted some type of vines or trailing plants in the ROW.

The Mayor then moved on to the Commissioner's Comment and Discussion period.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers requested reserving Town Dock 1 and Town Dock 2 for Spirit of Christmas from 12:00 PM Friday to 12:00 PM Sunday. He also requested to close Hodges Street Friday night, December 12 from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner White made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

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Bill Sage, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager