



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD AGENDA WORKSHOP

Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 5:30pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Agenda Workshop Meeting on Thursday, June 1, 2017 was called to order at 5:30pm.
7 The Mayor Sally Belangia determined a quorum to be present. She said we have a Public Comment period, if you
8 wish to speak please make sure you are signed up on the sheet.
9

10 Present: Mayor Belangia, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner White, Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi,
11 Commissioner Price, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, Administrative Assistant
12 Jeannine Russo and Members of the Public. Commissioner Winfrey was absent.
13

14 **1. Budget**

15 The meeting began with budget. Budget is balanced, but balanced with a \$2 increase in trash per previous
16 conversation. The addition of \$2 per house, per month, you get \$15,672, takes the sanitation difference to \$32,328
17 from a \$48,000-\$50,000 per year deficit in the trash fund that is subsidized by taxes. With debris costs removed, the
18 \$2 increase goes to a \$16,000 difference between fees received and costs. It is acceptable to pay for debris out of
19 taxes instead of trash fund because while it is part of the trash fund because it is the same hauler, it is still a different
20 entity. To recover the entire cost of sanitation, it would need to be raised \$6.38 per house, per month, which is not
21 acceptable. To recover half, it is an increase of \$3.06 per month. Discussed a gradual increase in trash last year.
22 Manager Miller was asked at that time to survey other communities. Cedar Point is the only community charging
23 less than Oriental, recycle once a month and trash once a week at a cost of \$11.65 per month. While we are currently
24 at \$13.30, other communities are at \$15 and above. Out of our town limits, someone starting a contract personally
25 will pay \$38 per month with a \$40 start-up cost and \$60+ per month with a \$40 start-up cost. Cost to the customer
26 would quadruple compared to what the Town is charging. Manager Miller feels not having mandatory trash is not an
27 option.
28

29 The Town has extended a conditional offer to a police officer who is currently going through testing and
30 qualifications. Should he pass all of that, we then take that paperwork and send it to the State, the State has an eight-
31 day turnaround from the time they receive the paperwork until it comes back with authorization to swear in.
32 Manager Miller feels it was prudent to move only one candidate forward, and the other panel members, all law
33 enforcement officers, agreed with Manager Miller that this was the candidate to move forward. If we were to hire
34 another officer, the Town would need to start again and “case a wider net.” Manager Miller feels we may have an
35 officer by July 1 and may take until October to get a second officer on board.
36

37 Commissioner Price felt we should do away with the trash increase and delay hiring the second officer to recover the
38 cost of that difference. Manager Miller removed the \$15,672 from solid waste fees, removed same number from
39 Police B salary. It balances without the \$2 increase if we put off hiring until October. Commissioner Overcash asked
40 if we have money to contract hire deputies. Manager Miller said we may not want to go down that road as we lose
41 control as they still answer to the Sheriff and they will not enforce the Town regulations, only the County
42 regulations. Commissioner White feels November or December may be more realistic and if we are budgeted for
43 two and do not hire, then we do not have to raise fees. Then next year during budget process, it can be discussed that
44 the fees are not covering the trash. Commissioner Overcash asked about a \$1 increase in trash fees which would
45 give the Town some extra money and is a small amount and feels that this is not unreasonable as there is only one
46 other community lower than us. Manager Miller would prefer not to raise anything unless we have to. Commissioner
47 Overcash feels it can help. Manager Miller stated the Town will do as directed and make it work.
48

49 Manager Miller stated she expected to have some resolution with the police situation as of this date and that did not
50 happen, but we are moving forward. Mayor Belangia asked if the prospective officer is part or full time, Manager
51 Miller responded full time. FMRT is the company administering the testing on June 14 with results expected by the
52 end of the week.
53

54 Commissioner Venturi is in agreement with Commissioner Overcash regarding budget, feels that we are “robbing
55 Peter to pay Paul.” Manager Miller explained a balanced budget is required by date of this meeting, June 1, and this
56 is not Public Hearing, which is June 6, and changes can be made to the budget at Public Hearing. Commissioner
57 Venturi feels that going up \$1 rather than a couple of dollars is a step in the right direction. Manager Miller
58 explained \$1 on the trash is less than one-third of a penny on your taxes. If the Board chooses the \$1 increase,
59 Manager Miller will change the number on revenue for sanitation and the additional cost will be put to storm
60 preparedness unless they wish to put it elsewhere. Manager Miller stated we spent a substantial amount of money
61 recovering from a relatively small storm. It was realized how quickly it adds up when you calculate man hours and
62 equipment hours, etc. Sanitation costs have also increased since contract was first signed. Commissioner White feels
63 there should be an increase next year as there was an increase last year and balance the budget as it is now.
64

65 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to raise \$1 per can on trash pick-up. Seconded by **Commissioner**
66 **Venturi.**Aye – **Commissioner Overcash** and **Commissioner Venturi.**Opposed – **Commissioner White** and
67 **Commissioner Price.** **Mayor Belangia** opposed. **MOTION** does not carry.
68

69 Manager Miller stated that budget will be balanced as is. Commissioner Overcash stated that this can be brought up
70 again at the other meeting. Manager Miller stated that the Water Fund is balanced as discussed with a \$40,000 draw
71 toward the lead abatement project.
72

73 Other notes:

74 Insurance: When figuring the insurance numbers, a very long survey is filled out – how many people we have and
75 what exactly they do. The company sends back a quote with a possible incentive credit. Amount budgeted is always
76 without the incentive credit in the event of a change. Currently the Worker’s Comp quote is \$8,382 and the amount
77 budgeted is \$8,400.
78

79 2016-17 YTD numbers have been updated but are not finished, some went down, some went up, partially due to the
80 Administrative Fee from the Water Fund to the General Fund which is reimbursement for work done for the Water
81 Department. Public Works is right at budgeted number due to truck purchase. Manager Miller would like to keep the
82 scheduled meeting at 5:30pm on June 28 in case a budget amendment needs to be made prior to the end of the year.
83 Each line does not need to be balanced but each department does. Manager Miller will start working on budget
84 message and putting budget up for review. Public Notice has already gone out stating that a balanced budget will
85 come out of tonight’s meeting to be made available as soon as possible.
86

87 2. Workshop

88 Public Comment.

89 Eric Kindle – The Bean: Mr. Kindle stated he was not present for the trash can discussion but as a business owner
90 whose trash cans are accessible to the public, they fill up quickly. He stated, on occasion, has had to take his trash
91 from The Bean to his home as his were full due to public use. Manager Miller stated that, for example, when a storm
92 is coming and the water rises, transients on boat s and visitors will fill up the public cans to where they overflow and
93 eventually washes the trash into the river. Discussed placing another can at the river. Lisa Thompson of Sea Harbour
94 stated that she believes the public does not realize how much the Town pays for them to have the public trash cans
95 and the Town should think about making this information public.
96

97
98 Marsha Paplham – for Tourism and as a business owner: Spoke about Cycle NC and the benefit to the Town and
99 businesses. April was extremely good for business with the four events in Town. Several other businesses stated the
100 same. Ms. Paplham queried customers as they entered her store (Marsha’s Cottage) and all had positive things to say
101 about the Town and the event. As part of the Tourism Board, she would like to see what other events we can bring
102 into the Town in that time frame. Eric Kindle of The Bean stated the same and feels we should encourage the Town
103 residents to be more supportive of these events as they are beneficial to the Town.
104

105 Larry Summers – Stated he and Bill Hines took out 113 paddlers, very good response.
106

107 Manager Miller stated her experience was the opposite. Staff was not treated well, object of profanity and received
108 complaints from cyclists and residents. She is aware the businesses did well but the residents and cyclists that were

109 inconvenienced were extremely vocal. EMS and CarolinEast were not impressed with communication, for example,
110 there was a route change as CarolinaEast was en route. The Town was told there would be a tent for registration in
111 our parking lot. Cycle NC arrived with an RV, three tents and six trucks taking up the entire lot belonging to
112 Oriental First Baptist Church. Miscommunication was the issue. The Town repeatedly asked for routes, Town was
113 the last to receive them. At one point, Manager Miller was trying to deliver the parts to Public Works to fix the
114 broken hydrant and cyclists would not give her space to drive through. Parking on the streets, in front of mailboxes
115 and in driveways were also an issue. Manager Miller acknowledges that we do only have so many miles of road so
116 not sure what the solution is. Open alcohol in the parks and on the street was also an issue. Larry Summers
117 suggested setting up a tent city out at the Recreation Park. Marsha Paplham suggested utilizing our camps as the
118 children are not there yet. The issue with those is that even though they ride all over the county, the start and finish
119 lines are in Oriental. Limiting the number of cyclists was also discussed. This event was capped at 1,400 and they
120 took 1,480 cyclists. Manager Miller stated that several things will need to be done better for the Town to have staff
121 to take care of it. Lisa Thompson also said that we may need more volunteers. Manager Miller said there were
122 visiting cyclists in Oriental the two weekends following the event as well.
123

124 Betsy Kane of NCDOT – Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Division: They have several programs and several
125 ways that they may be able to help the Town. Manager Miller and Lee Barham of Parks and Recreation contacted
126 them. Ms. Kane has come to Oriental to investigate and do a field survey in person to see conditions, challenges.
127 Ms. Kane noted that the Town would like to add a multi-use path to go safely from one side of Town to the other as
128 currently this can only be done in a vehicle. She suggested the Town reapply for the grant that had been denied in
129 the past. We should be thinking more of a facility and not a plan and building a transportation network for bicycle
130 and pedestrian modes. She suggests we may want to do a corridor or feasibility study to determine right of way
131 issues and topography issues and is more detailed. DOT is now allowing communities to apply for a corridor plan
132 rather than just a Town or County wide plan, which has not been done in the past. The application cycle opens in the
133 fall and closes around mid-November. The Committee chooses the awardees around the end of January, then goes to
134 the Transportation Board who votes on them with the money awarded in February. The Town can choose a
135 consultant or DOT can choose one for us and can get started by April of 2018. We can also apply for the Planning
136 Grant and also pursue studies on our own with an engineering or consulting firm. Some other services they provide
137 are Ad hoc technical assistance when available, the Planning Grant, advice regarding the best ways to plan and
138 implement bicycle and pedestrian facilities, safety and encouragement programs, for example the Safe Routes to
139 School and Watch for Me. They do not fund facility construction. In 2013 the General Assembly eliminated stand
140 alone funding for bike and pedestrian projects so funding may be an issues. If the Town chooses to go forward with
141 a project, “the payback is incredible.” Manager Miller asked if there is any way to help move a resurfacing project
142 up the ladder as it would give us a connection to extending the shoulder to have a bike lane. Ms. Kane stated that
143 resurfacing is handled at the Highway Division level and each of the 14 divisions across the state has a resurfacing
144 calendar. While they do not oversee these Divisions’ activities, their operations and maintenance staff has a
145 schedule, possibly a three year cycle. She suggested that the Town speak to its Highway Division Chief or Engineer,
146 they call their own shots and have discretionary funding, up to them how to apply it. Manager Miller stated if we are
147 already scheduled for resurfacing, adding the bike lane and reducing the speed limit would be very helpful. Ms.
148 Kane suggested that the Town may hire a firm or civil engineer with direct (inaudible) experience that has design
149 experience and take that to the Division. Manager Miller stated that reducing the speed limit does not affect anyone
150 that does not live here as Oriental does not generally have through traffic. Enforcement tends to be periodic and
151 temporary and visuals, linear features, crosswalks tend to be more effective. Ms. Kane stayed in Oriental to do some
152 field work and brought her bicycle.
153

154 **3. Adjourn.**

155 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to adjourn, seconded by **Commissioner Price**. Motion passed 4-0.
156

157 **Meeting adjourned 6:37pm.**
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159
160

161 Sally Belangia, Mayor

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163

164 Approved , 2017 _____

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk