

**Oriental Town Board Meeting  
May 1, 2012**

Present were: Mayor Sage and Commissioners Bessette, Styron, Summers, Johnson, and Venturi.

Absent were: Attorney Scott Davis and Town Manager Robert Maxbauer.

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 with the following added to item number 12, Non-agenda items: Approval of town hall plans, Budget amendment to begin construction of town hall and request from the Tarpon and Fishing Tournament to reserve static parking spaces for boats on Hodges Street and use of the town dock. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0

Consent Agenda: Motion: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve items a, b, c-2, d, e and f of the Consent Agenda. Item c-1, approval of the April 15, 2012 minutes, was withdrawn. Second by Commissioner Summers. Vote 5-0. Item c-1 of the Consent Agenda was approved with a correction of the date from April 15, 2012 to April 13, 2012.

In order to accommodate guest speakers Dr. Wanda Dawson, Ms. Dunbar and Ms. Rice, representing the Pamlico County School District, the public comment period was moved until after the presentation. Using power-point handouts, the speakers briefly reviewed instructional programs offered by the school, academic achievements of staff and students, graduation and dropout rates and statistical comparison to other schools in the state.

Dr. Dawson parting request was to ask for volunteers to assist with various school programs and to extend an invitation for all present to visit the school.

Public Comment Period: David Cox reminded those present of the importance of the upcoming election to fill four seats on the Pamlico County School Board.

Al Herlands, representing Grace Evans and Charlie Overcash, asked that the Oriental West Condominiums not benefit from their failure to secure a land use permit prior to construction/replacement of a deck. He also urged that conditions placed on any permit be strictly monitored for compliance.

Mayor Sage reported on the progress of the South Avenue Project. He informed the board that the survey map prepared by Dennis Fornes might still require minor modifications and explained that the contract would provide for the closing of portions of South Avenue and Avenue A, contained provisions to address remnants of roads that may or may not still be in existence and provided for the rededication of a portion of South Avenue.

Mayor Sage recommended that the board continue the current meeting to provide sufficient time for receipt and review of the contract as well as provide the town manager opportunity for input. Once the contract was reviewed and approved a public hearing could be scheduled. Mayor Sage also asked the board to consider moving the budget workshop from Monday, May 7, 2012 at 8:00 am to Tuesday, May 8, 2012 in an effort to accommodate working board members.

Long Range Comprehensive Plan: Mayor Sage presented the three parts of the plan beginning with a one page ordinance that if adopted would become part of the Town's General Ordinance. He pointed out that census data would be available by mid May and would become part of the plan. The first chapter of the plan is based on the town's vision statement and the third part included a list of all plans the town currently has as well as plans that would be beneficial for the town to have. Mayor Sage points out that the plan can easily be added to and was compiled with input from the community, committees and board members. She noted that a few minor changes had been made and were highlighted for easy recognition. Mayor Sage explains that once the ordinance was adopted, while not necessary, a public hearing would be held to solicit public comments before adopting the plan. Unsure if the ordinance had been reviewed by the town attorney the consensus was to readdress the adoption request during the continuation of the meeting.

Public Hearing to consider a special use permit by the Steamer Restaurant: Commissioner Summers made a motion to set a public hearing for June 5, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the First Baptist Church. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

Public Hearing to consider adoption of the Comprehensive Long Range Plan: Commissioner Venturi made a motion to set a public hearing for June 5, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the First Baptist Church. Second by Commissioner Summers. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Sage informed those present that town manager Robert Maxbauer's absence was due to attending a class in Raleigh in order to continue his efforts to secure all certifications required to maintain the town's water supply system. He informed the board that Mr. Maxbauer held a C-Well and C-Distribution certificate and was in the process of obtaining his B-Well and B-Distribution certificates. There were no questions pertaining to the manager's report.

Budget Amendment: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve a \$60,000.00 budget amendment from Revenue line item #359, Powell Fund Appropriated to Expense line item # 631, Powell Funds Repair & Maintenance. Second by Commissioner Summers. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Summers commended the town manager, Robert Maxbauer, on a job well done referencing the recent paving of Factory and Main Streets.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve a \$25,000.00 budget amendment to purchase a generator for the water plant. The revenue source is from Fund Balance Appropriated, line item # 315 to line item # 567, New Generator. Commissioner Johnson further stated that the funds are to be repaid from FEMA reimbursements designated specifically for the generator, excess of FEMA fund left over in the Water Fund and by the sale of the existing generator to the General Fund. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Johnson presented for review his suggestion that Hurricane Irene expenses in the General Fund be offset by receipt of the next FEMA reimbursement, an amount expected to be \$12,288.76. He explained the benefits of reviewing financial statements without the hindrance of hurricane expenses comingled with regular expenses. Commissioner Johnson suggested that his proposal be presented to the town manager at either the next budget workshop or in the continued meeting.

Police Report: Mayor Sage declined comment on a recent Broad Street incident explaining the investigation was still in process.

Internet Sweepstakes Regulations: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to refer Internet Sweepstakes regulations for the town to the Planning Board for review and recommendations. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Venturi commended Day, Doug Sligh, Sue Magnuson and Jane Olson for their part in placing Oriental on the map for the Coastal Alternative on the Maine to Key West bike route. Ms. Venturi urged those present to encourage the Pamlico County Commissioners to support the plan.

Non-agenda:

Charles Skinner, chairman of the Tarpon and Inshore Fishing Tournament requested that the organization be permitted use of the town dock as a weigh station during the August 17 & 18, 2012 tournament. He requested to be permitted to place a sign on the dock two weeks prior to the event but stated that there would be no damage to the dock by the erection of the sign. He further sought permission for the static parking of boats along 70 feet on either side of the dock on Hodges Street. The activities would begin noon on Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and continue throughout the day on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. The evening barbeque was expected to draw over 400 diners and was to be held at the Oriental Marina. After discussing pedestrian safety along Hodges Street during the event, Commissioner Summers made a motion to close a portion of Hodges Street, subject to final determination of the Oriental Police Chief as to the exact location of the closure, beginning approximately near the overpass railings near Garland Fulcher Seafood and ending near the Witt's Inn, to provide for the static parking of boats along the street 70' on either side of the dock and to allow use of the dock August 17, 18 and 19, 2012. Second by Commissioner Bessette. Vote 5-0.

After a brief discussion of the proposed cost of \$292,000.00 for town hall renovations, Commissioner Venturi made a motion to approve town hall elevations as presented by the town manager at the April 13, 2012 budget workshop. Elevation, floor plan and associated cost projects (numbered as item 1-4) are attached to these minutes. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 5-0.

Budget amendment: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve a \$100,000.00 budget amendment form the General Fund Balance Appropriated, line item # 357 to the Town Hall Renovation expense line item # 539. Second by Commissioner Summers. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Summers made a motion to direct the Town clerk to send to each Town Committee a current copy of the ordinance sections that formed those committees. Committees are directed to

respond by the June 2012 agenda meeting any recommended changes to the ordinance. Responses will be subject to review by the town board. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Summers announced that plans were still underway to travel to Raleigh to protest the Ferry charge.

The May 7, 2012 budget workshop was changed to Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 1:00pm.

Commissioner Bessette made a motion to continue the May 1, 2012 Town Board of Commissioners Meeting to Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at noon in the First Baptist Church. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

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William Sage, Mayor

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Robert J. Maxbauer, Manager/Clerk