

Town of Oriental
Town Board Meeting
February 3, 2015

The Town Board of Oriental held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 7:00 pm. The Mayor determined a quorum to be present, and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Sage, Commissioners Overcash, White, Venturi, Summers and Winfrey, Town Manager Miller, Town Attorney Davis, Chief of Police Moore, Town Administrative Assistant Dimond, and public.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi motioned to amend the agenda, to move the closed session from agenda tab 7b to between tabs 4 and 5, Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner White motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

In the public comment period, Flora Moorman spoke to the Board about the upcoming Indoor Dragon Boat Festival, to be held on February 21, 2015 at Oriental Village Health and Fitness. Three Chinese-American teams will be traveling from the Raleigh Durham area to participate and a Chinese-American newspaper will be covering the event.

A public hearing was held on an amendment to GMO article VI 'Development Standards for Specific Uses,' concerning Recreational Vehicle Parks. In public comments, Madeline Sutter conveyed her approval of the proposed amendment, stating she thought it would be good for the town.

MOTION: Commissioner Overcash motioned to close the public hearing, Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Overcash motioned to adopt the proposed amendment, Commissioner Winfrey seconded.

The Commissioners commenced discussion on the motion to adopt the proposed Recreational Vehicle Parks amendment. Commissioner Summers expressed concern that the proposed regulations might make it too difficult for a RV Park to establish itself within Town limits, as well as questioning potentially contradicting wordage. Commissioner Venturi also voiced concerns that the proposed regulations would make it too hard for any RV Park to establish itself within the town.

MOTION: Commissioner Overcash motioned to call the question, Commissioner White

seconded. Motion passed 4-1.

MOTION:Return to Commissioner Overcash's motion to adopt the proposed amendment, seconded by Commissioner Winfrey. Motion passed 3-2: Commissioners Overcash, White, and Winfrey voting in favor; Commissioners Summers and Venturi opposed.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi motioned that the Board go into Closed Session to discuss the Cox vs. Town of Oriental lawsuit, Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:30 PM and reopened at 7:45 PM.

Following Closed Session, Town Manager Miller briefed the Board on the Manager's Report. In summary;

Public Works has hired a new employee, Jeremiah Witherup, and has new, warmer, uniforms. The Town's E-Billing system is now up and running, households must register online for access. The Town Board Retreat has been scheduled for a full day on Friday, March 13, 2015, and a half day on Saturday, March 14, 2015. At the Retreat, the Board will be prioritizing for the coming fiscal year. The Retreat will be taking place at Pamlico Community College.

The Town's police vehicles have new computers and the Town is working to get cameras installed in the vehicles.

A presentation on Cross Connection and Backflow will be presented to the public in a special Town Meeting on March 3, 2015. Town Manager Miller recommended that the special meeting take place at 6 PM, before the normal Town Board Meetings at 7 PM.

Commissioner Summers, Water Advisory Board Chair Mahan, and Mark Garner from Rapiers and Associates toured a RO water treatment facility on February 3, 2015. They will be presenting their findings in the near future. Mike Hill was in Town to check the water system. However, Mr. Hill was unable to go in and locate valves, due to the water table being too high from recent rain. He will try again in May. Paperwork on the water supply plan has been updated.

Permit applications for a 'floating B&B' and an adult day care facility will be presented to the planning board.

Included in the Commissioner's meeting packet is a CAMA application submitted by Knute Bysheim. Oriental has until February 25, 2015 to file comments and address if the application is compliant with local ordinances and zoning. Town Manager Miller asked that the Commissioners read the application and submit comments. A special meeting will most likely be called to look over comments and compile an official response to the application.

The handicapped, cement parking space for Town Hall has been poured and the sign is on its way.

Town Manager Miller noted firmer deadlines for the submission of ancillary board documents for Town Meeting packets.

The Indoor Dragon Boat Festival and dinner will be taking place February 21, 2015 and the

Chinese New Year dragon run will be taking place February 19, 2015. The Chinese New Year dragon run is not included in the 2010 resolution to streets for specific holidays. The April, In-Water Boat Show is also not included. It was suggested to amend the resolution at the March Town Meeting.

The water test that failed and resulted in shutting down Town water on January 29, 2015 was an effluent water test. The connection to Pamlico County water failed the first time, resulting in the Town's temporary water loss. Following a clean test, the connection back to Town water went seamlessly and it is expected that no problems will occur if the need for future connections arises.

The Town's audit was certified yesterday, the Mayor and Town Manager signed an amended audit contract. Auditor comments will come back and go to the State Treasurer by Friday. On the whole, this year's audit was much better than last's. The auditor will present at the March 3, 2015 Town Board Meeting.

The Pamlico County Board of Elections has sent Oriental an agreement, giving the Town the option of absentee and early voting. Based on last year's estimate, these additional options will cost approximately \$4,600.

MOTION: Commissioner White motioned to opt for absentee, early voting for Oriental municipal voting, Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The town of Oriental, Commissioners and public, have been invited by the Town of Bayboro to a meeting with the new Sherriff, Chris Davis, on February 17, 2015, 7:30 PM at the Pamlico County Courthouse.

The draft agreement from Rotary for the lease of Town property has been received, discussed with the Town Attorney, and will be put to the Board for approval at the March 3, 2015 meeting. The Pamlico Disaster County Hazard Mitigation Plan flood damage prevention ordinance will be given to the Board after the Planning Board has reviewed it.

Regarding the Town Board Retreat, Commissioners were asked to submit to the Town Manager topics that they would like to discuss.

Lisa Thompson, from the Harbor Water Fronts Committee, gave a presentation on recommended improvements to the Town's docks. Included in these suggestions; a ladder for the newest Town Dock, a tab on the Town's webpage that lists both Town and private docks and their GPS locations, building a 'key west' style directions pole with service type signs (e.g. bank, groceries, restrooms, etc.) listed in steps, the repainting of dock signs and the addition of signs that would be easier for boaters to see from the water, burgee flags to fly above Town docks, raising the height of the Town Dock registration boards, and changing the Town Dock registration form. The Harbor Water Fronts Committee has been working the Tourism Board and Parks and Recreation Committee to develop the plans for this project. All together the costs are projected to

be up to \$3,000. The committee will work towards putting up a laminated sign of Town Dock rules on the Town Dock registration boards.

MOTION: Commissioner White motioned to authorize up to \$3,000 from the Water Fronts holding account for the Harbor Water Fronts Committee to go forward with the recommendations made to the Board, Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

In the police report, Chief Moore reported that there had been an almost 50% decrease in incidents reported from last year.

There were no comments regarding ancillary board/ committee reports.

In the Commissioner comment/discussion period, Commissioner Overcash brought forward a proposal to adopt a Chinese sister city through Sister Cities International.

MOTION: Commissioner Overcash motioned to allocate \$175 for the Sister Cities International membership fee, Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Next, Commissioner Overcash brought forward the need for Board approval to close Hodges Street for the Chinese New Year dragon run.

MOTION: Commissioner Overcash motioned that Hodges Street, from the intersection with Factory Street to the intersection with Water Street, be closed from 4:00-4:30 PM on Thursday, February 19, 2015 for a Chinese New Year dragon run, Commissioner White seconded. Commissioner Venturi pointed out that the street might need to be closed longer to both cut off traffic and to allow more time for revealing. Commissioner Overcash amended his motion to change the time to 3:00-5:30 PM, Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Lastly, Commissioner Overcash noted to the Board that Oriental's ham radio club will be simulating an emergency on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, commencing at 7:30 PM. The club meets every Wednesday.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi motioned to adjourn, Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Bill Sage, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager