



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING  
Tuesday, May 3, 2022 following Monthly meeting scheduled for 8AM  
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC  
Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Budget Meeting #3 held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 was called to order at 9:26 AM.  
2 Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present, opened the budget meeting and turned it over to the Manager.  
3 The meeting was open to the public. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's website at  
4 [www.TownofOriental.com](http://www.TownofOriental.com).  
5  
6 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price, Commissioner  
7 Winfrey, Commissioner Roe, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, Officer Nic  
8 Blayney, and members of the public.  
9  
10 Fee Schedule- Chapter S in General Ordinances. Manager used same addresses to look at potential raises in rates.  
11 What we found is that there are many fewer "levels" of uses. Coupled with the meter changeout program, almost  
12 ALL houses are in the 2000-3500 gallons. The only thing a meter does as it ages, is get less efficient and move  
13 slower than the water is actually moving. Started that program in 2016. These proposed rates are still less than the  
14 County's rate. Result is that the average annual increase is \$15-\$30. \$16 meter flat fee remains. Commercial rates  
15 also are increasing, still less than the County. Adds approximately \$16,000 to revenue. Average increase to large  
16 users-seafood processing, marinas, etc- about \$500/year.  
17 Irrigation meter deposit- same as other meter.  
18 Land Development applications- require more review/consultation. Raise SFR \$150-\$300. Subdivision increases are  
19 in line with other local subdivision costs.  
20 Special Use/Rezoning/Variance all cost us more than we are charging between advertising, notification and time.  
21 Proposal adds \$4.75/recycling bin/month (\$57/year), which covers the recycling cost- still funding green waste from  
22 GF because there are unquantifiable advantages to having it. Reduced burning, reduced yard waste in drainage path,  
23 etc. Private hauling of trash only is currently running \$30-\$40/house/month. This increase takes us to \$18.05/month.  
24 Commissioner Overcash asks about mechanics. Any change to the fee schedule requires a Public Hearing.  
25 Commissioner Price asks about proposed sewer increase- will go from \$9.00/1000 gal to \$9.25/1000 gal after the  
26 first 1500 gallons with an increase in flat fee of \$23 to \$23.50. Base fee WAS \$52.30/month. New base fee will be  
27 \$59.55/month.  
28 Commissioner Roe asks why we don't just raise everything 10% across the Board. Manager responds the requested  
29 increases are all related to cost to us to deliver the service.  
30 Mayor Pro Tem White notes that if we include the green waste cost, total increase to public would be about  
31 \$106/year.  
32 Manager notes everybody is affected by all the price increases- this budget only proposing increases that cover  
33 costs.  
34 Manager notes and passes around all the spreadsheets used to calculate raises and how they have migrated toward an  
35 average since meter changeouts.  
36  
37 Manager discusses leak adjustments. We have had some phenomenal adjustments this year- emptying tanks.  
38 People who choose not to have us turn their water off (FOR FREE) and go away and burst a pipe. We also put  
39 600,000 per month on the ground (of treated water) onto the ground to maintain residuals because the waterlines are  
40 not looped. Suggests that leak adjustments need to be limited, to cover most, but not these uncalled-for leaks. We  
41 usually give 2-5 adjustments each month, usually more in the winter when pipes freeze and burst.  
42

43 GF Revenues and Expenses- currently balanced, but we do not final numbers for insurance (health, property,  
44 vehicle, workers comp)  
45  
46 Office equipment- some Board chairs, new projector, potential computer/printer equipment replacement  
47 Capital Reserve for Police and Public Works to begin to save for replacement vehicles.  
48 Police vehicles moved around since acquisition.  
49  
50 Reserve is currently \$774,823 as of June 30, 2021.  
51  
52 Equipment: Mayor Pro Tem White: is it for future use or current needs? Yes- will help with drainage work, and can  
53 be used in the future for waterline. Commissioner Overcash notes that it is needed. Commissioner Winfrey agrees.  
54  
55 Manager notes \$100,000 of ARPA money is in general fund, \$18,000 in WF.  
56  
57 Currently, all requests from the Board are contained in the budget.  
58  
59 What is NOT in here is the project at Neuse Dr/John Bond Beach. Manager notes we had water purchase (\$10,000)  
60 and solar light purchase (\$15,000) that will not be spent. Some funds will be returned and increase the unrestricted  
61 unreserved.  
62  
63 Awaiting the results of the SOG survey on proposed raises. We need to look at local options for employees. Mayor  
64 Pro Tem White notes Havelock gave a 5% raise in January and is proposing another 5% in July plus 1% COLA.  
65 Pamlico County is proposing 6% raise- haven't decided on COLA. Fed publishes 5.9%, asking 5.1%- highest ever.  
66 New Bern is 5% COLA/ 2% Merit, and from the Managers Listserv, eastern Carolina proposals for COLA range  
67 from 5 to 7%. Inflation rate is currently 8.5% and climbing. Merit is based on performance evaluations. We did not  
68 pay it all out last year. Commissioner Roe notes that private sector is looking at 5%. Proposes we do not fill the  
69 open PW position.  
70  
71 Commissioner Roe proposes to look at Harbor Waterfronts reserve to allocate to fixing Hodges St. and combine  
72 Parks and Recreation and Harbor Waterfronts into one. Manager notes that state bill regulates. Commissioner Roe  
73 notes is MUST be used for Tourism. Manager will research further. Manager notes everything Parks and Rec asked  
74 for is in this budget. Commissioner Roe is against the equipment- we do not have enough people. Manager notes  
75 position that is empty was added because the workload was too much. Board is disagreeing about what needs to be  
76 done. Drainage work stopped because we rented the equipment, staff got sick, equipment sat, work stopped until a  
77 decision is made on equipment. So we're at- you're not doing it efficiently, you don't need extra people, and you  
78 don't need equipment, but make sure it all gets done. We need better articulation of direction. Commissioner Roe  
79 reiterates people, roads and drainage are our priorities. Contract out the drain work- take that salary to fund the  
80 increase for remaining employees, and contract the work out. Commissioner Price questions need for equipment.  
81 Mayor Pro Tem White is for keeping the position.  
82  
83 Manager notes that PW Director requested THAT equipment 17-18. NCORR gave us an opportunity to replace A  
84 piece of equipment and so I picked the larger, more expensive piece. The Board funded the new dump truck (using  
85 the reserve for the piece of equipment) to be able to handle fairly significant storms.  
86  
87 Commissioner Winfrey noted that we are reimbursed from FEMA for work by the hour. Commissioner Roe notes  
88 the large tractor and dump truck were GREAT when we had storm debris to clean up. Commissioner Price asks if  
89 we have looked other places for this piece of equipment. None had fewer hours, none were closer, all were more  
90 expensive.  
91

92 Commissioner Price asks about the cost entered for the Charger- basic maintenance/tires/etc. Currently, \$100,000 of  
93 remaining ARPA is in GF, \$18,000 in WF.

94  
95 Manager’s merit will be based on previous evaluation, drainage, roads, and people. 5% COLA/3% Merit.  
96 Commissioner Roe asks why not 6%/2%? Manager notes that COLA ends up compounded while Merit is a one-  
97 time event. It costs the Town less in the long run. Mayor Pro Tem White asks for a vote- everyone good at 5 and 3?  
98 Yes.

99 Commissioner Roe asks if the boat and harbormaster are in this? No- it’s back in the reserve- have to fix the Net  
100 House first. Mayor Pro Tem White is OK with using that fund for other things, but HWAC needs to be able to fix all  
101 things waterfront when they break/need repair. Commissioner Roe asks if HWAC can appropriate their own fund?  
102 NO- it has to go through the Town Board.

103  
104 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board Budget Meeting – May 24, 2022, 8AM

105  
106 Manager gets a MOTION for the Public Hearing for budget and fee schedule for June 7. Commissioner Overcash  
107 makes that MOTION. Seconded by Winfrey seconds. 5-0.

108  
109  
110 Commissioner Winfrey made a MOTION to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem White. 5-0

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112 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 10:45AM.

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114 \_\_\_\_\_  
115 Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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118  
119 Approved , 2022