



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 8:00AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Quarterly Workshop Meeting held on Thursday, January 26, 2023 was called to order
2 at 8:00 AM in the large Board Room. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present, and opened the meeting.
3 The meeting was open to the public. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's website at
4 www.TownofOriental.com.

5
6 Present:, Mayor Sally Belangia Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioners Overcash, Price, Winfrey, and Roe,
7 Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Officer Tammy Cox, both Police Officers and members of the public.

8
9 The Mayor proposed to amend the agenda by inserting an opportunity for Public Comment.

10
11 The Amended Agenda was approved by a **MOTION** from Commissioner Roe, seconded by Commissioner
12 Overcash. 5-0.

13
14 Nobody spoke at Public Comment.

15
16
17 1. Police Data for Speeding Enforcement: displayed documentation of speeding enforcement from education and
18 enforcement as well as other required training. Police managed 112 days of speeding enforcement.
19 Class/supervised enforcement/enforcement. Forty hours per year of CE required. Our Officers did over 300
20 hours of training- all listed. Noted Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate – 7:30AM we will be celebrating
21 Officers' achievements. Event participation numbers. Commissioner Roe asks Officers if we have made a dent.
22 Officer Wichrowski notes positive reaction to speed sign, decoy car, citation writing. Still have problems in the
23 normal places, but getting better. For two officers, we're doing everything we can to address the problem.
24 Checkpoints- we participate, we do not set those up. Discussed distance that the sign shoots forward. Questioned
25 the possibility of getting more electronic signs. Our numbers do not include Sheriff's enforcement or NC SHP
26 enforcement. Question concerning the time officers spend in court- sometimes all day on a Friday, sometimes on
27 call. County is aware when we have officers on and when we do not. Commissioner Roe asks if crime in general
28 is escalating? No- discussed drug activity. Residents should say something if they see something- absolutely.

29
30 2. Manager's Annual Review: Mayor Pro Tempore White notes the review is in Closed Session March 7.
31 Commissioner Roe noted he is attending NCLM class in Bayboro on employee performance. Clarifying that we
32 should be rating her on specific goals, not things like "Is she trustworthy?" It should be more that "she must
33 maintain her certification.", "Is she attending meetings that benefit the Town?" "Are we keeping our employees
34 safe?" Some things are out of her control- if we don't fund it, she can't do it. We need to agree on a list of things
35 to rate her on- she did these things, and so, X. Manager notes that with review in March, she still has until June
36 30 to make it happen. Commissioner Overcash notes that Commissioner Roe went with her and now understand
37 the number of contacts she has. Mayor Pro Tempore White notes that we can't ask her to do 56 things- be
38 realistic.

39
40 Question from the audience about pay and classification: We use the NCLM Annual Salary survey- plug our
41 staff into positions depending on what they do, average the salaries, cut into 20 steps because it is a 10 year
42 weighted average, and assign. Last time we did that, it took us three years to get to the state averages, and as
43 long as we give an accurate COLA, we should be able to keep up. Our staff doesn't do just one thing- we don't
44 have P&R, water-only, public works-only people-mowing people, plumbers- they do it all. We could also pay a
45 firm to conduct a pay and class study- anywhere from \$10K-\$20K to reclassify all our positions and determine

- 46 suggested pay rates and grades. Board seems to be comfortable with our last pay and class. Staff will do as
47 directed.
- 48
- 49 3. Staggered terms- Manager notes if you choose to move to 4 year terms- Mayor and top two vote getters are in for
50 4 years, next three are in for 2 years to get the stagger. Manager notes the process for amending the Charter by
51 Ordinance- announce intent, Public Hearing, then wait another meeting to adopt the Ordinance amending the
52 Charter. If you want to do this, you'd have to start soon. People can petition to stop the process. Advantage is
53 that all of you cannot be unseated all at once- there is continuity. If you stagger two year terms, you have
54 elections every year. Commissioner Overcash notes we have had Commissioners that miss a lot of meetings,
55 Commissioners that circle back continuously. Commissioner price asks about moving to even years- large
56 municipalities have been forced onto the even years purely from a cost point of view. Mayor Pro Tempore White
57 notes there is a period where someone has to serve a strange (odd) number of years to get the stagger right.
58 Commissioner Roe notes we would have to get moving soon. You do not have a petition of intent, so earliest you
59 can start is February. Does not see what's wrong with how we do it.
- 60
- 61 4. Roads - \$154M has been distributed by State for Powell funds-from an algorithm that includes population and
62 miles of road. This is where lack of response to the Census hurts us- this, emergency management funding,
63 health care funding, etc. Certified as less than previous Census- then there are adjustments- 880 people- we have
64 21 new SFR, no way we lost, except that second homes don't count as permanent residents. We were told
65 Powell would go down, it did not, it went up- slightly. \$42,000 this year. Our 30 year accounting of receipt of
66 Powell funds. Used to be used for PW salaries, ditchwork, pothole patch. We filed a waiver and were granted to
67 allow us to keep 20 years worth of funds to save up for larger projects. Manager shows we have \$309,886.45
68 available. Bid received is \$333, 950.00 for the 5 worst roads according to street assessment. You also have the
69 bid. Bid it out twice- received one bid. Part of our meeting with the Legislators was to lay out exactly this issue.
70 The other issue was re-laying our distribution system. Grant options require a match- which we have. Water has
71 nothing available for the match for a low reserve. Depreciation costs take the paper reserve less than the cash
72 reserve. If we borrow the money from fund to fund- ABSOLUTELY, but you need to identify a new separate
73 funding stream to pay for that loan. Commissioner Roe identifies what we're looking at- Either- approve and
74 take the \$24,064 from reserve or cut out roads, or see if Legislators come up with something we match to. We
75 can reject the bid. Commissioner Roe says we need to make something happen. Commissioner Overcash asks
76 about the time frame. No idea on the Legislators. Bid is good for 30 days. Commissioner Winfrey notes if we
77 reject and go re-bid, the bid may go up. What road would we drop off? Manager notes likely Mildred because
78 that is higher on the list of acceptability from the assessment. Question- how much got put back at end of the
79 year? Audit not back- usually \$50-\$70K. Commissioner Roe believes we need to do it. Manager reminds that
80 every separate event adds the \$25,000 mobilization fee. Commissioner discussion continues. Commissioner Roe
81 makes a MOTION to accept the bid, take the extra out of general funds, research to see if we have something
82 squirreled away that we can pull from. We have to appropriate enough to cover the project when we execute the
83 contract. Mayor Pro Tempore White would like to take it from the drainage fund. Commissioner Overcash asks
84 how much we will put back from the end of the year. We do not have those numbers from the auditor yet. He
85 would like to keep the drainage and take it from GF appropriated. Board wants those two answers.
86 Commissioner Winfrey sees both sides. Can we find out what dropping Mildred off will cost us? Commissioner
87 Roe tables the MOTION. Problem at S Water and Main. Can we do something there? Unaware if we can patch
88 that big a space. Ask Public Works, please. Manhole at Main and Broad- Manager notes Bay River rehabbed
89 manhole and NCDOT paved. Gravel to be put at parking lot to street. Question from the audience: Mr. Szerlag:
90 have we had a drainage assessment? We had a MAPPING done. A few large projects completed. This time of
91 year is when PW does assessment and then goes to worst to best.
- 92
- 93 5. Communication- Commissioner Overcash takes the lead. We've been discussing this for months. He has met
94 with Ms. Frazer's social media person and Andrea Bruce for some ideas on improving communication. Still in
95 the information gathering stages. Manager shows what we do already- our reach, our pathways. Town Dock is a
96 good pathway also. Marsha and Julie Rahm are also involved in looking at new pathways. Manager reminds
97 Board that she will be gone Feb 1-3 and meeting is Feb 7. Materials needed early. Julie Rahm does presentation
98 on a Media survey (proposed) and a writing contest. Involves publicizing and creating a blog to attach to our
99 website, awards and potential reception. New residents and creative community, lends itself to participation.
100 Commissioner Winfrey curious about HS student participation and their take on the community. Town of

101 Oriental Media Survey-Survey includes WHERE and WHEN you get your information from. Canvassing to
102 ensure participation might also help. Cost-effective information gathering.

103
104 Manager will be out Feb 1-3, and Miller and Cox will be in Chapel Hill Feb 21-23.
105

106 Commissioner Comments: White notes EPA standards have adjusted the stormwater flow restrictions. Unfunded
107 mandates to meet the standards. Cannot find the exact standards. The money out there to assist with stormwater
108 management. They are not looking for digging and clearing ditches- they are looking for installation of rain
109 gardens and detention ponds. If the ditch has water in it- that's a good thing. The solids settle, clean water runs off.
110 We NEVER intend to empty ditches- it is to settle the solids before the stormwater hits the state waters. NCEPA is
111 now directing PW into private property to check and mitigate on private property. Not just distribution lines, but
112 private lines. We are currently cataloguing during meter reads. We are required to have an inventory to the state
113 within 6 months. DERPO meeting Commissioner Price: funds for EV chargers. Discussion followed concerning car
114 technology outpacing electric vehicles.

115
116
117 Commissioner Winfrey made a **MOTION** to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Roe. Unanimous vote: 5-0.

118
119 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:32AM.

120

121

122

123

124

125 _____
Sally Belangia, Mayor

125 _____
Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

126

127

128

129 Approved _____, 2022



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 8AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 was called to order at
2 8:00 AM. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present. The meeting was open to the public. All documents
3 for the meeting were available through the Town's website at www.TownofOriental.com. A casual breakfast was
4 served to help celebrate the achievements of the Police Officers.

5
6 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Winfrey,
7 Commissioner Roe, and Commissioner Price. Town Manager Diane Miller, Administrative Director Tammy Cox,
8 Officers Wichrowski and Blayne, all Public Works Staff, All Admin staff, and several members of the public were
9 present. Mayor Pro Tempore begins with the Pledge of Allegiance.

10
11 Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Overcash made a MOTION to accept the agenda with a change that moves item
12 8- Mobile Library to follow Police Recognition. Commissioner Roe seconds. 5-0.

13 Consent Agenda: Commissioner Roe made a MOTION to approve the consent. Commissioner Winfrey seconds. 5-
14 0.

15
16 Public Comment: 8:03 AM- Keith Smith noted the paving contract does not include South Water Street, a known
17 problem on the Town's radar for years. Noted some improvements have been made, standing water remains a
18 problem.

19
20 Awards: Officers Blayne and Wichrowski were both awarded the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificates from
21 the NC Criminal Justice Training and Standards Board. Both are now qualified to be Chiefs of Police in any
22 jurisdiction. Manager noted the extensive hours of training, the extra training officers put in above what is required
23 by the state and the Town's gratitude for these officers and their dedication to Oriental.

24
25 Mobile Library/Tech Mobile: Sydney Phibbons and Victoria Hungerford presented the new schedule for the
26 Book/Tech Mobile in Oriental on the first Friday of each month. In March, it will be at the Piglet and Lou Mac
27 Park. After that, it will be in the Town Hall parking lot on the first Friday of each month. They detailed services
28 available. Laptops, books, WiFi- all things available- printer as well. Potentially yoga on the side. Permission to use
29 Town Hall Parking lot. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes the MOTION to approve. Commissioner Overcash
30 seconds. 5-0.

31
32 Public Hearing: The Board scheduled a Public Hearing to close the eastern terminus of Hutson (Town) Rd. All
33 advertisement was accomplished according to statute, and adjoining owners notified properly. The Town did NOT
34 receive a notice of the closing as an adjoin owner- we are fully aware. Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to
35 open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 5-0. No Public Comment, No Commissioner Comment.
36 Commissioner Price makes a MOTION to close the Public Hearing. Mayor Pro Tempore White seconds. 5-0. Mayor
37 Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to approve the closing. Commissioner Winfrey seconds. 5-0.

38
39 Budget Amendment: Following final invoice for Net House renovation, additional funds to be moved from WFE reserve to
40 WFE appropriated. Funds also received for NCCF grant is also added.

41
42 Request to Schedule Public Hearing: The Planning Board forwards a request to schedule a Public Hearing for the
43 approval of the amendment to the existing Town CAMA Land Use Plan. Draft is attached. Planning Board will

44 look at it one more time before the PH. Mayor Pro Tempore makes the MOTION to schedule a Public Hearing for
45 March 7, 2023. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 5-0.

46
47 BikeMS: Bike MS has submitted the annual request to use Lou Mac park as a rest stop on their long route. They
48 provide all services. They ask nothing of us except the space reservation. Commissioner Price encourage BikeMS to
49 check with NCDOT on construction. Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to approve the request. Commissioner
50 Overcash seconds. 5-0.

51
52 Paving contract: We received a bid after two solicitations for paving parts of the 4 roads designated plus a patch.
53 \$333,950.00. This takes all of all reserved funds from Powell plus approx \$24,000. Noted that the street assessment
54 did not take into account traffic, drainage and additional damage due to Florence. USDA still moving forward with
55 Hodges St. Powell available is \$309,000. Receipt of \$20,000 from FEMA (Ian) incoming. Also have drainage
56 money, also have \$760,000 unrestricted unreserved. \$5600 left in Capital Projects due to labor in-house. This will
57 significantly affect the restricted/unrestricted reserve percentages for the fiscal year. Currently at 115% including
58 restricted reserve. Suggestion of overlaying. Our roads go under and need the full depth repair- the company that
59 responded would require a waiver to do that. Mr. Kellenberger asked to comment. Notes that the photo on the
60 screen- alligatored road allows the substrate to sag and then pavement sinks and cracks. If road cannot support
61 asphalt, it gives way and sags. Agrees with the plan. We are ahead of the curve in that our needs were delivered to
62 Legislators ahead of the filing bill deadlines. Showing using all funds to pave so little is to our advantage. Other
63 option is to hold funds and see if a match is required to any grant we might receive. Full depth repair lifespan is 20
64 years, decrease life expectancy by 50% once cut. Under water also decreases significantly with each event. If
65 drainage not addressed, road repair decreases life. Commissioner Winfrey asks if we go over, later on it will cost
66 more to remove more asphalt. YES. Mr. Szerlag asks if we have a drainage survey. NO. We have a listing of worst
67 to best. Other utilities are not required to, nor do they, let us know when they are coming in to work. Commissioner
68 Overcash asks if there is a timeline on any GA funds. There is not. Commissioner Roe makes the MOTION to
69 approve the project. Mr. Lambert asks about overage. Commissioner Overcash seconds. Commissioner Roe adds a
70 contingency of 10% to this cost in case of overage. Commissioner Roe notes our chances of funding are helped
71 tremendously if everyone writes to the legislators. Commissioner Overcash seconds motion as amended. Julie Rahm
72 asks for bullets to write. 5-0.

73
74 Police Report- Officer Blayney thanks all for Police training and accomplishments. A lot of training time. Polar
75 plunge, dragon run, all events went well. Citations added late. Board thanks officers for their efforts.

76
77 Manager's Report: Financials attached. Our audit is almost complete- end number is down \$90,000. You
78 appropriated over \$120,000 from unrestricted funds. Audit includes depreciation- water is down including that, but
79 solvent cash-wise. Cameras installed. Discussing furniture now. WiFi extends to TD1. Town Hall closed Feb 13.
80 Manager and Admin Director in Chapel Hill for water/wastewater funding. Second cyberattack repelled. ECCOG
81 also hacked. Osprey nest relocation from Neuse Drive to Whittaker Pointe. Commissioner Roe asks about cameras.
82 Not advisable to put on public website. Designed for security, not streaming. Legislative dinner for elected officials
83 upcoming- register by Friday. Duke power outage Christmas Eve was a point of conversation. Advance notice
84 would have allowed us to assist before the outages. Drainage problems combination of town and resident issues.
85 Leaves into the system after fall is devastating.

86
87 Committee Reports: Marsha- Tourism: brochure moving forward. Our State- good deal to full page ad for boat
88 show. April draws attention to CycleNC event. Tourism map is for visitors to find their way around. Lodging
89 community can forward information- use the Tourism map, add to that page, however they choose to do it. CycleNC
90 coming this week- Marsha is heading that effort: volunteers, etc. Saturday AM 1st Croaker Festival meeting at
91 Brantley's breakfast. Bonnie- Parks and Rec- also working CycleNC registration, give out information. Switching
92 from maintenance to future. Grantwriting experience sought- new parks, Rec park, etc. Jim-HWAC-Osprey nest

93 relocation to the Pointe. No funding required. Landscaping at Net House in discussions with Tree Board.
94 Vegetation/erosion at Small Boat Ramp. Soft opening in March for Net House. ADA rules- access to waterfront
95 facilities- do ADA rules trump environmental rules? Trying to figure that out. Julie- CAMA LUP- Comprehensive
96 Plan is next.

97
98 Commissioner Comments: Mayor Pro Tempore White and spill in local marina making plume that goes up creeks.
99 Crew at Zimmerman's spent hours looking for it. USCG and NRC looking. We have had no follow up from either
100 group.(Jim Blackerby) they will come pump out, but not remove boats.

101
102 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board Retreat March 3, 2023, 8AM.
103 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8: AM by MOTION of Commissioner Winfrey, second by Commissioner Roe. 5-0.
104

105
106 _____
107 Sally Belangia, Mayor
108 _____
Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved _____, 2023