

Town of Oriental  
Town Board Meeting  
November 6, 2012

A regular scheduled meeting of the Town of Oriental Town Board was held at Oriental First Baptist Church, November 6, 2012, beginning at 7:00pm.

**Council Present:** Mayor Sage; Commissioners Johnson, Summers, and Venturi.

**Council Absent:** Commissioners Bessette and Styron

**Others Present:** Town Manager Maxbauer; Police Officer Dwaine Moore; Barbara Baker; Laura Penninger; various town residents; and media.

Mayor Sage determined that a quorum was present. He opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then went on to suggest a rearrangement of the agenda, with no objections from the council, to have the public comment section in conjunction with the issue of the fire siren location.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with the exception of moving item number seven (Fire Siren at Town Hall) to item number three (Public Comment Period) Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed. 3-0

The approval of agenda minutes from September 27, 2012; regular minutes from October 2, 2012; and special meeting minutes from October 29, 2012 were discussed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve and adopt the consent agenda as corrected at the November 1, 2012 Agenda Meeting. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed. 3-0

**Fire Siren Location/Public Comment:** Mayor Sage gave a brief update of what took place at the Special Meeting held on October 29, 2012. Two questions were asked and answered. Question 1. Why do we need the siren? Answer: We need the siren for public health, safety, and economics due to rising insurance cost. Question 2. Where do we need the siren? Answer: Placement was limited by availability of 3-phase power. There are three places that currently have that capability: Town Hall, Well Site B, and the Water Plant. Discussion was also given to the availability of backup power. The water plant has a new generator which allows single phase and three phase backup power. It was determined the siren cannot be placed at the South East Pamlico Volunteer Fire Station because they do not have three phase power and it would be expensive to upgrade.

Mayor Sage further stated that representatives from the fire station, the Town Manager, and two Town Commissioners had met and discussed various solutions and options of where to place the fire siren.

Various options and opinions were offered by the public. Mayor Sage and Commissioners assured the public that they are concerned with the health and safety of the citizens of Oriental and by conjunction, the County citizens serviced by the South East Pamlico Volunteer Fire

Department. Barbara Stockton read and submitted for the record, a letter which will be hence forth attached to and made a part of these official minutes. Commissioner Venturi spoke briefly regarding the location placement of the siren.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the South East Pamlico Volunteer Fire Department's request to return the refurbished siren to Town of Oriental Town Hall location. This is to be accomplished in coordination with the Oriental Town Manager and the South East Pamlico Volunteer Fire Department. The South East Pamlico Volunteer Fire Department will pay the expenses for such action. Commissioner Venturi seconded.

Commissioner Johnson called for discussion. He thanked the fire department for their services. He also questioned the amount the fire department has agreed to pay. Fire Chief Alan Arnfast stated that the fire department would pay for the pole and any expenses to have the siren properly mounted and made operational. Motion passed. 3-0

**South Avenue Update:** Mayor Sage stated that he had spoken with Attorney Scott Davis. The answer of the town was filed a few weeks ago. The pleading period is closed and the Town Attorney is working on discovery. The Town will determine if discovery is to be undertaken and if so what that discovery is to be.

**Tourism Board:** Ms. Jackie Wall asked to be taken off the agenda in light of the complexity of tonight's meeting regarding the fire siren. It was noted that the Spirit of Christmas is the second Saturday in December.

**Internet Sweepstakes:** The Council has heard from the planning board and received proposed changes to the Growth Management Ordinance (GMO) in regards to setting regulations for what are popularly called internet sweepstakes cafes or outlets. It was noted that any proposed changes to the GMO requires a public hearing.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venturi made a motion to schedule the public hearing for the proposed changes to the GMO for December 4, 2012, the next regular Town Council meeting. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed. 3-0

Commissioner Johnson clarified that the proposed changes to the GMO are not limited to just the internet sweepstakes. It also includes adult bookstores, adult entertainment, electronic gaming, and tattoo parlors.

**Town Hall Renovation Project:** Town Manager Maxbauer presented a spreadsheet that explains expenditures, a copy of which to be made a part of these official minutes. There was some discussion regarding the expenditures.

**Manager's Report:** A manager's monthly report was received and reviewed by the Board, a copy of which to be made a part of these official minutes. No action taken.

**Police Report:** The police report was received and reviewed by the Board, a copy of which to be made a part of these official minutes. No action taken.

**Committee/Board Reports:** The minutes to the Committees/Boards were reviewed, a copy of which to be made a part of these official minutes. No action taken.

**Non-agenda Items:** It was noted that the Town Dodge truck is in need of repair. There was some discussion whether or not to repair or sell the truck. The decision was made to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> estimate and repair the dodge truck.

**Commissioners' Comment/Discussion Period:** Commissioner Venturi informed the Town Board that the Parks and Recreation Committee is working on a proposed gift policy for the Board to review with regards to gifts and donations made to the Town in honor or memory of individuals. The Tree Board is also contributing suggestions to the policy.

There being no further business, Commissioner Summers made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed. 3-0. Meeting was adjourned.

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William R. Sage, Mayor

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Robert J. Maxbauer, Town Manager