

**RE: FW: Meeting with Town Manager**

From: billsage@townoforiental.com

Sent: Sun, Feb 17, 2013 at 11:36 pm

To: kwjohnson@centurylink.net

Cc: cechele@yahoo.com, pstyron@embarqmail.com, larsum@aol.com, barbventuri@gmail.com, manager@townoforiental.com

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Dear Warren,

I have reviewed your recap of concerns about the town hall project. I understand that you and Commissioner Bessette met with Bob Maxbauer to go line-by-line and item-by-item through all of the details of the town hall project and that of all of the myriad details, the list encompasses the few on which you had questions. I believe that in an in-house building project of this size and scope and given the result of such an incredibly fine facility, to have this few questions by Board members is indeed remarkable. Even though on a couple of your concerns, you and Bob "agreed to disagree," none of them is other than the result of decisions made by the Manager as the town's budget and finance officer and as construction supervisor, in the exercise of his sound judgment based upon his years of experience and training.

I like to try to find analogies to help myself and others understand issues. The process of administering the budget that the Board has given him, including the construction budget, is like the Manager having thousands of round and square pegs and even more round and square holes. He exercises his judgment in the many decisions each day of which pegs ought to go into which holes. Some of the pegs will fit into more than one corresponding hole, either of which is fitting and proper. Your disagreement on a scant few points is disagreement over which of two or more holes into which to put a perfectly fitting peg. Neither is wrong, but Bob is the one charged with making the decision of into which hole the peg goes, among all of the holes into which it fits. Bob agreed with you on some of the items but not others; his judgment prevails.

The ultimate determination as to whether any of the round pegs are in square holes, or vice versa, is made by the outside auditor. Of course, no one is suggesting that anything of the kind exists. The auditor has just finished the annual presentation of the audit for the previous fiscal year in a public meeting (the first full Board meeting in our new facility). And another glowing report it was; one in which the Board can be justifiably pleased and proud. Having increased our fund balance during fiscal year 2010-11 by about \$110000; we added \$19100 more last year (a devastating hurricane Irene notwithstanding) through the able stewardship and leadership of our Manager. And, I might add, Chris Burton and his associate were very impressed with the results of the massive construction project our Manager had just completed.

This should be a time for the Manager, the Board, town employees and, indeed, the entire town and beyond to celebrate and be grateful that we have an outstanding government and community facility. Our town hall will be a model for other towns to see what can be done with a vision and a leader capable of making it a reality. I am certainly thankful that our Manager has brought about this fine facility and for the courageous Board of Commissioners' decisions to undertake it. I am also thankful and excited that, with this Manager, we are capable of creating other visions and executing them for the water plant, public works facilities and our parks and green spaces for the benefit of our citizens and visitors alike.

Thanks again Warren for your thorough review with Michelle and Bob of the details of the town hall project. I hope that you and all of the Commissioners will join me in expressing our thanks to Bob Maxbauer for what he has done. I hope he will stay with us long enough to accomplish many more good things for Oriental.