

Town of Oriental
Town Board Meeting
December 3, 2013

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 7:00 PM. Mayor Sage called the meeting to order and determined a quorum to be present.

PRESENT: Mayor Sage, Commissioners Bessette, Johnson, Styron, Venturi, and Summers; Commissioners-Elect Overcash, White, and Winfrey; Clerk of Superior Court Steve Hollowell, Town Manager Cutler, Town Attorney Scott Davis, Police Captain Moore, Deputy Town Clerk Beyer and Public.

Cub Scout Pack 683 WeBeLos presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Sage then asked for approval of the Agenda. Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the Agenda with the following change: Change the day of the week from Wednesday to Tuesday. Commissioner Bessette seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Consent Agenda was presented for approval with Commissioner Johnson making a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Bessette seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Mayor then asked the outgoing Commissioners to step down from the dais; Commissioners Bessette, Johnson and Styron retired from the dais. The new Town Board then stepped forward to the dais to be sworn in by Clerk of Superior Court Steve Hollowell.

Mayor Sage then presented a Resolution to the new Board honoring Sherrill Styron for his many years serving the Town. A copy of same is attached to these Minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to read the Resolution to the Audience. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

There being no objection from the Board, Mayor Sage presented a framed copy of the Resolution to Sherrill.

Mayor Sage then opened the floor to public comment. Ms. Grace Evans thanked the outgoing Commissioners for their service.

The ballots were distributed for the Board of Adjustment members and the results were as follows: Joe Valinoti and Doug Carmichael, 3 year terms expiring June, 2016; Ken Small and Warren Johnson, 2 year terms expiring June, 2015; Bill Marlow, 1 year term expiring June, 2014. The 2 Alternate Members are Pappy Khouri and Paul Olson. The signed ballots are included in these minutes.

The ballots were then distributed for the Planning Board members and the results were as follows: Jackie Mahan, 3 year term expiring June, 2016; Eric Dammeyer and Cecily Lohmar, 2 year terms expiring June, 2015; and David Kibbe, 1 year term expiring June, 2014. Current Member Mindy Schmitz' term will expire in June, 2014.

Commissioner Venturi requested the Board extend the term of the Harbor Water Fronts Committee, an ad hoc committee, through June, 2014.

MOTION: Commissioner Overcash made a Motion that the Board extend the term of the Harbor Water Fronts Committee through June, 2014. Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Town Attorney Scott Davis presented an update concerning the South Avenue Litigation. The Appellate Brief is due next week from Mr. Cox's attorneys, and the Town will have 30 days to respond.

Discussion then followed concerning gaining some control over harbor waters and where Town's jurisdiction may lie.

Town Manager Cutler presented his Manager's Report, beginning with the Financial Reports. The Town will owe the Employment Security Commission \$30,000 for unemployment benefits from former employees involuntarily separated from the Town. Because municipalities are classified as 'reimbursable' entities, it can be difficult to avoid paying out unemployment benefits, regardless of the reason for termination or separation.

Town Manager Cutler submitted a Budget Amendment, a copy of which is attached to the minutes. This Amendment speaks to additional expenditures by the Tourism Board for the Dragon Boat Festival and a segment on the Jim Sammons Fishing Show. The total amount of the Tourism Board's Amendment is \$4,400. The Amendment also covers a grant received for the Tree Board from Duke Energy, in the amount of \$500.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve the Amendment as submitted. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Town Manager Cutler then presented his findings concerning a different, less costly style of chair for the Board Room. Staples offered theirs at \$94.99 for 4 padded folding chairs, and Walmart offered theirs at \$99 for 4 padded folding chairs.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to purchase 5 sets of chairs from Walmart, gaining the Town Hall an additional 20 chairs. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Water Plant is working satisfactorily, with improved readings and progress being made on softeners; softener number 2 requires replacement of resin. The interior of the plant is in the process of being painted. Town Manager will conduct a tour for the new Board and staff after the holidays.

The Tennis Courts are nearly finished, however, due to the poor weather conditions, painting the courts has proven difficult. The stripes are expected to be painted this week, and the net will then be installed.

The Town Dock is finished; however, extension of the dock cannot proceed pending approval from CAMA.

The bags that were ordered for our Vegetative Waste Program can be returned to the manufacturer less shipping costs and restocking fee.

MOTION: Commissioner White made a Motion to return the unused bags to the manufacturer. Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Town Manager Cutler recommended \$100 to each employee for Christmas bonuses.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to approve giving \$100 to each employee for a Christmas bonus. Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

It was discussed that the search for a new Town Manager would resume after the first of the year. The resumes would be looked over, and narrowed down to less than 10 candidates. It was also discussed having thorough background checks done on the candidates that were selected to the final phase.

The flag pole has been installed in front of Town Hall, and it was suggested holding a formal flag raising ceremony.

The DENR Fast Track grant will be referred to the Harbor Water Fronts Committee for further review and submission.

The entire Town Board has been enrolled in the Essentials of Municipal Government, which will be held in New Bern on Thursday and Friday, January 23 and 24, 2014. The registration fees, which were \$2400, were paid up front, but a scholarship was applied for to cover the registration fees. Confirmation of eligibility will be announced around the second week of December.

This concludes the Manager's Report.

Commissioner Summers requested reserving both Town docks for the Spirit of Christmas Flotilla from Friday, December 13 at noon to Sunday, December 15 at noon.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to reserve the Town Docks from Friday, December 13 at noon through Sunday, December 15 at noon. Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Jennifer Baker from Pamlico County High School requested closing select streets for the roving carolers during the star lighting ceremony. Commissioner Summers recommended closing Hodges to Water Streets to near the Toucan Restaurant.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve the street closure from Hodges to Water Streets to near the Toucan Restaurant from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM for the High School students to sing carols. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Water Advisory Committee requested an extension of their ad hoc committee status. The extension is requested to the April, 2014 Town Board meeting. At that time, the Committee will request approval to become a formal board.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to extend the Water Advisory Committee's ad hoc status through April, 2014. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Police Captain Dwaine Moore presented his monthly report for the Oriental Police Department. He also spoke of the bank robbery that occurred at the First Citizens Bank in Oriental yesterday. The local law enforcement, SBI and FBI all have searches underway for the vehicle used and the suspects.

The Board liaisons are as follows: Police Commissioner – Town Manager Cutler, Planning Board – Commissioners Overcash and White, Monthly Bank Statements – Commissioner Summers, Tourism Board – Commissioner Venturi, Tree Board - Commissioner Venturi, Water Advisory Committee – Commissioner Summers, Check Signing – Mayor Sage, Commissioners White, Venturi, Parks & Recreation – Commissioner Winfrey, Human Resources – Commissioner White, Mayor Pro Tem – Commissioner Venturi, Eastern Carolina Council on Government – Commissioner Summers, Regional Planning Organization – Commissioner Summers.

Committee and Board Reports: Commissioner Venturi indicated that Tourism Board's Chairman Jackie Wall has resigned from the Board and the Chairman position. This seat is vacant and available.

Commissioner Comment and Discussion: Commissioner White inquired as to having a street light repaired near the tennis courts.

Mayor Sage announced the Commissioner Retreat would be held sometime in February. It was suggested to contact Judy Hills at Eastern Carolina Council on Government to assist with creating an agenda for the retreat.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Sage asked for a Motion to Adjourn the meeting. Commissioner White made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Bill Sage, Mayor

Wyatt Cutler, Town Manager