

Town of Oriental  
Special Town Board Meeting  
December 12, 2013

A Special Meeting of the Town Board was held on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 4:00 PM. The purpose of this Special Meeting was to discuss the purchase of chairs for Town Hall, the Town Board Retreat in 2014, and the continuation of the search for a new Town Manager.

Mayor Sage opened the meeting and determined a quorum was present.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Sage, Commissioners White, Overcash, Venturi, Summers and Winfrey, Town Manager Cutler, Deputy Town Clerk Beyer, and public.

In the matter concerning the chairs, Mayor Sage stated that the Board originally approved to purchase folding chairs from Walmart.com. Commissioner Venturi was given private donations to apply towards the purchase of chairs to match the existing board room chairs. Mayor Sage received a call from Walmart's Public Relations Office, Brooke Mueller, who read about the chair purchase online. She stated that Walmart would like to donate the folding chairs to the Town.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to use the donated money to purchase chairs to match the existing chairs in the Board Room. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Commissioner Venturi voted Nay. Motion passed 4-1.

Discussion followed. Commissioner Venturi recommended using both options for seating in the Board Room; the donations for matching chairs and Walmart's offer to donate the folding chairs.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to accept Walmart's offer in addition to the private donations. Commissioner Winfrey seconded.

Discussion followed. Mayor Sage stated that Walmart will also donate \$5000 to Fishes and Loaves and HOPE Clinic in addition to their offer to donate the chairs. Commissioner White commended Walmart on their generous donation offer to the Town, but suggested the Board approve purchase of the chairs that match.

Motion did not carry. Commissioner Venturi voted Aye, remainder of Board voted Nay.

The Mayor then moved on to the subject of the 2014 Retreat. Judy Hills, of ECC can attend both days, and has offered a conference room free of charge at the ECC building in New Bern. It was suggested to check the local camps, churches and the college, with the emphasis on remaining local.

It was recommended the Retreat be held on a Friday afternoon through Saturday. Dates were then discussed amongst the Board. The 2 weekends would be either January 31, 2014 through February 1, 2014, or March 7, 2014 through March 8, 2014.

Mayor Sage tasked Town Manager Cutler with checking the availability of the Delamar Center at the college as a potential Retreat venue.

The meeting then moved on to the search for Town Manager and interviewing potential candidates. The Board will attend the Essentials of Municipal Government course January 22, through 23, 2014.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to go into Closed Session per NCGS 142-318.11(a)6, personnel matters. Commissioner Overcash seconded. The Board went into Closed Session at 4:45 PM.

The Board returned to Open Session at 5:35 PM.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a Motion to recess this meeting until Tuesday, December 17, 2014 at 4:00 pm. Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Summers made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Winfrey seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40.

---

Bill Sage, Mayor

---

Wyatt Cutler, Town Manager