

# Tab 1



## ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD AGENDA WORKSHOP

Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 5:30pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Agenda Workshop Meeting on Thursday, June 1, 2017 was called to order at 5:30pm.  
7 The Mayor Sally Belangia determined a quorum to be present. She said we have a Public Comment period, if you  
8 wish to speak please make sure you are signed up on the sheet.  
9

10 Present: Mayor Belangia, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner White, Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi,  
11 Commissioner Price, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, Administrative Assistant  
12 Jeannine Russo and Members of the Public. Commissioner Winfrey was absent.  
13

### 14 1. Budget

15 The meeting began with budget. Budget is balanced, but balanced with a \$2 increase in trash per previous  
16 conversation. The addition of \$2 per house, per month, you get \$15,672, takes the sanitation difference to \$32,328  
17 from a \$48,000-\$50,000 per year deficit in the trash fund that is subsidized by taxes. With debris costs removed, the  
18 \$2 increase goes to a \$16,000 difference between fees received and costs. It is acceptable to pay for debris out of  
19 taxes instead of trash fund because while it is part of the trash fund because it is the same hauler, it is still a different  
20 entity. To recover the entire cost of sanitation, it would need to be raised \$6.38 per house, per month, which is not  
21 acceptable. To recover half, it is an increase of \$3.06 per month. Discussed a gradual increase in trash last year.  
22 Manager Miller was asked at that time to survey other communities. Cedar Point is the only community charging  
23 less than Oriental, recycle once a month and trash once a week at a cost of \$11.65 per month. While we are currently  
24 at \$13.30, other communities are at \$15 and above. Out of our town limits, someone starting a contract personally  
25 will pay \$38 per month with a \$40 start-up cost and \$60+ per month with a \$40 start-up cost. Cost to the customer  
26 would quadruple compared to what the Town is charging. Manager Miller feels not having mandatory trash is not an  
27 option.  
28

29 The Town has extended a conditional offer to a police officer who is currently going through testing and  
30 qualifications. Should he pass all of that, we then take that paperwork and send it to the State, the State has an eight-  
31 day turnaround from the time they receive the paperwork until it comes back with authorization to swear in.  
32 Manager Miller feels it was prudent to move only one candidate forward, and the other panel members, all law  
33 enforcement officers, agreed with Manager Miller that this was the candidate to move forward. If we were to hire  
34 another officer, the Town would need to start again and "case a wider net." Manager Miller feels we may have an  
35 officer by July 1 and may take until October to get a second officer on board.  
36

37 Commissioner Price felt we should do away with the trash increase and delay hiring the second officer to recover the  
38 cost of that difference. Manager Miller removed the \$15,672 from solid waste fees, removed same number from  
39 Police B salary. It balances without the \$2 increase if we put off hiring until October. Commissioner Overcash asked  
40 if we have money to contract hire deputies. Manager Miller said we may not want to go down that road as we lose  
41 control as they still answer to the Sheriff and they will not enforce the Town regulations, only the County  
42 regulations. Commissioner White feels November or December may be more realistic and if we are budgeted for  
43 two and do not hire, then we do not have to raise fees. Then next year during budget process, it can be discussed that  
44 the fees are not covering the trash. Commissioner Overcash asked about a \$1 increase in trash fees which would  
45 give the Town some extra money and is a small amount and feels that this is not unreasonable as there is only one  
46 other community lower than us. Manager Miller would prefer not to raise anything unless we have to. Commissioner  
47 Overcash feels it can help. Manager Miller stated the Town will do as directed and make it work.  
48

49 Manager Miller stated she expected to have some resolution with the police situation as of this date and that did not  
50 happen, but we are moving forward. Mayor Belangia asked if the prospective officer is part or full time, Manager  
51 Miller responded full time. FMRT is the company administering the testing on June 14 with results expected by the  
52 end of the week.  
53

54 Commissioner Venturi is in agreement with Commissioner Overcash regarding budget, feels that we are “robbing  
55 Peter to pay Paul.” Manager Miller explained a balanced budget is required by date of this meeting, June 1, and this  
56 is not Public Hearing, which is June 6, and changes can be made to the budget at Public Hearing. Commissioner  
57 Venturi feels that going up \$1 rather than a couple of dollars is a step in the right direction. Manager Miller  
58 explained \$1 on the trash is less than one-third of a penny on your taxes. If the Board chooses the \$1 increase,  
59 Manager Miller will change the number on revenue for sanitation and the additional cost will be put to storm  
60 preparedness unless they wish to put it elsewhere. Manager Miller stated we spent a substantial amount of money  
61 recovering from a relatively small storm. It was realized how quickly it adds up when you calculate man hours and  
62 equipment hours, etc. Sanitation costs have also increased since contract was first signed. Commissioner White feels  
63 there should be an increase next year as there was an increase last year and balance the budget as it is now.

64  
65 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to raise \$1 per can on trash pick-up. Seconded by **Commissioner**  
66 **Venturi.**Aye – **Commissioner Overcash** and **Commissioner Venturi.**Opposed – **Commissioner White** and  
67 **Commissioner Price.** **Mayor Belangia** opposed. **MOTION** does not carry.

68  
69 Manager Miller stated that budget will be balanced as is. Commissioner Overcash stated that this can be brought up  
70 again at the other meeting. Manager Miller stated that the Water Fund is balanced as discussed with a \$40,000 draw  
71 toward the lead abatement project.

72  
73 Other notes:

74 Insurance: When figuring the insurance numbers, a very long survey is filled out – how many people we have and  
75 what exactly they do. The company sends back a quote with a possible incentive credit. Amount budgeted is always  
76 without the incentive credit in the event of a change. Currently the Worker’s Comp quote is \$8,382 and the amount  
77 budgeted is \$8,400.

78  
79 2016-17 YTD numbers have been updated but are not finished, some went down, some went up, partially due to the  
80 Administrative Fee from the Water Fund to the General Fund which is reimbursement for work done for the Water  
81 Department. Public Works is right at budgeted number due to truck purchase. Manager Miller would like to keep the  
82 scheduled meeting at 5:30pm on June 28 in case a budget amendment needs to be made prior to the end of the year.  
83 Each line does not need to be balanced but each department does. Manager Miller will start working on budget  
84 message and putting budget up for review. Public Notice has already gone out stating that a balanced budget will  
85 come out of tonight’s meeting to be made available as soon as possible.

## 86 87 **2. Workshop**

88  
89 Public Comment.

90 Eric Kindle – The Bean: Mr. Kindle stated he was not present for the trash can discussion but as a business owner  
91 whose trash cans are accessible to the public, they fill up quickly. He stated, on occasion, has had to take his trash  
92 from The Bean to his home as his were full due to public use. Manager Miller stated that, for example, when a storm  
93 is coming and the water rises, transients on boat s and visitors will fill up the public cans to where they overflow and  
94 eventually washes the trash into the river. Discussed placing another can at the river. Lisa Thompson of Sea Harbour  
95 stated that she believes the public does not realize how much the Town pays for them to have the public trash cans  
96 and the Town should think about making this information public.

97  
98 Marsha Paplham – for Tourism and as a business owner: Spoke about Cycle NC and the benefit to the Town and  
99 businesses. April was extremely good for business with the four events in Town. Several other businesses stated the  
100 same. Ms. Paplham queried customers as they entered her store (Marsha’s Cottage) and all had positive things to say  
101 about the Town and the event. As part of the Tourism Board, she would like to see what other events we can bring  
102 into the Town in that time frame. Eric Kindle of The Bean stated the same and feels we should encourage the Town  
103 residents to be more supportive of these events as they are beneficial to the Town.

104  
105 Larry Summers – Stated he and Bill Hines took out 113 paddlers, very good response.

106  
107 Manager Miller stated her experience was the opposite. Staff was overwhelmed, overtasked, and overtime was not in  
108 the budget but used, and received numerous complaints from cyclists and residents. She is aware the businesses did

109 well but the residents and cyclists that were inconvenienced were extremely vocal. EMS and CarolinaEast were not  
110 impressed with communication, for example, there was a route change as CarolinaEast staff was en route. The Town  
111 was told there would be a tent for registration in our parking lot. Cycle NC arrived with an RV, three tents and six  
112 trucks taking up the entire lot belonging to Oriental First Baptist Church. Miscommunication was the issue. The  
113 Town repeatedly asked for routes, Town was the last to receive them. At one point, Manager Miller was trying to  
114 deliver the parts to Public Works to fix the broken hydrant and cyclists would not give her space to drive through.  
115 Parking on the streets, in front of mailboxes and in driveways was also an issue. Manager Miller acknowledges that  
116 we do only have so many miles of road so not sure what the solution is. Open alcohol in the parks and on the street  
117 was also an issue. Larry Summers suggested setting up a tent city out at the Recreation Park. Marsha Paplham  
118 suggested utilizing our camps as the children are not there yet. Manager Miller noted the issue with those is that  
119 even though they ride all over the county, the start and finish lines are in Oriental. Limiting the number of cyclists  
120 was also discussed. This event was capped at 1,400 and they took 1,480 cyclists. Manager Miller stated that several  
121 things will need to be done better for the Town to have staff to take care of it. Lisa Thompson also said that we may  
122 need more volunteers. Manager Miller said there were visiting cyclists in Oriental the two weekends following the  
123 event as well.

124  
125 Betsy Kane of NCDOT – Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Division: They have several programs and several  
126 ways that they may be able to help the Town. Manager Miller and Lee Barham of Parks and Recreation contacted  
127 them. Ms. Kane has come to Oriental to investigate and do a field survey in person to see conditions, challenges.  
128 Ms. Kane noted that the Town would like to add a multi-use path to go safely from one side of Town to the other as  
129 currently this can only be done in a vehicle. She suggested the Town reapply for the grant that had been denied in  
130 the past. We should be thinking more of a facility and not a plan and building a transportation network for bicycle  
131 and pedestrian modes. She suggests we may want to do a corridor or feasibility study to determine right of way  
132 issues and topography issues and is more detailed. DOT is now allowing communities to apply for a corridor plan  
133 rather than just a Town or County wide plan, which has not been done in the past. The application cycle opens in the  
134 fall and closes around mid-November. The Committee chooses the awardees around the end of January, then goes to  
135 the Transportation Board who votes on them with the money awarded in February. The Town can choose a  
136 consultant or DOT can choose one for us and can get started by April of 2018. We can also apply for the Planning  
137 Grant and also pursue studies on our own with an engineering or consulting firm. Some other services they provide  
138 are Ad hoc technical assistance when available, the Planning Grant, advice regarding the best ways to plan and  
139 implement bicycle and pedestrian facilities, safety and encouragement programs, for example the Safe Routes to  
140 School and Watch for Me. They do not fund facility construction. In 2013 the General Assembly eliminated stand  
141 alone funding for bike and pedestrian projects so funding may be an issues. If the Town chooses to go forward with  
142 a project, “the payback is incredible.” Manager Miller asked if there is any way to help move a resurfacing project  
143 up the ladder as it would give us a connection to extending the shoulder to have a bike lane. Ms. Kane stated that  
144 resurfacing is handled at the Highway Division level and each of the 14 divisions across the state has a resurfacing  
145 calendar. While they do not oversee these Divisions’ activities, their operations and maintenance staff has a  
146 schedule, possibly a three year cycle. She suggested that the Town speak to its Highway Division Chief or Engineer,  
147 they call their own shots and have discretionary funding, up to them how to apply it. Manager Miller stated if we are  
148 already scheduled for resurfacing, adding the bike lane and reducing the speed limit would be very helpful. Ms.  
149 Kane suggested that the Town may hire a firm or civil engineer with direct experience that has design experience  
150 and take that to the Division. Manager Miller stated that reducing the speed limit may not affect anyone that does  
151 not live here as Oriental does not generally have through traffic. Enforcement tends to be periodic and temporary  
152 and visuals, linear features, crosswalks tend to be more effective. Ms. Kane stayed in Oriental to do some field work  
153 and brought her bicycle.

154  
155  
156  
157 **3. Adjourn.**

158 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to adjourn, seconded by **Commissioner Price**. Motion passed 4-0.

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162 **Meeting adjourned 6:37pm.**

163

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Sally Belangia, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2017 \_\_\_\_\_



## ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Friday, June 6, 2017 at 7pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Pro Tempore Barbara Venturi Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 was called to order at 7:00pm. The  
7 Mayor Pro Tempore Barbara Venturi determined a quorum to be present. She said we have a Public Comment  
8 period, if you wish to speak please make sure you are signed up on the sheet. We will call the meeting to order with  
9 the Pledge of Allegiance.

10

11 Present: Mayor Pro Tempore Barbara Venturi, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner White, Commissioner Price,  
12 Commissioner Winfrey, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, Administrative  
13 Assistant Jeannine Russo and Members of the Public. Mayor Sally Belangia was absent.

14

### 15 1. Approval of Agenda

16 (a) **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to approve the Agenda, seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**.  
17 Motion passed 5-0.

18

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

20 (a) Minutes from Town Board Meeting 5-2-17

21

22 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by **Commissioner**  
23 **Winfrey**. Motion passed 5-0.

24

25 3. **Public Comment Period:** Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi asks that if anyone would like to speak. Limit comments  
26 to 3 minutes and comments to full board not individual.

27 No public comment.

28

29 4. **Public Hearing (Tab 2):** Frank and Lili Bacon, SUP request to open and operate a Microbrewery and Taproom at  
30 702 Broad Street.

31

32 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Commissioner Winfrey**.  
33 Motion passed 5-0.

34

35 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** The Public Hearing is open. The people that we would expect to hear from first  
36 would be the petitioners for this Special Use Permit if you have anything that you would like to say, or not.

37 **Lili Bacon:** I don't think we have anything to add. You have heard from us but we are happy to answer questions.

38 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** We have one name on our list of speakers and that is Al Herlands.

39 **Al Herlands:** Thank you. May I stay seated? Is that alright?

40 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Sure.

41 **Al Herlands:** I am here to support the application. I know the difference in the legality but it is substantially the  
42 same proposal that the Board approved before. The only factor that might be different relates to the change in  
43 location and what it may mean for traffic but they are both on Broad Street. By the way, I am not much of a drinker  
44 and it would be an overstatement to say I have one drink a month but there are many people in Town and I have  
45 many friends among them who do drink and we have many establishments that offer not only beer and wine but we  
46 have hard liquor in town and if you look back at the police reports going back as long as we have had monthly  
47 police reports, you will see that this town is filled with responsible drinkers. We do not have a problem with people  
48 drinking and going out and driving and getting in trouble or getting arrested or crashing so it's not much of a  
49 concern in this town. The proponents here are good people with longstanding ties to the community. They are  
50 respected and highly regarded, a good track record in town. I think part of the evidence is that they got support for  
51 this proposal through a Fund Me operation through the internet and a lot of support in town. These are good people  
52 with a good proposal that is good for the town and I recommend the Board approve. Thank you.

53 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Thank you. Is there anyone else that wants to speak to this issue? Should we close  
54 the Public Hearing or shall we go forward?

55 **Manager Miller:** We should go forward with an opportunity for evidence to be presented for each of the points and  
56 then we close it.

57 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** We have a format that we go through for Special Use Permits and it pretty much  
58 comes down to, there are seven questions that need to be answered and if the questions end up being answered in the  
59 negative then there will be a problem granting the Special Use Permit. If the questions are answered in the positive,  
60 then basically the Town will be virtually required to allow the Special Use Permit. It is not something that just  
61 because, it would be a whim of anybody on the Board to make a decision against an applicant.

62 **Commissioner White:** Instead of making a Motion for all seven, I will just keep notes and at the end, I will  
63 summarize and I will make one Motion of all seven items.

64 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** So seven items we have to answer..

65 **Manager Miller:** Yes.

66 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** The first question is, is the requested permit within the jurisdiction of the Town  
67 according to the table of permissible uses?

68 **Unknown:** It is.

69 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** It is. Is the application itself complete?

70 **Manager Miller:** Yes ma'am.

71 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** As it is complete, we have some more questions to consider. Will the application  
72 comply with one or more requirements of this Chapter not including those the applicant is not required to comply  
73 with?

74 **Commissioner White:** Yes, it would.

75 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Will it materially endanger public health or safety?

76 **Commissioner White:** No evidence was submitted at the Planning Board and none tonight has been presented so...

77 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Is there anyone who would like to speak to any of these or offer evidence regarding  
78 any of these points? Fifth question is will it substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting properties?

79 **Commissioner White:** Again, no evidence was submitted at the Planning Board and I am not hearing anybody  
80 tonight.

81 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Question #6, will it be in harmony with existing development and uses within the  
82 area in which it is located?

83 **Commissioner White:** It will.

84 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** It will be in harmony. Will it be in general conformity with the land use plan,  
85 thoroughfare plan or other plan officially adopted by the Commissioners?

86 **Unknown:** Yes.

87 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** All of these questions being answered, the Town Commissioners will take action  
88 based on those answers.

89

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

92

93 **Commissioner White** stated:

94 1. The permit is within its jurisdiction according to the table of permissible uses.  
95 2. The application is complete.  
96 3. It will comply with the GMO.  
97 4. No evidence was presented at the Planning Board or tonight that it will endanger public health or safety.  
98 5. No evidence was presented at the Planning Board or tonight that it will injure adjoining or abutting  
99 properties.  
100 6. It is in harmony with existing uses in the area.  
101 7. It conforms with our Land Use Permit, the GMO and the CAMA plan all adopted by the Town.

102

103 That is the first part of the Motion, everything is in the positive. The second part of the Motion is that he would like  
104 to also request that the Commissioners remove the SUP from 807 Broad Street. Manager Miller presented a  
105 document prepared by the Town's attorney to revoke the previously granted SUP in February of 2017. The SUP  
106 requires that there be significant progress toward the applicable use and with the move to the new location, there  
107 will not be significant progress within the years' time limit, so there is no reason for them to have an SUP on that  
108 building. This will be filed with the Register of Deeds and also attached to the Deed as a Special Use Granted and a  
109 Special Use Revoked.

110  
111 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to remove the SUP from 807 Broad Street that was previously granted.  
112 Seconded by **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi**. Motion passed 5-0.  
113

114 **5. Public Hearing.** (Tab 3) Request for an SUP for short-term rental from the Johnsons at 405 High Street. Manager  
115 Miller read from an asterisk at the bottom of the application. Mrs. Johnson stated that they wish to only rent the  
116 home for events, for example Cycle NC and Croakerfest, when they are not occupying the home themselves and  
117 wish to be compliant in that event. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi stated that the SUP goes with the property and if the  
118 property were to be sold, the SUP would remain with the property. No one has signed up on the sheet to speak to  
119 this issue. Applicants are not present.

120  
121 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Commissioner Price**.  
122 Motion passed 5-0.  
123

124 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** We are in Public Hearing. If anybody does want to submit any evidence on any of  
125 these seven questions that we are required to answer, please just make it known and you will have the right to speak.  
126 So we are going to go through the same seven questions for this Special Use Permit that we did for the last one. The  
127 first question is, is the permit within the jurisdiction of the Town?

128 **Manager Miller:** Yes ma'am.

129 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Is the application complete?

130 **Manager Miller:** It is.

131 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Which takes us to the following questions, will the application comply with one or  
132 more requirements of this chapter of the GMO, not including those the applicant is not required to comply with? We  
133 are compliant?

134 **Manager Miller:** Yes.

135 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Will materially endanger the public health or safety?

136 **Manager Miller:** No evidence has been presented.

137 **Commissioner White:** Neither here nor at the Planning Board.

138 **Manager Miller:** The Planning Board took this particular application up on 3/30, 4/19 and 5/17 at which there were  
139 no public available to make any comment.

140 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Will substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting properties?

141 **Commissioner White:** Again, no evidence was presented at the Planning Board.

142 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Will it not be in harmony with existing development and uses within the area in  
143 which it is located?

144 **Manager Miller:** Yes.

145 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Will it be in general conformity with the Land Use Plan, Thoroughfare Plan or other  
146 plan officially adopted by the Town?

147 **Manager Miller:** Yes it is.

148 **Commissioner White:** And then additionally I would like to add that this is a newly purchased property so it was  
149 not operating without an SUP as we have had others in the area. They do have adequate parking because the  
150 Planning Board did check them for adequate parking and as I said, no evidence was submitted to the Planning Board  
151 the three times they met on this.

- 152
- 153 1. The permit is within the jurisdiction according to the table of permissible uses.
  - 154 2. The application is complete.
  - 155 3. It will comply with one or more chapters of the GMO.
  - 156 4. No evidence was presented at the Planning Board meetings nor tonight that will affect public health or  
157 safety.
  - 158 5. No evidence was presented at the Planning Board meetings nor tonight that will injure adjoining or abutting  
159 properties.
  - 160 6. It is in harmony with existing uses in the area.
  - 161 7. It conforms with the Land Use Plan, the GMO and the CAMA Plan adapted by the Town Board.
- 162

163 That is my **MOTION** to approve, seconded by **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi**. Motion passed 5-0.  
164



165 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Winfrey.  
166 Motion passed. 5-0.

167  
168 Grace Evans: Do these come under the Occupancy Tax? They do.

169  
170 **6. Public Hearing.**(Tab 4) Budget.

171 Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi explained that by the end of June, every governmental agency in the State must provide  
172 a balanced budget. The Board has prepared budget with the guidance of Manager Miller and is available on the  
173 Town's website.

174  
175 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Commissioner**  
176 **Overcash.**Motion passed 5-0.

177  
178 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** The Public Hearing is open and we have one person signed up to speak, although if  
179 anybody else wants to we will recognize you. Jennifer Roe.

180 **Jennifer Roe:** My name is Jennifer Roe and I live at 502 South Avenue, for those who may not know, and I have  
181 been following, somewhat, and not looked at the final budget, I will let you know that ahead of time. I was reading  
182 here what we said no tax or fee increases. We did have a substantial increase in positions and salaries. I am not quite  
183 sure how we covered that. But I wanted to just point out a few comments and these statistics come from the North  
184 Carolina Labor Force for the civilians and our unemployment rate for Pamlico County is 6.3. I don't know if you all  
185 considered some of these. The private sector business national survey average was 2.9% and 3.1. That is the private  
186 sector so that is your taxpayer. That was the maximum increase for salaries in the private businesses, if that, and that  
187 comes from the Tower Survey, I am giving you sources, you can check them, the Tower Survey and the Mercer  
188 Survey and the World at Work Survey on wages in North Carolina and others. Our population here has not increased  
189 since the 2010 survey. That was a false statement, we fluctuate between 875 and 925 and I was just wondering when  
190 we were considering salaries and so forth, do we look at the poverty rate for Pamlico County. We are down at the  
191 bottom in comparison to other towns and do we take into consideration the population tax bases of those towns  
192 compared to ours and do we look at the private sector, the taxpayers that actually pay the bills but the biggest thing  
193 is Pamlico County's population, we are stagnated but our budgets seem to keep growing. When I came here, we had  
194 the water company, years ago we had the sewer company; we got rid of that, we had staffing and office of one Town  
195 Manager and one and a half employees. I am not sure where we are at today, but those are just some things to  
196 consider when you consider our population is not growing in the Town of Oriental. Thank you for your time,  
197 Commissioners.

198 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** Thank you, anybody else?

199 **Manager Miller:** This is just a little primer on how we calculate the tax rate. The property value of property in  
200 Oriental that is taxable is \$217,406,313, divide that by 100 because that gives you the taxable rates per 100. That  
201 gives you the \$2,174,000. When you multiply by the tax rate, tax per 100 at .22 per 100, it gives you 478, 293.89  
202 and that is the levy. By North Carolina General Statute, we can only budget the previously collected percentage, that  
203 is really important. I can only budget, even though our levy is 478,000, I can only budget to get in whatever  
204 percentage we collected the previous year. This year we are in a unique situation because in 2015-16, we collected  
205 97.5%, which is low. Generally, it is higher than that and our audit confirms that number. While our auditors are  
206 coming back tomorrow to finish their field work on that fiscal year, so what we have calculated is that in the 2015-  
207 16 year, we have actually collected 99.7%. So the number that I have used for our legally budgeted collection is  
208 \$475,720. That has to be broken down between the property tax and the DMV tax so that is what the first two lines  
209 on the budget make up, except for \$981. While the auditors confirmed that number, it's simple math, we just divide  
210 what we have collected year to date in 2016-2017, which is \$475, 720 by the allocated levy from last year which  
211 was \$477, 395 and that gives us 99.7%. So the number that will be confirmed by the auditors will be somewhere  
212 between 97.5 and 100. Right this minute with two months left to collect on that 99.7, the chances of us collecting  
213 100% of our taxes is really good. I am very comfortable with budgeting the 97.5 plus \$981 and that is just so that I  
214 have a round number. Our DMV, apparently we have a lot of new vehicles, our DMV was estimated at \$16,000 and  
215 we are already at \$22,000 for the year so that means that there are a lot of new vehicular taxes that we were not  
216 accounting for last year. Plus note that our property value went from \$216,000,000 to over \$217,000,000 so the  
217 million that we lost previously two years ago is back, property wise. Part of that is due to the economy is slowly  
218 recovering. There are more vehicle purchases, a lot of our properties that were in default are now no longer in  
219 default and are occupied. A lot of the houses that were on the market and the taxes were behind are being caught up

220 as they are being sold and we have six, that I know of in the last calendar year, vacant properties that are now either  
221 developed or have been approved to be developed so we are gaining that tax base – new boats, new vehicles, new  
222 houses. I am very comfortable with budgeting the \$477,000 if we were at \$475,000 with two months of taxes left to  
223 collect. Granted that we collect a far smaller portion at the end than we do in January and February but we only need  
224 less than \$2,000 to get to 100%. So that is where the original tax levy number comes from and that number is spread  
225 across your top two lines in revenue. These are the highlights of the General Fund. Sales and Use Tax refund is  
226 growing tremendously. We budgeted one hundred forty-some thousand dollars and we are already year to date at  
227 \$150,000 and the state projects a 6 ¾% increase. We had several projections from the State of North Carolina  
228 League of Municipalities. That gives us a pretty doggone accurate guess at where the standard fees that we get back  
229 from the State are going to be. If the Sales and Use Tax is projected to go up, 6.75, it is usually right on the money.  
230 The gas tax, the beer and wine tax, they give us a percentage for that, what they expect that to be. Occupancy tax is  
231 also up. We budget 10,000 conservatively, we are already over 11,000 in each of those funds so that is definitely an  
232 advantage. Our capital reserve is still in there for replacement of our generator which is vintage World War II, and  
233 has, with the help of Mr. Bohmert, kept running and did fabulously during Matthew. Capital reserve for the  
234 replacement of the police vehicle is also in there. Our Durango did well this year, the year before not so much, so we  
235 are still building that fund so that that replacement is not one big lump. Our drainage maintenance is fully funded.  
236 We funded it at \$2,500 and spent \$16,000 this year and that was absolutely necessary, had not ever been cleaned out  
237 from the time they were installed. Plugged solid, had to have a contractor come in and dig out the drainage from  
238 South Avenue, Mrs. Roe can tell you that South Avenue used to be a lake from curb to curb and we unplugged that  
239 and it drains beautifully now. Also the one down at the Duck Pond, that one drains off parts of South Water Street  
240 now too. We displaced several very large turtles making that happen. Our mosquito abatement is fully funded.  
241 Those of us who become blood donors in the summer appreciate that. Yard debris is fully funded. The November  
242 elections, which is an every other year expense, is funded. Public Works salaries, in this budget, there is no portion  
243 of Public Works salaries pulled from Powell so that we can use the Powell Bill Funds to fix roads. So normally,  
244 \$10,000 is taken from the Powell Bill Funds, which is funding that comes to us from the State. Part of it is off of  
245 population, part of it is off of number of miles of road. Through an algorithm, it gives us approximately \$40,000.  
246 That fund is also from the State projections –flat. If anything, it won't be the number that it was last year. So we are  
247 trying to squeeze as much production out of whatever comes out of Powell as possible. We have had a paving  
248 company/contractor come in and survey several roads with our Public Works director and we should have some  
249 numbers shortly about which roads can get fixed in which order and how much of those roads. We understand that  
250 that is a huge expense so we have to look at how bad they really are and according to, we have a retired DOT road  
251 inspector, I mean that was his only job, here in Town who went through every road with our Public Works director  
252 and our roads are not in as bad shape structurally as we assumed that they were. So hopefully, that will give us a  
253 little bit of start here and go down this list. Additional costs to Police because the part-time police officer that we  
254 had did not get retirement or health benefits and all of that and this budget includes two full officers, though one has  
255 been delayed six months. The Chief's position, when we had the Chief, because he was retired military, he deferred  
256 health benefits too so that is an additional \$20,000 between the two officers and retirement and all of that that comes  
257 with and then the additional cost of my salary to the budget as well. In the Water Fund, the water meter replacement  
258 will continue. We replaced 150 meters last year, and just so that you wonder if this is throwing good money after  
259 bad, these meters some of them, have been in the ground since the day we put the system in the ground and the only  
260 thing a water meter can do is get less and less accurate, which means that they are getting more and more water that  
261 they are not being billed for. Two years ago, our water loss percentage was nearing 25% which is unacceptable to  
262 the State. We started this replacement program as recommended by the State as the first step after counting what you  
263 put out of fire hydrants so we put auto-flushers. We know exactly how many gallons come out of an auto-flusher.  
264 Then we started counting, this building, the meters had not been read here or at the parks. Every meter in Town is  
265 read now, whether we own it or we don't own it so all of that water is counted. Plus, we have replaced the 14 2"  
266 meters which are the commercial meters, the ones that go to Fulcher Point and to Garland Fulcher Seafood, which  
267 are millions of gallons a month during the summer. What you need to think about is when we are producing those  
268 millions of gallons, we are pumping them out of the ground, we are treating them with chemicals and we are  
269 shipping them out. It keeps everybody's water fresher because there is more water being used but it costs us more.  
270 Our plant runs 24/7 in the summer and the chemicals that it goes through to make that water potable is just amazing.  
271 But anyway, back to the water replacement, replacing those 14 2" meters got us down to a 6% water loss. The State  
272 is completely and totally in awe about that. We are down to maybe 300 residential meters. My meter, in the house  
273 that I moved into, had 900,000 gallons on it. They are only guaranteed for seven years or 750,000 gallons. My meter  
274 had been in the ground for 25 years and had 900,000 gallons on it. It was a couple that lived in my house so those of

275 you that have families know how much more water you use if you are there all the time. Our depreciation is totally  
276 funded which was not funded last year. Our chemical use is down following the filter changeover and, matter of  
277 fact, we have gotten one complaint about water since we changed the filter process to green sand and that was when  
278 we did the burn out which pushes slugs through the system. If there is a deposit or build up inside the pipes, when  
279 we put the free chlorine through it detaches whatever has built up on the pipes and somebody is going to get a  
280 residual of that. We had one that we went out and flushed and their problem was taken care of. The Operations and  
281 Maintenance is ongoing. We are at the point where it is not a catastrophe every time something breaks because we  
282 either have the skills to fix it or we have the replacement parts on hand or we have done maintenance and see that  
283 there is a problem coming and have ordered those parts in advance. All of our functions are State compliant at the  
284 Water Plant and all of our licenses are now held in house which saves you \$10,000 in contracted ORC. Those are  
285 about the highlights. I would be more than happy to answer any questions. There is one other thing, in the Water  
286 Fund, this year's Water Fund Appropriations is \$347,000. Last year it was \$309,000. The \$40,000 of the \$347,000 is  
287 the \$40,000 that we are taking out of reserve to abate the lead paint on the 75,000 gallon tank. While we are in this  
288 cycle doing maintenance and we don't have the big project looming over us, this is a good time to do it. So that  
289 \$40,000 down payment on that process, if you take that out, our water budget is actually \$2,000 less than it was last  
290 year. The General Fund Appropriations that are increased, all of those increases were highlighted in your (slide?). I  
291 would be happy to answer any other questions.

292 **Allen Price:** The lead is on the outside of the tank?

293 **Manager Miller:** The lead is on the outside of the tank. Our tanks, we have a tank maintenance contract. Our tanks  
294 are washed and disinfected and they are taken off line so that we are only on one tank instead of two. They are  
295 emptied, washed and disinfected, inspected for all structural issues and then they are refilled and flushed again so we  
296 keep them on that schedule so that we don't get caught in that position.

297 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi:** I would like to say something. It is not specifically to Jennifer's comments about  
298 employee salaries but by Diane encouraging our Public Works staff and our Administrative staff to get training at  
299 many, many levels, we have been able to save a tremendous amount of money that we were contracting out before.  
300 At one point we were spending \$10-12,000 a year just to have somebody come from another town who happened to  
301 have a water criteria or certification higher than what we had in house so that we had the State requirement. That  
302 person spent a certain number of hours at the water plant every month and that was years and years and years  
303 spending \$12,000. Now some of that does not need to be spent anymore and some of that has been brought in house  
304 and given to the people that do work here, that have gone out and gotten those certifications so that we have got a  
305 team here in Town of people that love to get training that love the fact that they are completely in charge of their  
306 world here in Oriental and I can't say how really proud and delighted I am that Diane has taken this tact in getting  
307 us a team, and I hope that they all stay forever, of very well trained and dedicated people and you can do so much  
308 more in the long run with fewer really dedicated and well trained people so if it looks to you like we are paying  
309 people a little more than we used to, you bet, and they are earning every dime.

310 **Manager Miller:** There are no across the board salary raises in this budget. There were a couple of individuals who  
311 earned additional licenses or took on significantly additional responsibilities that got small, individual raises but  
312 there was no across the board increase.

313 **Commissioner White:** The only thing I would like to say according to that also is that under Diane's leadership, we  
314 now have all of our employees are on performance plans that are yearly review and any increases are based on merit  
315 as opposed to just natural cost of living increases so for the first time in a long time, all the employees are rated  
316 yearly as is the Town Manager rated yearly so everybody has a specific plan and they are working toward the plan  
317 so that has been very good so it's outstanding.

318 **Manager Miller:** The line that is funded as Merit Compensation allows us to give those who performed at an  
319 extraordinary level, where they used to get, like at Christmas time, and everybody kind of got the same amount kind  
320 of check they, according to this seven page evaluation, they earn 1-3% and they get it in one lump check instead of  
321 spread out. The advantage to you the taxpayer is that it is not added to their paycheck and then compounded for the  
322 next year. It's a one-time bonus, or not bonus, dependent on their performance and they actually, once given the  
323 evaluation form and being told what was going to be expected and that you are going to be evaluated in six months,  
324 the performance was amazingly better that they had this is what you are going to be rated on, if you have two  
325 misreads it's going to make a difference, if you have ten misreads it's going to make a bigger difference, if you have  
326 more than that you can go find another job. That's pretty much where we were so they are on that because I  
327 promised them a steak dinner if they eliminated their misreads. They have never had no misreads so I haven't had  
328 to pay out yet! There's always one or two or there's a snake in the box or something. Everything seems to be coming  
329 online and we do have a fabulous team.

330 **Commissioner Overcash:** I would like to thank Diane and her staff for making the budget process so much better.  
331 It has been progressively better every year and it helps the Board tremendously so our appreciation for all you do,  
332 thank you.

333 **Manager Miller:** You're welcome.

334 **Commissioner White:** This budget does not have any fee increases or tax increases this year so we are balancing it  
335 with what we have. All of our functions that we do do not pay themselves so we dip into stuff like as an example,  
336 the dumpster we put at the Water Plant for green removal of plants, we had budgeted, I think when we originally  
337 started to do that, \$4,000. It's probably costing us \$13,000..

338 **Manager Miller:** It's close to \$13,000 now.

339 **Commissioner White:** I don't know if it's filled, it's usually every Monday it's replaced with a new one coming in  
340 so it's been very good. What it's done is it's allowed people to stop burning and it's also allowed people to clean  
341 their drainage ditches out because they don't have a place to put their debris so we are actually seeing a benefit for  
342 having that. The way I understand it is we are subsidizing that as we go forward so it's good. We are going to try to  
343 hold to it. It's a maintenance budget this year so knock on wood we don't get any major storms. Maybe they were  
344 wrong with their hurricane predictions this year. Let's hope they are on the negative.

345 **Manager Miller:** I have had really good practice filing our FEMA reports and hopefully that we can do that again.

346 **Commissioner Overcash:** So where are we, do we approve the budget?

347  
348 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi**.  
349 Motion passed 5-0.

350  
351 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to approve the budget as presented. Seconded by **Commissioner**  
352 **Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0. The budget is approved.

353  
354 **7. Whittaker Creek Dredging Project. (Tab 5)**

355 Manager Miller stated in August of 2016 the Board had approved a Resolution to support the Friends of Whittaker  
356 Creek Dredging Project. The State came back with a required amendment to that Resolution. Our attorney has  
357 okayed, this is a standard request. He also looked through the Grantee agreement that we were requested to sign as  
358 the State would look at us being the Grantee, not friends of Whittaker Creek, as we are the governmental agency.  
359 Our attorney has no objection to our signing that. We will be the administrative function. Commissioners asked if  
360 there needs to be a MOTION. Manager Miller stated the only change is "provide financial assistance for the Town  
361 of Oriental for Whittaker Creek" where it said "Friends of Whittaker Creek." Commissioner White asked if we are  
362 responsible only for the administration of the funds and not financially. Manager Miller responded that was correct.  
363 There is also a Conflict of Interest Certification stating that no one on the Board is gaining financially from this  
364 project. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi said they had a similar situation previously with the artificial reef.

365  
366 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to approve the Replacement Resolution for the Whittaker Creek  
367 Dredging Project. Seconded by **Commissioner Winfrey**.

368  
369 **Commissioner White** stated that the previous evening, he and **Commissioner Overcash** saw a presentation from  
370 Jim Blackerby (HWAC) regarding Whittaker Pointe, where the marina belonging to Henry Frazer and Ben  
371 Hollowell is, the point is eroding away. Mr. Blackerby has researched and found pictures dating back to 1933 to  
372 show how much of the point has eroded away. Mr. Blackerby feels that if we go forward with the dredging project  
373 in the creek, the point is protecting the creek and if that point washes away, the channel will always flood over with  
374 sediment. Commissioner White stated that our storms typically come with winds out of the north and break at that  
375 point and protects the homes and the channel from erosion. Many of the homes have been bulkheaded and it coming  
376 inside the creek and eroding it back in there. Commissioner White has asked Mr. Blackerby to speak with Manager  
377 Miller. He has spoken with Mr. Frazer and Mr. Hollowell, the owners of that land. Commissioner Overcash spoke  
378 with Mr. Frazer about this. They will not pursue a grant but if they donate the land to the Town of Oriental, the  
379 Town can pursue a grant to refurbish and replenish that. Mr. Frazer thinks it is favorable that his Association will  
380 agree to donate this land to the Town. Commissioner Overcash stated the presentation was an "eye opener" and  
381 went back to when the rock from Fulcher's Seafood was first put there in 1948. At one point there was rock put  
382 there that had helped but that has now washed away. Commissioner White has asked Mr. Blackerby to come to  
383 perhaps a Special Meeting to make his presentation so the Town can see and he is willing to present it to anyone  
384 who would like to see it. Hurricane Irene took out 3 ½ acres and then Hurricane Matthew took more away.

385 Commissioner White stated while watching the news he heard a summarization of the State's budget and there was  
386 \$17,000,000 transferred for dredging projects and another \$21,000,000 is being added to this year's budget and he  
387 wonders if there are other grants for restoration of wetlands and marshlands. Commissioners Overcash and White  
388 believe this is worth looking at before it is gone.

389  
390 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** stated this is a fairly extensive Resolution and this group, the Friends of Whittaker  
391 Creek, are taking it upon themselves to see that all that is necessary is done to open up the channel. The only role the  
392 Town plays is as a governmental entity. The funds raised will come to the Town and the Town will see that they are  
393 dispersed accordingly. The funds are not tax related or income or revenue.

394  
395 The Resolution passed 5-0.

396  
397 The Board also needs to pass a statement, something new that has come to the Town which is part of the Whittaker  
398 Point Dredging Project, a Conflict of Interest Certification, stating that there are no conflicts of interest pertaining to  
399 the employees, contractors, sub-contractors, designees or individuals involved in the Whittaker Creek Dredging  
400 Project and that the Town will remove any conflict.

401  
402 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** made a **MOTION** to pass this Conflict of Interest Certification. Seconded by  
403 **Commissioner White**. Motion passed 5-0.

404  
405 **8. CAMA (Tab 6)**

406 Update on the Fulcher Point project, travel lift and wash pad which was an SUP and LUP combined. What the  
407 Board approved, did not fit CAMA standard, and what fit CAMA standard did not fit the Town's restrictions.  
408 Dennis Fornes, designer for Mr. Fulcher, forwarded a new design to the Town to see if it is compliant with our  
409 restrictions before submitting to CAMA. There is an Ordinance that states if there is a change but does not change  
410 the use proposed, it goes back to the Board that approved the original and does not have to start a new SUP process.  
411 This is the same property and project, just situated a little differently. While Manager Miller stated she still has  
412 questions for Mr. Fornes, in the interest of transparency, will share what we are aware of. Manager Miller presented  
413 the drawings from Mr. Fornes showing the changes and revisions to the wash down pad and the travel lift. There is  
414 also an additional storm water structure in addition to the required settling tank for the wash down pad so any  
415 diverted storm water will have to go through a system before it goes to the water. Currently, it just goes to the river.  
416 There will also be a roof over where there will be any sanding, blasting or painting. Shows a holding tank for the  
417 wash down pad. There will also need to be a pump out installed, Manager Miller will look at that more closely. They  
418 are above the 75' line and this has been submitted to CAMA and Manager Miller is unsure what their response will  
419 be. The Town's issue was being against the property line, even though they own the property, they still need to be 7'  
420 off the property line. For our purposes, this is acceptable, but Manager Miller is unsure what CAMA will require.  
421 There were unexpected improvements. The entire point is impervious surface so this help with storm water, which is  
422 an improvement. We are not taking comment at this point. The Planning Board also needs to look at it and we will  
423 have another opportunity to look at it after CAMA. A copy of the approved SUP and conditions were sent to CAMA  
424 and they will receive another copy with this revision. That is where everything stands and Manager Miller just  
425 wanted to inform the Board that we received a revision and because the revision includes both components of the  
426 proposal, it goes back to this Board to approve or deny the final design.

427  
428 **9. Police Ordinance: (Tab 7)**

429 At the last meeting at the conclusion of passing changes that removed the reference to "Chief" so that while we  
430 could have one, we were not forced to have one and we are still in compliance. Manager Miller is also asking the  
431 Board to consider removing the "contracted" language as it complicates things legally. "Reserve" is the standard that  
432 is used by municipalities and counties for officers who retain their certification and come in case of emergency or  
433 for big events, for example bringing Officer Barnett back for Croakerfest to direct traffic, he would just be activated  
434 for that weekend. The Board was presented the originally proposed Ordinance at the last meeting without the  
435 addition that was suggested. Commissioner White stated the reason he added contract was because during one of our  
436 last hurricanes, we hired people as employees versus contract employees and even though they only worked for a  
437 few weeks, they all filed for unemployment and the Town was hit with a huge bill so he feels it is better to bring  
438 people on as contracted rather than employees. For the police situation, however, he recommends that he withdraw  
439 "contract" and go back to the original form.

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**Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to go back to the original format, proposed in May, of the Police Ordinance. Seconded by **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi**. Motion passed 5-0.

**10. Calendar. Reschedule July Town Board Meeting.**

Manager Miller reminded the Board that there is currently a meeting scheduled for June 28 at 5:30 to clean up any budget issues and close out the fiscal year. Commissioner White recommended that we move any business to the June 28 budget meeting.

**Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** that the Board change the July 4 Town Board Meeting to June 28 and start at 7pm like regularly scheduled Board Meetings. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0.

**11. County Tax Collection Agreement: (Tab 8)**

We annually contract with the County for collection of our taxes. Manager Miller stopped to add that Mrs. Sarah Davis has been exceptionally helpful in providing any information or reports we need in a timely manner and has been very helpful. Each year the County sends a new agreement and Manager Miller is asking for the Board to approve the new agreement.

**Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** made a **MOTION** to allow the County to collect our taxes for us this coming year. Seconded by **Commissioner White**. Motion passed 5-0.

**12. Police Report.**

Manager Miller gave the Police Report. Mainly business and residence security checks, a few citations. There were seven warnings, 28 total for the year. Manager Miller stated that for a many visitors as we have had in Town, it has been very quiet. We did not need to call the Sheriff's Department to Town during any of our events. They do cruise through Town occasionally and had nothing to report back from that. **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** asked if there was anything to report about Police. Manager Miller responded it would be addressed in her report.

**13. Sheriff's Report**

Major Scott Houston was out of Town on training and could not attend tonight's meeting.

**14. Manager's Report, including Financials (Tab 10)**

- Deputy Nic Blayne of the Pamlico County Sheriff's Office has been offered a conditional position. Conditions are that he must pass the physical, psych eval, drug test, firearms qualifications and background check that are required by the State and fill out State required paperwork. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi asked if he would have been required to fill out the same paperwork for the County. Manager Miller responded yes, it is, but he has had six years on the job and it would be in our best interest to have him go through those things again. He will go to FMRT, the entity that we contract with for all of those tests, on June 14. The turnaround time for the State is eight days after we receive his testing results so he may be on duty by Croakerfest. The Sheriff is assisting with the paperwork and Manager Miller is receiving assistance from Criminal Justice Training and Standards as they understand that we are currently without an officer. Commissioner Overcash asked if this includes radar certification and it does not.
- Daniel Early passed his pesticide certification with an almost perfect score on his test so he will now be one of the technicians spraying for mosquitoes. It is a fairly intense one-day course where they are taught, what chemicals to use, when to use them and where not to use them. There are now Public Works workers certified in pesticides. Jesse Burgess and Josh Gibson are attending continuing education for their water certifications. Public Works Director Andrew Cox just passed his second pump school which will save the Town anywhere from \$900 to \$3,000 in this upcoming budget. The cost of those pumps is \$30,000 so to fix one is several thousand dollars but the kit to rebuild it is about \$500. When the pumps are working so hard in the summer months, there is a 50/50 high chance of losing one of those well pumps so this was an investment for the future as well as the other pumps in the plant.
- The auditors will be back to finish their field work and the software representative is coming as well so the plan is to all get on the same page. What they have seen is going well and what the software people found that is wrong, they have fixed and we are getting closer to a solution.

- 494 • Tennis Court Progress: It took Public Works a week to get the stains off of the tennis court. Caulking and  
495 repainting the cracks will take about a day and a half as soon as we get a good stretch of dry weather. The  
496 new net came in and as soon as the caulking and painting are done, the pickle ball lines will be installed,  
497 put the net up and then speak with Parks and Rec about the pickle ball nets as they are not permanent.  
498 Manager Miller feels that if they are movable, how do we keep them from disappearing. Mayor Pro  
499 Tempore Venturi stated that in an earlier meeting, about two years ago, she spoke about setting the pickle  
500 ball court up around the tennis net. Manager Miller said we can do that but Parks and Rec requested two  
501 pickle ball courts. Manager Miller said we could have two temporary nets and have people check them out  
502 at Town Hall, but what if we are not open and if we leave them, she is reasonably sure they will walk away.  
503 Commissioner Overcash has volunteered to sit and watch the paint dry when the project gets to that point.  
504 Trenching for the new water fountain will begin as they paint is drying as well. The project is moving  
505 forward.
- 506 • Officer Barnett has officially retired. On his last shift, he took Nic Blayney, our prospective police officer,  
507 around town and showed him basically where to watch, what to look for and is available by phone or to  
508 come in and help with problems or questions. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi commented that in hiring Nic  
509 Blayney, it is nice that he is someone who has been here all of his life. Commissioner Overcash asked if he  
510 has resigned from the Sheriff's Department yet. Manager Miller stated he has not. Commissioner Overcash  
511 asked if he can operate as a police officer via the Sheriff's Department if we need him to. Manager Miller  
512 responded that he cannot enforce our Ordinances. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi asked if he can stay on with  
513 the Sheriff's Department as a reserve deputy. Manager Miller stated that he can and that Officer Barnett  
514 will be a reserve deputy. There was discussion about an officer in the past who was a reserve deputy.  
515 Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi felt that was easier as he would arrest a perpetrator and take them to the  
516 County to be processed and not need to fill out a separate set of paperwork.
- 517 • Annual Burn Out is over, ended on May 25. Manager Miller explained that the Burn Out is a month long  
518 process where our water, which is normally disinfected with chloramines, a chlorine and ammonia  
519 combination, is disinfected with straight chlorine. This is done to flush the system of any residual solids  
520 that may build up inside the distribution system. If you get a batch of bad tasting water, that is one of those  
521 "slugs" coming through. When that happens they open the closest fire hydrant to flush it out. There have  
522 been no complaints over the new water. When people return to vacation homes, they generally need to  
523 flush all of their lines to get the water out that has been sitting in the lines.
- 524 • Plug in Electric Vehicle stations are en route. There will be one here at Town Hall and one at the public  
525 restrooms. We are currently working on making the infrastructure right, new electrical connections, digging  
526 and slicing sidewalks before the electrician can lay the lines.

527  
528 Commissioner Overcash asked if there had been any movement on the Fulcher parking area. Manager Miller said  
529 there has been nothing new but there is now an orange cone that sits in the entry way.

530  
531 Manager Miller stated that there was one thing she wanted to bring to the Board that had come across the Manager's  
532 Listserv called the "Quiet Hour". Apparently, several municipalities and counties are moving toward this. On many  
533 occasions, there are questions that can only be answered by Manager Miller or Deputy Finance Director Tammy  
534 Cox, and they may be in the middle of audit or budget making it difficult at times to accomplish these tasks. Office  
535 hours would remain the same, but with a quiet hour at the end of the day from 4-5pm, this would allow us to get  
536 through long range things. This has been an ongoing issue so Manager Miller would like to try 8am to 4pm, Monday  
537 through Thursday as we really do not have a rush of people during those hours. For water payments we do have the  
538 night drop box and the online pay option and it would be extremely helpful to have four hours a week to get the  
539 work done and cleaned up and would be grateful to the Board if they would consider this. Mayor Pro Tempore  
540 Venturi feels that this may not need a motion. Manager Miller stated that while she has an open door policy to the  
541 public, we can better serve them if we can focus more on them while they are in the office. Commissioner White  
542 stated that we can start it as a test and if there are any complaints from the public, we can pull back. Jennifer Roe felt  
543 that if we are changing the office business hours, that we may need to do a Resolution or Motion.

544  
545 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** made a **MOTION** that the Town of Oriental adjust its hours regarding public access  
546 to be closed to the public at 4pm, Monday through Thursday beginning July 1, or the Monday closest to (July 3).  
547 **Seconded by Commissioner Overcash.** Motion passed 5-0.  
548

549 **Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi** stated that she is amazed and receives many compliments often about how helpful  
550 the staff of Town Hall is.

551  
552 **15. Committee/Board Reports (Tab 11)**

- 553 a. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – 5-10-17
- 554 b. Planning Board – 4-19-17
- 555 c. Tourism Board – 4/18/17
- 556 d. Tree Board – 5/30/17
- 557 e. Water Advisory Board – Budget workshop only
- 558 f. Harbor Waterfronts Advisory Committee – 5/11/17
- 559 g. Bay River Metropolitan Sewer District –

560  
561 In addition to the Parks & Recreation minutes, the Town did have a visit, Ad Hoc, from Betsy Kane from NCDOT  
562 about the Bike/Ped project moving forward. Manager Miller contacted Mr. (inaudible) Johnson, who is in charge of  
563 the Bike/Ped division. Ms. Kane was in the area and stopped in the hear more about our plans. She met with  
564 Manager Miller a few of our Commissioners. She brought her bicycle with her and decided to spend the night at the  
565 Inn. Manager Miller suggested she go around to Dolphin Point to see exactly what our issues are. She had several  
566 recommendations, told us about several grant opportunities and take our information and findings from her field  
567 work and then get back to us with how we should move forward.

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569 Commissioner White mentioned that he was present at the last Harbor Waterfronts Committee meeting and it was  
570 discussed that they would like to purchase some telescoping poles for the burgees, the type that can be brought down  
571 low in case of a storm. The cost is approximately \$160-\$170 with shipping which includes a base platform that they  
572 fit in. They are screwed into the dock and bolted from underneath. This would allow us to bring the burgees up and  
573 fly American flags as well. Lisa Thompson of HWAC added the Clean Marina flag as well. Manager Miller stated  
574 we need to keep the pump out working to keep the Clean Marina. Ms. Thompson asked if it is working.  
575 Commissioner White and Manager Miller stated it had not that afternoon. Board had discussion about something  
576 that could possibly be done to indicate that the pump is on as it cannot be heard while in use. Commissioner  
577 Overcash asked Ms. Thompson about an Oriental presence or display of Oriental at the Annapolis, MD, Boat Show  
578 as she feels they leave Maryland and may stop in Oriental. Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi said she believes Sail Loft  
579 Realty has attended this show. Ms. Thompson stated that River Dunes has gone to sell themselves.

580  
581 **16. Commissioner’s Comment/Discussion Period.**

582 Commissioner Overcash stated he had a call the previous week from the anonymous donor of the dog park inquiring  
583 about progress, which has been minimal. The County office that has been helping us with this project has been in  
584 budget preparation. Commissioner Overcash stopped to see Garry Cooper in Bayboro and they are talking about the  
585 dog park so there is movement. Commissioner Overcash stated he, Mr. Cooper, Manager Miller and Mayor  
586 Belangia will continue to work on this as well as anyone else that is interested.

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

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590 **Meeting adjourned 8:28pm.**

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Barbara Venturi, Mayor Pro Tempore

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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600 Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2017 \_\_\_\_\_