

Oriental Town Board Meeting
April 3, 2012

Present were: Mayor William Sage and Commissioners Michelle Bessette, Sherrill Styron, Larry Summers and Warren Johnson. Attorney Scott Davis and Town Manager Robert Maxbauer were also present.

Commissioner Barb Venturi was absent.

With a quorum present, Mayor Sage opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion: Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the agenda as changed with the addition extending the term of Sandra Beal to the Tourism Board. Second by Commissioner Bessette. Vote 4-0

Consent Agenda: Motion: Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve items a, b and d of the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Bessette. Vote 4-0. Consent Agenda, with the exception of item c, closed session minutes for the dates of January 13, 2012, February 7, 2012 and February 10, 2012, was adopted.

Public Comment Period: None

Manager Report: Town Manager Robert Maxbauer informed the board that the town had applied for a mitigation grant from the State's Emergency Management Fund to aid with structural change to town hall in order to avoid future flood damage. The amount requested was \$67,000.00 to be used to raise the floor two feet, prepare the site for entry to the new building and to establish an impervious surface in the new building to a height of 3 feet above floor level to keep wiring and equipment well out of harm's way from water damage. After speaking with Pamlico County Building Inspector, Skip Lee, it was noted that only minor additional details would be needed to approve the plans.

The Manager also stated that alternative plans, cost & funding would be available by the first budget workshop. It was further determined that once a plan and alternate plan was approved by the board and bids received, public input would be solicited.

Mr. Maxbauer reported that his meeting with Progress Energy representative Dan Oliver was very productive. Progress Energy agreed to maintain right of ways in which their lines were located adding to the town's efforts to control overgrown vegetation. The concept of the bike path connecting White Farm with the center of Oriental was received favorably by Mr. Oliver. Commissioner Summers recommended that the Park and Recreation Committee work with the town manager to have the current bike path plan ready for presentation to Progress Energy when funding was available.

A copy of the Manager's Report is attached to these minutes.

Addressing Commissioner Bessette's inquiry as to the progress of hiring a full time police officer, Mr. Maxbauer informed the board that a job description and ad were in place awaiting review by Commissioners Styron and Bessette.

Mayor Sage asked the board if anyone was interested in going into closed session. No comment.

Town attorney Scott Davis reported that the draft conveying title to the town of property along South Avenue and the closing of sections of South Avenue and Avenue A was expected to be in his office in the next week and would be available to the town board by mid May 2012.

In order to expedite the South Avenue project, Commissioner Summers made a motion to instruct the Town Manager, Robert Maxbauer, to obtain a survey for those sections of Avenue A and South Avenue involved in the transaction of the street closing and to make available the funds needed to complete the survey. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 4-0

In an attempt to further expedite the South Avenue project, Commissioner Summers suggested that the Parks and Recreation Board be involved with the size, form and shape of the dock. Once determined, the manager could provide specifications in order to solicit bids. Commissioner Summers agreed to present the idea to the Park & Rec. Board at their next meeting later this month.

Mayor Sage read aloud an email received from the School of Government inviting them to the upcoming graduation of Town Manager Robert J. Maxbauer from the Municipal Government Administration class held in Chapel Hill April 20th, 2012. Congratulations were extended to Mr. Maxbauer for his accomplishment.

The March 2012 Police Report was reviewed and is attached to these minutes. Officer Moore was complimented on his performance of duties.

Committee Reports:

Tourism, Tree Board and Planning Board Draft Minutes are attached.

Long Range II Report was presented by Charlie Overcash. He informed the board that the Long Range Committee and the Planning Board were preparing to have a finished draft of the Long Range Plan available for the town's attorney's review near the end of April 2012. From there the plan would be presented to the town board for approval followed by a public hearing in May 2012 and adoption in June 2012. It was stated that the plan would be reviewed approximately every five years and that the Long Range Committee would soon consolidate with the Planning Board.

The fence erected along Vandemere Street in the town's right-of-way was discussed. The consensus of the board was to ask the Town Manager to meet with the property owner and request that the fence be removed.

Non-Agenda: Commissioner Summers recommended that all committees review town ordinances pertaining to their creation in order to aid them with their April 15, 2012 budget request deadline.

Manager Maxbauer reported that he would collect the committee/board budget requests, communications between manager and committee/boards and present them along with his budget recommendations to the town board.

Commissioner Summers made a motion to direct the Town Manager, Robert Maxbauer, to obtain the cost and permitting requirements to extend a culvert at the town beach and to cover the culvert with sand to increase the usable area of the beach. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 4-0. It was also noted that the current condition of the culvert presented a hazard to those using the beach. Commissioner Johnson noted that the instructions were to obtain costs, not implement the project.

It was pointed out that Occupancy Tax Collections could fund the project should it be implemented.

Commissioner Johnson commented on the current removal of the house along White Farm previously occupied by the late Oriental Police Chief, Jim Bunn. It was explained that the land belonged to the Town of Oriental but that the trailer belonged to Jim Bunns' wife, Eleanor Bunn and that the town had agreed to permit Mr. and Mrs. Bunn use of the land for their lives.

With no further business Commissioner Styron made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Bessette. Vote 4-0

Time 7:59PM

William Sage, Mayor

Robert J. Maxbauer, Manager/Clerk