



## ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 7pm  
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC  
Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on June 4, 2019 was called to order at 7pm. Mayor Belangia  
7 determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. She said we have  
8 a Public Comment period, if you wish to speak please make sure you are signed up on the correct sheet as there are  
9 also two Public Hearings this evening.

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11 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price, Commissioner  
12 Dammeyer, Commissioner Simmons, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox,  
13 Administrative Assistant Jeannine Russo, Officer Nic Blayne, Officer Bill Wichrowski and Members of the Public.

### 14 15 1. Approval of Agenda

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17 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to approve the Agenda. Seconded by **Commissioner Dammeyer**.  
18 Motion passed 5-0.

### 19 20 2. Consent Agenda (Tab 1)

- 21 a. Consider Approval of Minutes from Town Board Regular Meeting May 7, 2019  
22 b. Consider Approval of Budget Meeting Minutes from May 8, 2019

23  
24 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by **Commissioner**  
25 **Simmons**. Motion passed 5-0.

### 26 27 3. Public Comment Period

28 No Public comment

29  
30 **4. Public Hearing #1 (Tab 2) Public Hearing for the 2019-2020 Budget. A balanced budget was delivered to the**  
31 **Board as required by N.C.G.S. §159-11(b), no later than June 1, and was published on the Town website and at**  
32 **Town Hall for review. The Manager respectfully requests approval of the presented budget and notes it requires no**  
33 **tax or service fee increases. Also included is Capital Reserve Ordinance 2019-08.**

34  
35 Manager Miller stated for our Revenue, there is no tax increase or water fee increase and stated one cent on the tax  
36 rate would give us \$22,396. The Town had an addition of \$1.5M in property but does not currently have a figure for  
37 property lost. Collection rate is 97%, which was 99.8% last year. Part of this is reduction in values awarded to  
38 people who lost properties in the storm. The current percentage is the collection percentage Manager Miller is  
39 statutorily allowed to budget in the next fiscal year. Manager Miller explained we are required to keep 8% in reserve  
40 but, for our size, are recommended to keep closer to 50% for catastrophic events. Whittaker Pointe project is not in  
41 the budget as it is totally grant funded. Manager Miller spoke about the South Water Street project, currently out to  
42 bid, fix drainage from Academy to South Water and lay curb and gutter. She will then ask the Board to amend the  
43 Parking Ordinance to make that street one way. Drainage work is ongoing. Spoke about the Water Fund budget –  
44 tank maintenance, replacement of large pieces of equipment.

45  
46 Manager Miller spoke about a deferment of the previous year's scheduled donation to the Public Works Capital  
47 Reserve and Resolution 2019-08 was presented to the Board that is attached to the Fiscal Budget. \$15,000 was put  
48 aside to replace the generator. This is being replaced by FEMA and insurance. This cannot be moved into operating  
49 cash, must be moved to another Capital Project and suggests that the skid steer established in this fiscal year, that  
50 this be rolled into that project and defer an additional payment this fiscal year saving that and puts us \$5,000 ahead.  
51 Sanitation Fund will be subsidized at the end of 18-19 by \$23-29,000. Went over subcommittees funding. There  
52 were significant increases in chemical and testing costs. Manager Miller explained as we have used a lot of in-house  
53 labor into our recovery, we may be paid back more from FEMA that it cost us for man hours and hours on  
54 equipment. In that event, we can put that toward Capital projects or purchases but cannot revert it to the General

55 Operating Fund. There are no new meter purchases this fiscal year and will move on with what we have in stock.  
56 Recovery projects will be added as they are finished and reimbursed. As far as we know, Pamlico County Tax Rate  
57 is not changing.

58  
59 Manager Miller referred back to the Resolution 2019-08 to move the reserve for the generator to Public Works for  
60 the skid steer, this equipment is specifically for drainage.

61  
62 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Commissioner**  
63 **Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0.

64  
65 **Mayor Pro Tempore White:** What is our reserve now? Was it 90% we hold in reserve.

66 **Manager Miller:** 91%.

67 **Mayor Pro Tempore White:** 91% of our budget is in reserve for catastrophe so while we are not funding a  
68 catastrophe this year, we have 91% of our budget in reserve for that.

69 **Manager Miller:** Yes sir.

70 **Mayor Pro Tempore White:** And then the other two things about revenue is that even though the County says we  
71 can only forecast at 97%, our rate is higher so we the actual what we collect from property taxes, what actually will  
72 go into our revenue line whereas what we have to put in the budget is 97% so...

73 **Manager Miller:** The other thing is we have so many new housing starts and so many revaluations.

74 **Mayor Pro Tempore White:** So at a minimum we are almost 2, 2.7, 3% above what they get and then the last thing  
75 is we always have trouble with sales tax because now that sales tax is on labor, it is a really good boon for us but we  
76 were conservative in our forecasting of what our sales tax would be so we have got three areas that I think will  
77 surpass the budget from a revenue point of view. While we are a bare bones budget, we actually have a lot of fluff in  
78 there that we can fall back on and FEMA like you mentioned.

79 **Manager Miller:** I hope to outperform the forecasted numbers.

80 **Mayor Pro Tempore White:** Which we have done every year and this has enabled us to hold taxes at a zero rate.  
81 The one thing that we do have to look I think as we come up in our next fiscal budget is that fact that we are  
82 subsidizing trash and recycling at about \$44,000 so there may be something that we have to do in that area.

83 **Manager Miller:** Plus we are renewing our trash and recycling contract and in the first year, we are guaranteed no  
84 hikes but we have no guarantees in the second and third year other than we can opt out of recycling if it becomes  
85 cost prohibitive.

86 **Mayor Pro Tempore White:** If we do, we also know that people have opted out of their contracts and tried to re-  
87 contract have gotten substantially higher rates from the people that are available.

88 **Mayor Belangia:** Are there any more questions or comments? How about the public?

89 **Commissioner Overcash:** Do you want to close it?

90 **Mayor Belangia:** Yes, if there is not any more questions or comments.

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

94  
95 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to approve the Budget as stated and adopt Resolution 2019-08.  
96 Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**. Motion passed 5-0.

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98 **5. Public Hearing #2 (Tab 3) Chapter S Fee Schedule.** *The Manager offers adjustments to the Fee Schedule simply*  
99 *to cover our cost of operation in annexation, large map copies and installation of new taps onto our water system.*  
100 *All of these fees are connected to contracted services and the proposed changes cover those costs to the Town.*

101  
102 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Mayor Pro Tempore**  
103 **White**. Motion passed 5-0.

104  
105 **Manager Miller:** Ma'am, these are very minimal adjustments to the Chapter S Fee Schedule. It is always required  
106 to have a Public Hearing for any fee adjustment. What we are looking at are all contracted costs. The water tap fees  
107 are costing us more than we are taking in and this is a fee that is charged to tap a new previously vacant parcel onto  
108 our existing water system because we contract hot taps out. Also, the Annexation Petition, the bulk of the cost is  
109 contracted activity. We have to have signs made. We have to do advertisement and we spend a significant amount

110 money in legal fees, also contracted. We are looking at getting rid of the \$50 fee and establishing a \$1,000 fee. That  
111 is on average what the last two annexations have cost us so we have eaten quite a bit of money on that. A copy of  
112 the map - as we all get older, we prefer a bigger map, and we do not have the facilities to print those, like the ones  
113 that we roll out on the floor, so if we need to get a bigger map the Eastern Carolina Council of Government is kind  
114 enough to print those off for us but it does cost us. Those are the only adjustments proposed to the Fee Schedule.

115 **Mayor Belangia:** Questions or comments?

116 **Commissioner Overcash:** Any public comments?

117 **Mayor Belangia:** Public comments or questions?

118

119 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Commissioner Dammeyer**.  
120 Motion passed 5-0.

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122 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to adopt the Chapter S Fee Schedule as presented. Seconded by  
123 **Commissioner Dammeyer**. Motion passed 5-0.

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125 **6. Appointments - The Board of Adjustment offers two candidates for reappointment- Mr. Joe Valinoti and Mr.**  
126 **Doug Carmichael. Ms. Cecily Lohmar requests reappointment to the Planning Board.**

127

128 Manager Miller stated Ms. Lohmar has served for some time on the Planning Board and has taken on more outside  
129 responsibilities and is seeking a replacement but has agreed to be reappointed to the Board until a replacement can  
130 be found. Her term expires this month. Also, Mr. Valinoti and Mr. Carmichael of the Board of Adjustment need to  
131 be reappointed, have both agreed. This Board has also received a resignation from Mr. Warren Johnson and are  
132 searching for a replacement.

133

134 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to accept the recommendations for the Board of Adjustment and  
135 Planning Board. Seconded by **Mayor Pro Tempore White**. **Mayor Pro Tempore White** asked with the resignation  
136 of Mr. Warren Johnson from the Board of Adjustment if they have a quorum if they meet. Manager Miller  
137 responded they do as they have alternates. Motion passed 5-0.

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#### 139 **7. Water Shortage – Voluntary Conservation**

140 Manager Miller wished to urge voluntary conservation and showed excerpts from our Water Shortage Response  
141 Plan – particular steps that are “statutorily enforceable.” She further states we are not going to our Water Shortage  
142 Response Plan and are asking for voluntary water conservation (the information shown will be posted to the  
143 website). Correspondence was received from the Water Supply Development Coordinator in the Division of Water  
144 Resources asking all water systems in the state to respond to them if they are in Water Shortage Response Plan and  
145 at which level. Manager Miller explained how this is determined and what residents can do to conserve. Mayor Pro  
146 Tempore White stated some people have wells that they have dug and this would not apply to them.

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#### 148 **8. Hurricane Community Forum (Tab 4) June 12, 2019**

149 The Pamlico Amateur Radio Society has paired up with NOAA and are doing a Hurricane Community Forum on  
150 June 12, 2019 from 6-8pm in our large board room. Some of the information Manager Miller and Deputy Finance  
151 Director Cox received from Resilience Training will also be available – things that may have not been previously  
152 considered that can be done on a regular basis in preparation for storm season.

153

#### 154 **9. Police Report (Tab 5)**

155 Officer Blayney presented the Police Report. He spoke about the new business check forms for businesses and  
156 residents. These let the business/home owner know that Officers Blayney or Wichrowski have been there and time,  
157 whether it was or was not secure. The reason for these is to develop a timeline so in the event something goes  
158 wrong, they have a timeline. Commissioner Overcash asked about the phone number on the form. It is the office  
159 number so the resident can call and speak to one of the officers if there is an issue. Officer Blayney was asked about  
160 three larcenies in the police report – two of them solved themselves; the other a larceny from a boat and are looking  
161 into this. There were six Town events and all went well. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked Officer Wichrowski if he  
162 is continuing to check boats each morning and he is. Officer Wichrowski hopes that the transient boaters know the  
163 docks are being monitored and has not had any problems, registration forms are being filled out, 48-hour limit is  
164 being observed.

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**10. Manager’s Report (Tab 6)**

- Financials are attached
- The auditor is coming Thursday, June 6 to finish up details on 2016-17 Audit and next Thursday and Friday, June 13 and 14 to do the field work for the 2017-18 Audit so we will be in compliance by the end of the fiscal year.
- Dog tags for the dog park expire June 30. The new tags are in and Animal Control and Oriental Police will be checking tags at the Dog Park.
- Cycle NC has designated Oriental for its Spring 2020 ride and there are no rooms available in Town. Commissioner Price asked if the Tourism breakfast will still be held on the third Thursday; it will, at Brantley’s at 8am – June 20. Tourism will be taking the lead on all of the details.
- Manager Miller and Deputy Finance Director Cox will be out at a Resilience Meeting in Havelock on June 11 and 12.
- The Joint Land Use Study is a document that regulates planning between the federal entity that is MCAS Cherry Point and the City of Havelock. They do things such as purchase land at the end of runways and ensure the clear zones are not developed, etc. Manager Miller feels we, in Pamlico County, have a duty to stand up for our residents, and participate at the table and will attend this meeting.
- Daniel Early will be testing on June 13 on the last of his educational series, Physical Chemicals.
- Public Works Director/ORC Andrew Cox will be going to conference in June (17-20) and will give him all of the credits he needs for the year.
- The Board will have the Capital Improvement Plan on June 27 at the Quarterly Agenda Meeting.
- NCDOT restriped part of Broad Street, not correctly, and there was an accident. Manager Miller contacted the DOT engineer. Officer Blayney will contact SHP and will get the situation rectified.
- We received the permit to set the Croakerfest fireworks from the bridge.
- Certificates are attached that were received by Officers Blayney and Wichrowski for training.
- Mayor Pro Tempore White asked if there were any updates on Whittaker Pointe. Manager Miller showed slides of the project and spoke about the scoping meeting held with all of the environmental agencies. She has received a revised drawing which incorporates the comments at the meeting and shared details of the work to be done, which is a combination of rock, fill and oysters. Manager Miller is hoping we can shore it up enough to gain ground. Commissioner Overcash inquired about an earlier conversation where if more rock was needed we may need more money. Manager Miller stated there is a request in to NCDENR; additional money became available following Hurricane Florence for restoration projects. This is for an additional \$300,000 for more rock. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked if we got the permits. Manager Miller stated this is the plan that goes with the permit application. The engineer adjusted the plan according to the feedback from those agencies. Commissioner Overcash asked if we do not get additional money for rock, what will happen. Manager Miller stated we will go as far as we can go until money runs out and will go in stages until we locate the rest of the funds. Slides from Jim Blackerby of HWAC showing damage that occurred in Hurricane Florence were shown, discussed collapse of the system since the hurricane.

**11. Committee Reports (Tab 7)**

- HWAC – April Minutes
- Tree Board – Did not meet
- Planning Board – February 20, 2019, March 20, 2019 - did not meet in April
- BRMSD – May Minutes

**12. Commissioner Comments**

Mayor Pro Tempore White asked where we are on the jurisdictional survey on the water. Manager Miller stated she has not heard anything. No other Commissioner comments.

**13. Adjourn.** Next meeting scheduled as June 27, 2019 at 8am. (potential budget amendments, meeting schedule, capital improvement plan) + any long term projects. Discussed if the Board will meet on July 2 or move any business to that Quarterly Agenda Meeting. Mayor Belangia and the Board agree to complete all business at the June 27 meeting, and cancel the July 2 meeting.

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220 **Commissioner Simmons** made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by **Commissioner Price**. Motion passed 5-0.

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222 Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

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227 Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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231 Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_