



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 7pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Pro Tempore Barbara Venturi Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 was called to order at 7:00pm. The
7 Mayor Pro Tempore Barbara Venturi determined a quorum to be present. She said we have a Public Comment
8 period, if you wish to speak please make sure you are signed up on the sheet. We will call the meeting to order with
9 the Pledge of Allegiance.

10

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

14

15 1. Approval of Agenda

16 (a) **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to approve the Agenda, seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**.
17 Motion passed 5-0.

18

19 2. Consent Agenda: (Tab 1)

20 (a) Minutes from Town Board Meeting 5-2-17

21

22 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by **Commissioner**
23 **Winfrey**. Motion passed 5-0.

24

25 3. **Public Comment Period:** Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi asks that if anyone would like to speak. Limit comments
26 to 3 minutes and comments to full board not individual.
27 No public comment.

28

29 4. **Public Hearing (Tab 2):** Frank and Lili Bacon, SUP request to open and operate a Microbrewery and Taproom at
30 702 Broad Street.

31

32 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Commissioner Winfrey**.
33 Motion passed 5-0.

34

35 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** The Public Hearing is open. The people that we would expect to hear from first
36 would be the petitioners for this Special Use Permit if you have anything that you would like to say, or not.

37 **Lili Bacon:** I don't think we have anything to add. You have heard from us but we are happy to answer questions.

38 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** We have one name on our list of speakers and that is Al Herlands.

39 **Al Herlands:** Thank you. May I stay seated? Is that alright?

40 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Sure.

41 **Al Herlands:** I am here to support the application. I know the difference in the legality but it is substantially the
42 same proposal that the Board approved before. The only factor that might be different relates to the change in
43 location and what it may mean for traffic but they are both on Broad Street. By the way, I am not much of a drinker
44 and it would be an overstatement to say I have one drink a month but there are many people in Town and I have
45 many friends among them who do drink and we have many establishments that offer not only beer and wine but we
46 have hard liquor in town and if you look back at the police reports going back as long as we have had monthly
47 police reports, you will see that this town is filled with responsible drinkers. We do not have a problem with people
48 drinking and going out and driving and getting in trouble or getting arrested or crashing so it's not much of a
49 concern in this town. The proponents here are good people with longstanding ties to the community. They are
50 respected and highly regarded, a good track record in town. I think part of the evidence is that they got support for
51 this proposal through a Fund Me operation through the internet and a lot of support in town. These are good people
52 with a good proposal that is good for the town and I recommend the Board approve. Thank you.

53 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Thank you. Is there anyone else that wants to speak to this issue? Should we close
54 the Public Hearing or shall we go forward?

55 **Manager Miller:** We should go forward with an opportunity for evidence to be presented for each of the points and
56 then we close it.

57 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** We have a format that we go through for Special Use Permits and it pretty much
58 comes down to, there are seven questions that need to be answered and if the questions end up being answered in the
59 negative then there will be a problem granting the Special Use Permit. If the questions are answered in the positive,
60 then basically the Town will be virtually required to allow the Special Use Permit. It is not something that just
61 because, it would be a whim of anybody on the Board to make a decision against an applicant.

62 **Commissioner White:** Instead of making a Motion for all seven, I will just keep notes and at the end, I will
63 summarize and I will make one Motion of all seven items.

64 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** So seven items we have to answer..
65 **Manager Miller:** Yes.

66 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** The first question is, is the requested permit within the jurisdiction of the Town
67 according to the table of permissible uses?

68 **Unknown:** It is.
69 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** It is. Is the application itself complete?

70 **Manager Miller:** Yes ma'am.

71 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** As it is complete, we have some more questions to consider. Will the application
72 comply with one or more requirements of this Chapter not including those the applicant is not required to comply
73 with?

74 **Commissioner White:** Yes, it would.
75 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Will it materially endanger public health or safety?

76 **Commissioner White:** No evidence was submitted at the Planning Board and none tonight has been presented so...
77 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Is there anyone who would like to speak to any of these or offer evidence regarding
78 any of these points? Fifth question is will it substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting properties?

79 **Commissioner White:** Again, no evidence was submitted at the Planning Board and I am not hearing anybody
80 tonight.

81 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Question #6, will it be in harmony with existing development and uses within the
82 area in which it is located?

83 **Commissioner White:** It will.

84 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** It will be in harmony. Will it be in general conformity with the land use plan,
85 thoroughfare plan or other plan officially adopted by the Commissioners?

86 **Unknown:** Yes.
87 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** All of these questions being answered, the Town Commissioners will take action
88 based on those answers.

89
90 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**.
91 Motion passed 5-0.
92

- 93 **Commissioner White** stated:
- 94 1. The permit is within its jurisdiction according to the table of permissible uses.
 - 95 2. The application is complete.
 - 96 3. It will comply with the GMO.
 - 97 4. No evidence was presented at the Planning Board or tonight that it will endanger public health or safety.
 - 98 5. No evidence was presented at the Planning Board or tonight that it will injure adjoining or abutting
99 properties.
 - 100 6. It is in harmony with existing uses in the area.
 - 101 7. It conforms with our Land Use Permit, the GMO and the CAMA plan all adopted by the Town.
- 102

103 That is the first part of the Motion, everything is in the positive. The second part of the Motion is that he would like
104 to also request that the Commissioners remove the SUP from 807 Broad Street. Manager Miller presented a
105 document prepared by the Town's attorney to revoke the previously granted SUP in February of 2017. The SUP
106 requires that there be significant progress toward the applicable use and with the move to the new location, there
107 will not be significant progress within the years' time limit, so there is no reason for them to have an SUP on that
108 building. This will be filed with the Register of Deeds and also attached to the Deed as a Special Use Granted and a
109 Special Use Revoked.

110
111 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to remove the SUP from 807 Broad Street that was previously granted.
112 Seconded by **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi**. Motion passed 5-0.
113

114 **5. Public Hearing.** (Tab 3) Request for an SUP for short-term rental from the Johnsons at 405 High Street. Manager
115 Miller read from an asterisk at the bottom of the application. Mrs. Johnson stated that they wish to only rent the
116 home for events, for example Cycle NC and Croakerfest, when they are not occupying the home themselves and
117 wish to be compliant in that event. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi stated that the SUP goes with the property and if the
118 property were to be sold, the SUP would remain with the property. No one has signed up on the sheet to speak to
119 this issue. Applicants are not present.
120

121 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Commissioner Price**.
122 Motion passed 5-0.
123

124 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** We are in Public Hearing. If anybody does want to submit any evidence on any of
125 these seven questions that we are required to answer, please just make it known and you will have the right to speak.
126 So we are going to go through the same seven questions for this Special Use Permit that we did for the last one. The
127 first question is, is the permit within the jurisdiction of the Town?

128 **Manager Miller:** Yes ma'am.

129 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Is the application complete?

130 **Manager Miller:** It is.

131 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Which takes us to the following questions, will the application comply with one or
132 more requirements of this chapter of the GMO, not including those the applicant is not required to comply with? We
133 are compliant?

134 **Unknown:** Yes.

135 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Will materially endanger the public health or safety?

136 **Manager Miller:** No evidence has been presented.

137 **Commissioner White:** Neither here nor at the Planning Board.

138 **Manager Miller:** The Planning Board took this particular application up on 3/30, 4/19 and 5/17 at which there were
139 no public available to make any comment.

140 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Will substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting properties?

141 **Commissioner White:** Again, no evidence was presented at the Planning Board.

142 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Will it not be in harmony with existing development and uses within the area in
143 which it is located?

144 **Unknown:** Yes.

145 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Will it be in general conformity with the Land Use Plan, Thoroughfare Plan or other
146 plan officially adopted by the Town?

147 **Manager Miller:** Yes it is.

148 **Commissioner White:** And then additionally I would like to add that this is a newly purchased property so it was
149 not operating without an SUP as we have had others in the area. They do have adequate parking because the
150 Planning Board did check them for adequate parking and as I said, no evidence was submitted to the Planning Board
151 the three times they met on this.
152

- 153 1. The permit is within the jurisdiction according to the table of permissible uses.
- 154 2. The application is complete.
- 155 3. It will comply with one or more chapters of the GMO.
- 156 4. No evidence was presented at the Planning Board meetings nor tonight that will affect public health or
157 safety.
- 158 5. No evidence was presented at the Planning Board meetings nor tonight that will injure adjoining or abutting
159 properties.
- 160 6. It is in harmony with existing uses in the area.
- 161 7. It conforms with the Land Use Plan, the GMO and the CAMA Plan adapted by the Town Board.

162
163 That is my **MOTION** to approve, seconded by **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi**. Motion passed 5-0.
164

165 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Winfrey.
166 Motion passed. 5-0.

167
168 Grace Evans: Do these come under the Occupancy Tax? They do.

169
170 **6. Public Hearing.**(Tab 4) Budget.

171 Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi explained that by the end of June, every governmental agency in the State must provide
172 a balanced budget. The Board has prepared budget with the guidance of Manager Miller and is available on the
173 Town's website.

174
175 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**.
176 Motion passed 5-0.

177
178 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** The Public Hearing is open and we have one person signed up to speak, although if
179 anybody else wants to we will recognize you. Jennifer Roe.

180 **Jennifer Roe:** My name is Jennifer Roe and I live at 502 South Avenue, for those who may not know, and I have
181 been following, somewhat, and not looked at the final budget, I will let you know that ahead of time. I was reading
182 here what we said no tax or fee increases. We did have a substantial increase in positions and salaries. I am not quite
183 sure how we covered that. But I wanted to just point out a few comments and these statistics come from the North
184 Carolina Labor Force for the civilians and our unemployment rate for Pamlico County is 6.3. I don't know if you all
185 considered some of these. The private sector business national survey average was 2.9% and 3.1. That is the private
186 sector so that is your taxpayer. That was the maximum increase for salaries in the private businesses, if that, and that
187 comes from the Tower Survey, I am giving you sources, you can check them, the Tower Survey and the Mercer
188 Survey and the World at Work Survey on wages in North Carolina and others. Our population here has not increased
189 since the 2010 survey. That was a false statement, we fluctuate between 875 and 925 and I was just wondering when
190 we were considering salaries and so forth, do we look at the poverty rate for Pamlico County. We are down at the
191 bottom in comparison to other towns and do we take into consideration the population tax bases of those towns
192 compared to ours and do we look at the private sector, the taxpayers that actually pay the bills but the biggest thing
193 is Pamlico County's population, we are stagnated but our budgets seem to keep growing. When I came here, we had
194 the water company, years ago we had the sewer company; we got rid of that, we had staffing and office of one Town
195 Manager and one and a half employees. I am not sure where we are at today, but those are just some things to
196 consider when you consider our population is not growing in the Town of Oriental. Thank you for your time,
197 Commissioners.

198 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Thank you, anybody else?

199 **Manager Miller:** This is just a little primer on how we calculate the tax rate. The property value of property in
200 Oriental that is taxable is \$217,406,313, divide that by 100 because that gives you the (inaudible) taxable rates per
201 100. That gives you the \$2,174,000. When you multiply by the tax rate, tax per 100 at .22 per 100, it gives you 478,
202 293,900 and that is the levy. By North Carolina General Statute, we can only budget the previously collected
203 percentage; that is really important. I can only budget, even though our levy is 478,000, I can only budget to get in
204 whatever percentage we collected the previous year. This year we are in a unique situation because in 2015-16, we
205 collected 97.5%, which is low. Generally, it is higher than that and our audit confirms that number. While our
206 auditors are coming back tomorrow to finish their field work on that fiscal year, so what we have calculated is that
207 in the 2015-16 year, we have actually collected 99.7%. So the number that I have used for our legally budgeted
208 collection is \$475,720. That has to be broken down between the property tax and the DMV tax so that is what the
209 first two lines on the budget make up, except for \$981. While the auditors confirmed that number, it's simple math,
210 we just divide what we have collected year to date in 2016-2017, which is \$475, 720 by the allocated levy from last
211 year which was \$477, 395 and that gives us 99.7%. So the number that will be confirmed by the auditors will be
212 somewhere between 97.5 and 100. Right this minute with two months left to collect on that 99.7, the chances of us
213 collecting 100% of our taxes is really good. I am very comfortable with budgeting the 97.5 plus \$981 and that is just
214 so that I have a round number. Our DMV, apparently we have a lot of new vehicles, our DMV was estimated at 16
215 and we are already at 22 for the year so that means that there are a lot of new vehicular taxes that we were not
216 accounting for last year. Plus note that our property value went from \$216,000,000 to over \$217,000,000 so the
217 million that we lost previously two years ago is back, property wise. Part of that is due to the economy is slowly
218 recovering. There are more vehicle purchases, a lot of our properties that were in default are now no longer in
219 default and are occupied. A lot of the houses that were on the market and the taxes were behind are being caught up

220 as they are being sold and we have six, that I know of in the last calendar year, vacant properties that are now either
221 developed or have been approved to be developed so we are gaining that tax base – new boats, new vehicles, new
222 houses. I am very comfortable with budgeting the \$477,000 if we were at \$475,000 with two months of taxes left to
223 collect. Granted that we collect a far smaller portion at the end than we do in January and February but we only need
224 less than \$2,000 to get to 100%. So that is where the original tax levy number comes from and that number is spread
225 across your top two lines in revenue. These are the highlights of the General Fund. Sales and Use Tax refund is
226 growing tremendously. We budgeted one hundred forty-some thousand dollars and we are already year to date at
227 \$150,000 and the state projects a 6 ¾% increase. We had several projections from the State of North Carolina
228 League of Municipalities. That gives us a pretty doggone accurate guess at where the standard fees that we get back
229 from the State are going to be. If the Sales and Use Tax is projected to go up, 6.75, it is usually right on the money.
230 The gas tax, the beer and wine tax, they give us a percentage for that, what they expect that to be. Occupancy tax is
231 also up. We budget 10,000 conservatively, we are already over 11,000 in each of those funds so that is definitely an
232 advantage. Our capital reserve is still in there for replacement of our generator which is vintage World War II, and
233 has, with the help of Mr. Bohmert, kept running and did fabulously during Matthew. Capital reserve for the
234 replacement of the police vehicle is also in there. Our Durango did well this year, the year before not so much, so we
235 are still building that fund so that that replacement is not one big lump. Our drainage maintenance is fully funded.
236 We funded it at \$2,500 and spent \$16,000 this year and that was absolutely necessary, had not ever been cleaned out
237 from the time they were installed. Plugged solid, had to have a contractor come in and dig out the drainage from
238 South Avenue, Mrs. Roe can tell you that South Avenue used to be a lake from curb to curb and we unplugged that
239 and it drains beautifully now. Also the one down at the Duck Pond, that one drains off parts of South Water Street
240 now too. We displaced several very large turtles making that happen. Our mosquito abatement is fully funded.
241 Those of us who become blood donors in the summer appreciate that. Yard debris is fully funded. The November
242 elections, which is an every other year expense, is funded. Public Works salaries, in this budget, there is no portion
243 of Public Works salaries pulled from Powell so that we can use the Powell Bill Funds to fix roads. So normally,
244 \$10,000 is taken from the Powell Bill Funds, which is funding that comes to us from the State. Part of it is off of
245 population, part of it is off of number of miles of road. Through an algorithm, it gives us approximately \$40,000.
246 That fund is also from the State projections (flat?) If anything, it won't be the number that it was last year. So we are
247 trying to squeeze as much production out of whatever comes out of Powell as possible. We have had a paving
248 company/contractor come in and survey several roads with our Public Works director and we should have some
249 numbers shortly about which roads can get fixed in which order and how much of those roads. We understand that
250 that is a huge expense so we have to look at how bad they really are and according to, we have a retired DOT road
251 inspector, I mean that was his only job, here in Town who went through every road with our Public Works director
252 and our roads are not in as bad shape structurally as we assumed that they were. So hopefully, that will give us a
253 little bit of start here and go down this list. Additional costs to Police because the part-time police officer that we
254 had did not get retirement or health benefits and all of that and this budget includes two full officers, though one has
255 been delayed six months. The Chief's position, when we had the Chief, because he was retired military, he deferred
256 health benefits too so that is an additional \$20,000 between the two officers and retirement and all of that that comes
257 with and then the additional cost of my salary to the budget as well. In the Water Fund, the water meter replacement
258 will continue. We replaced 150 meters last year, and just so that you wonder if this is throwing good money after
259 bad, these meters some of them, have been in the ground since the day we put the system in the ground and the only
260 thing a water meter can do is get less and less accurate, which means that they are getting more and more water that
261 they are not being billed for. Two years ago, our water loss percentage was nearing 25% which is unacceptable to
262 the State. We started this replacement program as recommended by the State as the first step after counting what you
263 put out of fire hydrants so we put auto-flushers. We know exactly how many gallons come out of an auto-flusher.
264 Then we started counting, this building, the meters had not been read here or at the parks. Every meter in Town is
265 read now, whether we own it or we don't own it so all of that water is counted. Plus, we have replaced the 14 2"
266 meters which are the commercial meters, the ones that go to Fulcher Point and to Garland Fulcher Seafood, which
267 are millions of gallons a month during the summer. What you need to think about is when we are producing those
268 millions of gallons, we are pumping them out of the ground, we are treating them with chemicals and we are
269 shipping them out. It keeps everybody's water fresher because there is more water being used but it costs us more.
270 Our plant runs 24/7 in the summer and the chemicals that it goes through to make that water potable is just amazing.
271 But anyway, back to the water replacement, replacing those 14 2" meters got us down to a 6% water loss. The State
272 is completely and totally in awe about that (inaudible). We are down to maybe 300 residential meters. My meter, in
273 the house that I moved into, had 900,000 gallons on it. They are only guaranteed for seven years or 750,000 gallons.
274 My meter had been in the ground for 25 years and had 900,000 gallons on it. It was a couple that lived in my house

275 so those of you that have families know how much more water you use if you are there all the time. Our depreciation
276 is totally funded which was not funded last year. Our chemical use is down following the filter changeover and,
277 matter of fact, we have gotten one complaint about water since we changed the filter process to green sand and that
278 was when we did the burn out which pushes slugs through the system. If there is a deposit or build up inside the
279 pipes, when we put the free chlorine through it detaches whatever has built up on the pipes and somebody is going
280 to get a residual of that. We had one that we went out and flushed and their problem was taken care of. The
281 Operations and Maintenance is ongoing. We are at the point where it is not a catastrophe every time something
282 breaks because we either have the skills to fix it or we have the replacement parts on hand or we have done
283 maintenance and see that there is a problem coming and have ordered those parts in advance. All of our (functions?)
284 are State compliant at the Water Plant and all of our licenses are now held in house which saves you \$10,000 in
285 contracted ORC. Those are about the highlights. I would be more than happy to answer any questions. There is one
286 other thing, in the Water Fund, this year's Water Fund Appropriations is \$347,000. Last year it was \$309,000. The
287 \$40,000 of the \$347,000 is the \$40,000 that we are taking out of reserve to abate the lead paint on the 75,000 gallon
288 tank. While we are in this cycle doing maintenance and we don't have the big project looming over us, this is a good
289 time to do it. So that \$40,000 down payment on that process, if you take that out, our water budget is actually \$2,000
290 less than it was last year. The General Fund Appropriations that are increased, all of those increases were
291 highlighted in your (slide?). I would be happy to answer any other questions.

292 **Allen Price:** The lead is on the outside of the tank?

293 **Manager Miller:** The lead is on the outside of the tank. Our tanks, we have a tank maintenance contract. Our tanks
294 are washed and disinfected and they are taken off line so that we are only on one tank instead of two. They are
295 emptied, washed and disinfected, inspected for all structural issues and then they are refilled and flushed again so we
296 keep them on that schedule so that we don't get caught in that position.

297 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** I would like to say something. It is not specifically to Jennifer's comments about
298 employee salaries but by Diane encouraging our Public Works staff and our Administrative staff to get training at
299 many, many levels, we have been able to save a tremendous amount of money that we were contracting out before.
300 At one point we were spending \$10-12,000 a year just to have somebody come from another town who happened to
301 have a water criteria or certification higher than what we had in house so that we had the State requirement. That
302 person spent a certain number of hours at the water plant every month and that was years and years and years
303 spending \$12,000. Now some of that does not need to be spent anymore and some of that has been brought in house
304 and given to the people that do work here, that have gone out and gotten those certifications so that we have got a
305 team here in Town of people that love to get training that love the fact that they are completely in charge of their
306 world here in Oriental and I can't say how really proud and delighted I am that Diane has taken this tact in getting
307 us a team, and I hope that they all stay forever, of very well trained and dedicated people and you can do so much
308 more in the long run with fewer really dedicated and well trained people so if it looks to you like we are paying
309 people a little more than we used to, you bet, and they are earning every dime.

310 **Manager Miller:** There are no across the board salary raises in this budget. There were a couple of individuals who
311 earned additional licenses or took on significantly additional responsibilities that got small, individual raises but
312 there was no across the board increases.

313 **Commissioner White:** The only thing I would like to say according to that also is that under Diane's leadership, we
314 now have all of our employees are on performance plans that are yearly review and any increases are based on merit
315 as opposed to just natural cost of living increases so for the first time in a long time, all the employees are rated
316 yearly as is the Town Manager rated yearly so everybody has a specific plan and they are working toward the plan
317 so that has been very good so it's outstanding.

318 **Manager Miller:** The line that is funded as Merit Compensation allows us to give those who performed at an
319 extraordinary level, where they used to get, like at Christmas time, and everybody kind of got the same amount kind
320 of check they, according to this seven page evaluation, they earn 1-3% and they get it in one lump check instead of
321 spread out. The advantage to you the taxpayer is that it is not added to their paycheck and then compounded for the
322 next year. It's a one-time bonus, or not bonus, dependent on their performance and they actually, once given the
323 evaluation form and being told what was going to be expected and that you are going to be evaluated in six months,
324 the performance was amazingly better that they had this is what you are going to be rated on, if you have two
325 misreads it's going to make a difference, if you have ten misreads it's going to make a bigger difference, if you have
326 more than that you can go find another job. That's pretty much where we were so they are on that because I
327 promised them a steak dinner if they (inaudible) their misreads. They have never had no misreads so I (inaudible).
328 There's always one or two or there's a snake in the box or something. Everything seems to be coming online and we
329 do have a fabulous team.

330 **Commissioner Overcash:** I would like to thank Diane and her staff for making the budget process so much better.
331 It has been progressively better every year and it helps the Board tremendously so our appreciation for all you do,
332 thank you.

333 **Manager Miller:** You're welcome.

334 **Commissioner White:** This budget does not have any fee increases or tax increases this year so we are balancing it
335 with what we have. All of our functions that we do do not pay themselves so we dip into stuff like as an example,
336 the dumpster we put at the Water Plant for green removal of plants, we had budgeted, I think when we originally
337 started to do that, \$4,000. It's probably costing us \$13,000..

338 **Manager Miller:** It's close to \$13,000 now.

339 **Commissioner White:** I don't know if it's filled, it's usually every Monday it's replaced with a new one coming in
340 so it's been very good. What it's done is it's allowed people to stop burning and it's also allowed people to clean
341 their drainage ditches out because they don't have a place to put their debris so we are actually seeing a benefit for
342 having that. The way I understand it is we are subsidizing that as we go forward so it's good. We are going to try to
343 hold to it. It's a maintenance budget this year so knock on wood we don't get any major storms. Maybe they were
344 wrong with their hurricane predictions this year. Let's hope they are on the negative.

345 **Manager Miller:** I have had really good practice filing our FEMA reports and (inaudible) that we can do that again.

346 **Commissioner Overcash:** So where are we, do we approve the budget?
347

348 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi**.
349 Motion passed 5-0.
350

351 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to approve the budget as presented. Seconded by **Commissioner**
352 **Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0. The budget is approved.
353

354 **7. Whittaker Creek Dredging Project.** (Tab 5)

355 Manager Miller stated in August of 2016 the Board had approved a Resolution to support the Friends of Whittaker
356 Creek Dredging Project. The State came back with a required amendment to that Resolution. Our attorney has
357 okayed, this is a standard request. He also looked through the Grantee agreement that we were requested to sign as
358 the State would look at us being the Grantee, not friends of Whittaker Creek, as we are the governmental agency.
359 Our attorney has no objection to our signing that. We will be the administrative function. Commissioners asked if
360 there needs to be a MOTION. Manager Miller stated the only change is "provide financial assistance for the Town
361 of Oriental for Whittaker Creek" where it said "Friends of Whittaker Creek." Commissioner White asked if we are
362 responsible only for the administration of the funds and not financially. Manager Miller responded that was correct.
363 There is also a Conflict of Interest Certification stating that no one on the Board is gaining financially from this
364 project. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi said they had a similar situation previously with the artificial reef.
365

366 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to approve the Replacement Resolution for the Whittaker Creek
367 Dredging Project. Seconded by **Commissioner Winfrey**.
368

369 **Commissioner White** stated that the previous evening, he and **Commissioner Overcash** saw a presentation from
370 Jim Blackerby (HWAC) regarding Whittaker Pointe, where the marina belonging to Henry Frazer and Ben
371 Hollowell is, the point is eroding away. Mr. Blackerby has researched and found pictures dating back to 1933 to
372 show how much of the point has eroded away. Mr. Blackerby feels that if we go forward with the dredging project
373 in the creek, the point is protecting the creek and if that point washes away, the channel will always flood over with
374 sediment. Commissioner White stated that our storms typically come with winds out of the north and break at that
375 point and protects the homes and the channel from erosion. Many of the homes have been bulkheaded and it coming
376 inside the creek and eroding it back in there. Commissioner White has asked Mr. Blackerby to speak with Manager
377 Miller. He has spoken with Mr. Frazer and Mr. Hollowell, the owners of that land. Commissioner Overcash spoke
378 with Mr. Frazer about this. They will not pursue a grant but if they donate the land to the Town of Oriental, the
379 Town can pursue a grant to refurbish and replenish that. Mr. Frazer thinks it is favorable that his Association will
380 agree to donate this land to the Town. Commissioner Overcash stated the presentation was an "eye opener" and
381 went back to when the rock from Fulcher's Seafood was first put there in 1948. At one point there was rock put
382 there that had helped but that has now washed away. Commissioner White has asked Mr. Blackerby to come to
383 perhaps a Special Meeting to make his presentation so the Town can see and he is willing to present it to anyone
384 who would like to see it. Hurricane Irene took out 3 ½ acres and then Hurricane Matthew took more away.

385 Commissioner White stated while watching the news he heard a summarization of the State’s budget and there was
386 \$17,000,000 transferred for dredging projects and another \$21,000,000 is being added to this year’s budget and he
387 wonders if there are other grants for restoration of wetlands and marshlands. Commissioners Overcash and White
388 believe this is worth looking at before it is gone.

389
390 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** stated this is a fairly extensive Resolution and this group, the Friends of Whittaker
391 Creek, are taking it upon themselves to see that all that is necessary is done to open up the channel. The only role the
392 Town plays is as a governmental entity. The funds raised will come to the Town and the Town will see that they are
393 dispersed accordingly. The funds are not tax related or income or revenue.

394
395 The Resolution passed 5-0.

396
397 The Board also needs to pass a statement, something new that has come to the Town which is part of the Whittaker
398 Point Dredging Project, a Conflict of Interest Certification, stating that there are no conflicts of interest pertaining to
399 the employees, contractors, sub-contractors, designees or individuals involved in the Whittaker Creek Dredging
400 Project and that the Town will remove any conflict.

401
402 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** made a **MOTION** to pass this Conflict of Interest Certification. Seconded by
403 **Commissioner White**. Motion passed 5-0.

404
405 **8. CAMA (Tab 6)**

406 Update on the Fulcher Point project, travel lift and wash pad which was an SUP and LUP combined. What the
407 Board approved, did not fit CAMA standard, and what fit CAMA standard did not fit the Town’s restrictions.
408 Dennis Fornes, designer for Mr. Fulcher, forwarded a new design to the Town to see if it is compliant with our
409 restrictions before submitting to CAMA. There is an Ordinance that states if there is a change but does not change
410 the use proposed, it goes back to the Board that approved the original and does not have to start a new SUP process.
411 This is the same property and project, just situated a little differently. While Manager Miller stated she still has
412 questions for Mr. Fornes, in the interest of transparency, will share what we are aware of. Manager Miller presented
413 the drawings from Mr. Fornes showing the changes and revisions to the wash down pad and the travel lift. There is
414 also an additional storm water structure in addition to the required settling tank for the wash down pad so any
415 diverted storm water will have to go through a system before it goes to the water. Currently, it just goes to the water.
416 There will also be a roof over where there will be any sanding, blasting or painting. Shows a holding tank for the
417 wash down pad. There will also need to be a pump out installed, Manager Miller will look at that more closely. They
418 are above the 75’ line and this has been submitted to CAMA and Manager Miller is unsure what their response will
419 be. The Town’s issue was being against the property line, even though they own the property, they still need to be 7’
420 off the property line. For our purposes, this is acceptable, but Manager Miller is unsure what CAMA will require.
421 There were unexpected improvements. The entire point is impervious surface so this help with storm water, which is
422 an improvement. We are not taking comment at this point. The Planning Board also needs to look at it and we will
423 have another opportunity to look at it after CAMA. A copy of the approved SUP and conditions were sent to CAMA
424 and they will receive another copy with this revision. That is where everything stands and Manager Miller just
425 wanted to inform the Board that we received a revision and because the revision includes both components of the
426 proposal, it goes back to this Board to approve or deny the final design.

427
428 **9. Police Ordinance: (Tab 7)**

429 At the last meeting at the conclusion of passing changes that removed the reference to “Chief” so that while we
430 could have one, we were not forced to have one and we are still in compliance. Manager Miller is also asking the
431 Board to consider removing the “contracted” language as it complicates things legally. “Reserve” is the standard that
432 is used by municipalities and counties for officers who retain their certification and come in case of emergency or
433 for big events, for example bringing Officer Barnett back for Croakerfest to direct traffic, he would just be activated
434 for that weekend. The Board was presented the originally proposed Ordinance at the last meeting without the
435 addition that was suggested. Commissioner White stated the reason he added contract was because during one of our
436 last hurricanes, we hired people as employees versus contract employees and even though they only worked for a
437 few weeks, they all filed for unemployment and the Town was hit with a huge bill so he feels it is better to bring
438 people on as contracted rather than employees. For the police situation, however, he recommends that he withdraw
439 “contract” and go back to the original form.

440
441 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to go back to the original format, proposed in May, of the Police
442 Ordinance. Seconded by **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi**. Motion passed 5-0.

443
444 **10. Calendar. Reschedule July Town Board Meeting.**

445 Manager Miller reminded the Board that there is currently a meeting scheduled for June 28 at 5:30 to clean up any
446 budget issues and close out the fiscal year. Commissioner White recommended that we move any business to the
447 June 28 budget meeting.

448
449 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** that the Board change the July 4 Town Board Meeting to June 28 and start
450 at 7pm like regularly scheduled Board Meetings. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0.

451
452 **11. County Tax Collection Agreement: (Tab 8)**

453 We annually contract with the County for collection of our taxes. Manager Miller stopped to add that Mrs. Sarah
454 Davis has been exceptionally helpful in providing any information or reports we need in a timely manner and has
455 been very helpful. Each year the County sends a new agreement and Manager Miller is asking for the Board to
456 approve the new agreement.

457
458 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** made a **MOTION** to allow the County to collect our taxes for us this coming year.
459 Seconded by **Commissioner White**. Motion passed 5-0.

460
461 **12. Police Report.**

462 Manager Miller gave the Police Report. Mainly business and residence security checks, a few citations. There were
463 seven warnings, 28 total for the year. Manager Miller stated that for a many visitors as we have had in Town, it has
464 been very quiet. We did not need to call the Sheriff's Department to Town during any of our events. They do cruise
465 through Town occasionally and had nothing to report back from that. **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** asked if there
466 was anything to report about Police. Manager Miller responded it would be addressed in her report.

467
468 **13. Sheriff's Report**

469 Major Scott Houston was out of Town on training and could not attend tonight's meeting.

470
471 **14. Manager's Report, including Financials (Tab 10)**

- 472
- 473 • Deputy Nick Blaney of the Pamlico County Sheriff's Office has been offered a conditional position.
474 Conditions are that he must pass the physical, psych eval, drug test, firearms qualifications and background
475 check that are required by the State and fill out State required paperwork. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi
476 asked if he would have been required to fill out the same paperwork for the County. Manager Miller
477 responded yes, it is, but he has had six years on the job and it would be in our best interest to have him go
478 through those things again. He will go to FMRT, the entity that we contract with for all of those tests, on
479 June 14. The turnaround time for the State is eight days after we receive his testing results so he may be on
480 duty by Croakerfest. The Sheriff is assisting with the paperwork and Manager Miller is receiving assistance
481 from Criminal Justice Training and Standards as they understand that we are currently without an officer.
482 Commissioner Overcash asked if this includes radar certification and it does not.
 - 483 • Daniel Early passed his pesticide certification with an almost perfect score on his test so he will now be one
484 of the technicians spraying for mosquitoes. It is a fairly intense one-day course where they are taught, what
485 chemicals to use, when to use them and where not to use them. There are now Public Works workers
486 certified in pesticides. Jesse Burgess and Josh Gibson are attending continuing education for their water
487 certifications. Public Works Director Andrew Cox just passed his second pump school which will save the
488 Town anywhere from \$900 to \$3,000 in this upcoming budget. The cost of those pumps is \$30,000 so to fix
489 one is several thousand dollars but the kit to rebuild it is about \$500. When the pumps are working so hard
490 in the summer months, there is a 50/50 high chance of losing one of those well pumps so this was an
491 investment for the future as well as the other pumps in the plant.
 - 492 • The auditors will be back to finish their field work and the software representative is coming as well so the
493 plan is to all get on the same page. What they have seen is going well and what the software people found
that is wrong, they have fixed and we are getting closer to a solution.

- 494 • Tennis Court Progress: It took Public Works a week to get the stains off of the tennis court. Caulking and
495 repainting the cracks will take about a day and a half as soon as we get a good stretch of dry weather. The
496 new net came in and as soon as the caulking and painting are done, the pickle ball lines will be installed,
497 put the net up and then speak with Parks and Rec about the pickle ball nets as they are not permanent.
498 Manager Miller feels that if they are movable, how do we keep them from disappearing. Mayor Pro
499 Tempore Venturi stated that in an earlier meeting, about two years ago, the spoke about setting the pickle
500 ball court up around the tennis net. Manager Miller said we can do that but Parks and Rec requested two
501 pickle ball courts. Manager Miller said we could have two temporary nets and have people check them out
502 at Town Hall, but what if we are not open and if we leave them, she is reasonably sure they will walk away.
503 Commissioner Overcash has volunteered to sit and watch the paint dry when the project gets to that point.
504 Trenching for the new water fountain will begin as they paint is drying as well. The project is moving
505 forward.
- 506 • Officer Barnett has officially retired. On his last shift, he took Nick Blaney, our prospective police officer,
507 around town and showed him basically where to watch, what to look for and is available by phone or to
508 come in and help with problems or questions. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi commented that in hiring Nick
509 Blaney, it is nice that he is someone who has been here all of his life. Commissioner Overcash asked if he
510 has resigned from the Sheriff's Department yet. Manager Miller stated he has not. Commissioner Overcash
511 asked if he can operate as a police officer via the Sheriff's Department if we need him to. Manager Miller
512 responded that he cannot enforce our Ordinances. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi asked if he can stay on with
513 the Sheriff's Department as a reserve deputy. Manager Miller stated that he can and that Officer Barnett
514 will be a reserve deputy. There was discussion about an officer in the past who was a reserve deputy.
515 Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi felt that was easier as he would arrest a perpetrator and take them to the
516 County to be processed and not need to fill out a separate set of paperwork.
- 517 • Annual Burn Out is over, ended on May 25. Manager Miller explained that the Burn Out is a month long
518 process where our water, which is normally disinfected with chloramines, a chlorine and ammonia
519 combination, is disinfected with straight chlorine. This is done to flush the system of any residual solids
520 that may build up inside the distribution system. If you get a batch of bad tasting water, that is one of those
521 "slugs" coming through. When that happens they open the closest fire hydrant to flush it out. There have
522 been no complaints over the new water. When people return to vacation homes, they generally need to
523 flush all of their lines to get the water out that has been sitting in the lines.
- 524 • Plug in Electric Vehicle stations are en route. There will be one here at Town Hall and one at the public
525 restrooms. We are currently working on making the infrastructure right, new electrical connections, digging
526 and slicing sidewalks before the electrician can lay the lines.

527
528 Commissioner Overcash asked if there had been any movement on the Fulcher parking area. Manager Miller said
529 there has been nothing new but there is now an orange cone that sits in the entry way.

530
531 Manager Miller stated that there was one thing she wanted to bring to the Board that had come across the Manager's
532 Listserv called the "Quiet Hour". Apparently, several municipalities and counties are moving toward this. On many
533 occasions, there are questions that can only be answered by Manager Miller or Deputy Finance Director Tammy
534 Cox, and they may be in the middle of audit or budget making it difficult at times to accomplish these tasks. Office
535 hours would remain the same, but with a quiet hour at the end of the day from 4-5pm, this would allow us to get
536 through long range things. This has been an ongoing issue so Manager Miller would like to try 8am to 4pm, Monday
537 through Thursday as we really do not have a rush of people during those hours. For water payments we do have the
538 night drop box and the online pay option and it would be extremely helpful to have four hours a week to get the
539 work done and cleaned up and would be grateful to the Board if they would consider this. Mayor Pro Tempore
540 Venturi feels that this may not need a motion. Manager Miller stated that while she has an open door policy to the
541 public, we can better serve them if we can focus more on them while they are in the office. Commissioner White
542 stated that we can start it as a test and if there are any complaints from the public, we can pull back. Jennifer Roe felt
543 that if we are changing the office business hours, that we may need to do a Resolution or Motion.

544
545 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** made a **MOTION** that the Town of Oriental adjust its hours regarding public access
546 to be closed to the public at 4pm, Monday through Thursday beginning July 1, or the Monday closest to (July 3).
547 Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0.

548

549 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** stated that she is amazed and receives many compliments often about how helpful
550 the staff of Town Hall is.

551
552 **15. Committee/Board Reports (Tab 11)**

- 553 a. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – 5-10-17
- 554 b. Planning Board – 4-19-17
- 555 c. Tourism Board – 4/18/17
- 556 d. Tree Board – 5/30/17
- 557 e. Water Advisory Board – Budget workshop only
- 558 f. Harbor Waterfronts Advisory Committee – 5/11/17
- 559 g. Bay River Metropolitan Sewer District –

560
561 In addition to the Parks & Recreation minutes, the Town did have a visit, Ad Hoc, from Betsy Kane from NCDOT
562 about the Bike/Ped project moving forward. Manager Miller contacted Mr. (inaudible) Johnson, who is in charge of
563 the Bike/Ped division. Ms. Kane was in the area and stopped in the hear more about our plans. She met with
564 Manager Miller a few of our Commissioners. She brought her bicycle with her and decided to spend the night at the
565 Inn. Manager Miller suggested she go around to Dolphin Point to see exactly what our issues are. She had several
566 recommendations, told us about several grant opportunities and take our information and findings from her field
567 work and then get back to us with how we should move forward.

568
569 Commissioner White mentioned that he was present at the last Harbor Waterfronts Committee meeting and it was
570 discussed that they would like to purchase some telescoping poles for the burgees, the type that can be brought down
571 low in case of a storm. The cost is approximately \$160-\$170 with shipping which includes a base platform that they
572 fit in. They are screwed into the dock and bolted from underneath. This would allow us to bring the burgees up and
573 fly American flags as well. Lisa Thompson of HWAC added the Clean Marina flag as well. Manager Miller stated
574 we need to keep the pump out working to keep the Clean Marina. Ms. Thompson asked if it is working.
575 Commissioner White and Manager Miller stated it had not that afternoon. Board had discussion about something
576 that could possibly be done to indicate that the pump is on as it cannot be heard while in use. Commissioner
577 Overcash asked Ms. Thompson about an Oriental presence or display of Oriental at the Annapolis, MD, Boat Show
578 as she feels they leave Maryland and may stop in Oriental. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi said she believes Sail Loft
579 Realty has attended this show. Ms. Thompson stated that River Dunes has gone to “sell themselves.”

580
581 **16. Commissioner’s Comment/Discussion Period.**

582 Commissioner Overcash stated he had a call the previous week from the anonymous donor of the dog park inquiring
583 about progress, which has been minimal. The County office that has been helping us with this project has been in
584 budget preparation. Commissioner Overcash stopped to see Garry Cooper in Bayboro and they are talking about the
585 dog park so there is movement. Commissioner Overcash stated he, Mr. Cooper, Manager Miller and Mayor
586 Belangia will continue to work on this as well as anyone else that is interested.

587
588 **Commissioner Winfrey** made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by **Commissioner Price**. Motion passed 5-0.

589
590 **Meeting adjourned 8:28pm.**

591
592
593
594
595
596 _____
Barbara Venturi, Mayor Pro Tempore

597 _____
Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

598
599
600 Approved _____, 2017 _____