ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 12, 2026 6PM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Jordan officiating

The Town Board of Oriental regular meeting was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, and was called to order at 6 PM. Mayor Pro Tempore Jordan determined a quorum to be present. The meeting was open to the public. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's website at www.TownofOriental.com. Mayor Belangia was absent.

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order. A quorum of commissioners was present.

Pledge of Allegiance
The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda
A motion was made to amend the agenda to include a Resolution of Appreciation for Josh Kali following the Consent Agenda.
Motion: IC: Amend the agenda to include the Resolution of Appreciation for Josh Kali.
Second:LO Motion seconded. **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Eileen Denmark – 414 High Street
Ms. Penmark spoke in support of proposed parking changes near Lupton Park and Mildred Street. She explained that vehicles parked opposite residential driveways often make it difficult for residents to safely back out, sometimes requiring multiple-point turns or driving across lawns to exit. She stated support for low-profile signage and appreciated the Board's consideration of the matter.

Allison Deweese
Ms. Deweese commented on parking concerns related to events in town and noted the limited parking available in the downtown area. She expressed support for restricting parking to one side of certain streets rather than eliminating parking entirely. She also raised concerns about vehicles parking near the yellow curb area by Broad Street during food truck events, stating that the situation has caused traffic backups and near accidents.

Swearing-In of Officer Michael DeStefano
Police Chief Wichrowski introduced Officer Michael DeStefano and welcomed him to the Oriental Police Department. Chief Wichrowski noted Officer DeStefano's twelve years of law enforcement experience, including prior service with the Jones County Sheriff's Office and Riverbend.
Officer DeStefano was formally sworn in as a police officer for the Town of Oriental.
The Board welcomed Officer DeStefano to the community and police department.

Consent Agenda

Motion: CM: Approve the Consent Agenda. **Second:** IC: Motion seconded. **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

Resolution of Appreciation – Josh Kali

A Resolution of Appreciation honoring Josh Kali for completing his circumnavigation voyage was presented.

The resolution recognized Mr. Kali's completion of the McIntyre Mini Globe Race aboard the nineteen-foot SV Skookum and proclaimed May 13, 2026, as "Josh Kali Day" in the Town of Oriental.

Motion: CM: Adopt the Resolution of Appreciation for Josh Kali. **Second:** LO: Motion seconded. **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

Public Hearing – Special Use Permit Application
Short-Term Rental – 505 Mildred Street

The Board opened a public hearing regarding a Special Use Permit application for a short-term rental at 505 Mildred Street.

Manager Miller explains the process. Is there a motion to open the public hearing for public comment? IC. Second CM. The motion is approved

PJ: Does the applicant have any comments regarding this request? Is the applicant here? They're not. They're not here

The town commissioner shall issue the requested permit unless the permit is not within its jurisdiction. Does the public have any comment on jurisdiction of the application? Are there any commissioner questions?

The application is incomplete and the application has been deemed complete by the land use administrator and the planning board. Does the public have any comment on the completeness of the application? Are there any commissioner comments?

If completed as proposed Will not comply with-- Will the application not comply with one more requirements of this chapter of the GMO? Does the public have any evidence to offer concerning compliance with the GMO? Are there any commissioner questions?

Will it materially endanger public health or safety? Does any member of the public have any comment on endangerment of public health and safety? Are there any commissioner comments?

Will it substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property? Does any member of the public have any evidence to offer that indicates the project will injure the value of adjoining or abutting property? Are there any commissioner comments?

Will it not be in harmony with existing uses, development in the area? Does any member of the public have any evidence that the project is not in harmony with existing uses in the area? Are there any commissioner questions? Will it not be in conformity with the land use plan or other plan officially adopted by the town? Does any member of the public have any evidence that the project is not in conformity with existing plans?

And does any commissioner have a comment or a question? Are there any other commissioner comments or questions regarding this application? Hearing none, is there a motion to close the public hearing? IC. And a second LO. All in favor of closing the public hearing? Aye. The motion passes.

With the public hearing being closed, PJ moves that we approve the special use permit for a short-term rental at 505 Mildred Street, because according to the land use administrator, the application is complete, the parcel is within jurisdiction, it is compliant with the GMO. Granting the application will not endanger public health or safety, will not injure property values, and is in harmony with existing uses in the area, and is in conformity with the land use plan or other plans officially adopted by the town. CM:second. All in favor? Aye. The special use permit is approved.

Auxiliary Board Reports

Business and Tourism Comments

Comments were shared regarding the positive economic impact of the NC Cycle event and visiting boaters traveling the Great Loop. Local businesses reported increased activity and visitors expressed appreciation for Oriental's atmosphere, hospitality, and waterfront amenities.

Water Advisory Board Report

Roger provided an update on ongoing water system projects, including:

- Replacement of 47 valves throughout the water system.
- Coordination with engineers and contractors regarding installation timelines.
- Anticipated project activity following the July 4 holiday.
- Booster station improvements on White Farm Road.
- Progress on water station renovation design work.
- Continued review of project funding and scope adjustments.

Commissioners thanked the Water Advisory Board for its work advancing the projects.

Cleanup Day Reminder

A reminder was given regarding the upcoming cleanup day at Lupton Park.

Manager's Report

Town Manager Diane Miller provided updates on several ongoing town matters, including:

- Water system insertion valve projects and related shutdown planning.
- Current water system disinfection burnout period through May 20.
- Upcoming budget workshop scheduled for May 14.
- Harbor Festival fireworks and July 4 bridge closure information.
- Bulk pickup day reminders.
- National Police Week recognition.
- Donation of a bike rack from Loved and Lost.
- Receipt of approximately $106,000 in funding related to prior efforts.
- Legislative and coastal regulatory matters affecting local governments.

The Board also discussed allocation and transfer of certain project funds.
Motion: CM: Approve the manager's funding request as presented to immediately start new officer health insurance. **Second:** DM: Motion seconded. **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

Budget Amendment

The Town Manager presented a budget amendment. One was to move funds into Sanitation as the manager predicted, it will run short, taken from Drainage Maintenance. Increase in health ins and phone expense in Water fund, from Misc. Expense.
Motion: DM: Approve the budget amendment. **Second:** IC: Motion seconded. **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

Traffic and Parking Discussion

Church Street Parking

The Board discussed safety concerns regarding parking on both sides of Church Street, particularly for emergency vehicle access.

After review with Police Chief Wichrowski, staff recommended restricting parking to one side of Church Street between Third Street and Broad Street.

Motion: IC: Direct the Town Manager to amend the traffic ordinance to establish no parking on one side of Church Street from Third Street to Broad Street for future Board consideration.

Second: CM: Motion seconded. **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

Lupton Park Parking Concerns

The Board discussed parking concerns around Lupton Park affecting residential driveways.

Staff recommended establishing limited no-parking areas adjacent to affected driveways to improve safety and access while maintaining overall parking availability.

Motion: CM: Direct the Town Manager to amend the traffic ordinance to provide for no-parking signage around affected driveways near Lupton Park as presented. **Second:** IC: Motion seconded. **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

Public Hearing – FY 2026-2027 Budget and Fee Schedule

The Board discussed scheduling a public hearing regarding the FY 2026-2027 budget, fee schedule, advisory board schedules, and meeting schedules.

The public hearing was scheduled for June 9, 2026.

The Board also confirmed a budget meeting scheduled for June 25, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Motion: DM: Establish a public hearing for the FY 2026-2027 Budget and Fee Schedule for June 9, 2026. **Second:** LO: Motion seconded. **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

Police Report

Chief Wichrowski reviewed the monthly police report and discussed the hiring process for Officer Michael DeStefano. He noted that recruitment efforts through law enforcement networking and social media resulted in several qualified applicants.

Commissioners thanked Chief Wichrowski for his work during the hiring process.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioners encouraged public participation in ongoing budget workshops and acknowledged concerns regarding recent property tax revaluations.

Comments were also made regarding:

- Efforts to maintain a revenue-neutral tax rate where possible.
- Healthcare cost increases and budget pressures.
- Public outreach concerning tax relief programs for qualifying residents.
- Appreciation for community involvement.
- Tax Rate at the Town is minimal compared to the County: was \$.22 Town, \$.645 County, which means ¾ of your property tax goes to the County.

It was announced that the Josh Kali proclamation would be presented at Town Dock the following day.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn the meeting. **Second:** Motion seconded. **Vote:** Approved unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned.
Adjourn DM Makes a Motion to adjourn at 7:14PM. IC seconds. 4-0.

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Paul Jordan, Mayor Pro Tempore

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved: ____________________, 2026

ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING #1
Wednesday, April 22, 2026 10AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

The budget workshop meeting was called to order on April 22, 2026.

Present: Mayor and Commissioners all present, Manager and Finance Officer
Staff Present: Diane Miller and Finance Staff

Call to Order

The budget workshop was called to order by the Chair.

Revenue Neutral Tax Rate Discussion

Finance staff presented calculations regarding the Town's projected revenue-neutral tax rate following the countywide property revaluation.

Staff explained that the 2025–2026 tax base figures included real property, personal property, DMV values, and the projected levy. The projected levy for the current fiscal year was noted at approximately $595,000.

It was reported that the current year's real property valuation totaled approximately $435 million.

Staff explained that a strictly revenue-neutral rate would be approximately 13.7 cents. However, when accounting for the Town's normal annual growth rate of approximately 2.17 percent, the adjusted revenue-neutral rate would be approximately 14.28 cents.

Finance staff reviewed worksheets prepared using guidance from the School of Government and compared Town calculations with figures provided by the County Finance Officer. Staff noted that the Town's valuation calculations accounted for approximately thirty properties that experienced significant valuation changes due to improvements or development since the last revaluation cycle.

Staff further explained that only two properties were currently known to have decreased in value since the previous assessment cycle.

Collection Rate and Appeals Adjustments

Discussion followed regarding adjustments to account for tax appeals and exemptions.

Finance staff explained that School of Government guidance recommends using between 95 and 97 percent of the assessed valuation to account for appeals, exemptions, nonprofit properties, churches, and disabled veteran exclusions. The County Finance Director proposed using 97 percent while the County Tax Collector recommended 95 percent based on current appeal activity.

Staff stated that a middle-ground estimate of 96 percent was used in the Town calculations, reducing the taxable valuation from approximately $435 million to approximately $417 million.

Board members were advised that state law only permits budgeting revenues based upon the prior year's actual collection percentage. Staff projected the Town's collection rate to remain near 99 percent.

Revenue projections were then reviewed for tax rates ranging from 14.5 cents through 17 cents.

Impact of Revaluation on Property Owners

Examples were presented demonstrating the effect of various tax rates on residential properties.

Staff explained that under a proposed 17-cent tax rate:

- A property previously valued at approximately $242,000 would experience only a modest increase in Town taxes.
- A property increasing in valuation from approximately $252,000 to $627,000 would experience a substantial increase in both Town and County tax obligations.

Discussion emphasized that countywide revaluation increases averaged approximately 60 percent.
Staff explained that:

- Properties increasing less than the countywide average could potentially see lower taxes under a revenue-neutral rate.
- Properties increasing above the average would likely experience higher tax bills even under a revenue-neutral structure.

Board members discussed concerns regarding the financial burden on residents, particularly those on fixed incomes or long-term homeowners facing significant valuation increases.
Several members expressed concern that dramatic tax increases could force residents from their homes.
Staff noted that the Town has no authority over the County tax rate and can only determine the municipal tax rate.

General Discussion

Board members discussed balancing the need to fund Town operations and infrastructure improvements while minimizing the impact on taxpayers.
No formal action was taken during the workshop.

Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at approximately 11:01AM.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved: ____________________, 2026

ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING #2
Friday, May 1, 2026 10AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

Call to Order

The budget workshop meeting was called to order on May 1, 2026.

Discussion Items

1. Property Revaluation Moratorium / Senate Bill 889

The Board discussed the introduction of Senate Bill 889, which proposes a moratorium on current property revaluations. Staff explained that the legislation was introduced on April 28 and could significantly impact municipal budgeting if enacted prior to adoption of the FY 2026–2027 budget.

Discussion included:

- The requirement to produce a balanced budget by June 1.
- The need to prepare parallel budget scenarios in case the legislation passes.
- Concerns regarding uncertainty surrounding property tax revenues.
- Comparison between projected revenues under current and revalued property assessments.
- Potential impacts on municipalities and counties currently undergoing revaluation.

Staff advised that:

- Under current property values at the 22¢ tax rate, projected revenue would be approximately $619,000.
- Under revaluation figures, a 15¢ tax rate would generate approximately $620,000.

Board consensus was to continue budget planning assuming the revaluation remains in effect unless legislative action changes the process.

2. Eastern Carolina Council of Governments (ECCOG)

The Board discussed ongoing uncertainty regarding the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments following notice that several counties and municipalities intend to withdraw from the organization.

Discussion included:

- Concerns that remaining members could face substantial increases in dues.
- Benefits ECCOG provides to smaller municipalities, particularly planning services.
- Potential alternatives including other regional councils.
- Current annual contribution of approximately $360.
- Possibility that future contributions could increase significantly.

No action was taken pending additional information from ECCOG representatives.

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3. Budget Revenue Projections

Staff reviewed updated revenue projections using both current and revalued tax bases.

Discussion included:

- Revenue comparisons at varying tax rates.
- Estimated property tax revenues under both scenarios.
- Impacts of exemptions, appeals, and collection allowances.
- Current projections showing approximately $38,800 needed to balance the proposed budget at a 15¢ tax rate.

The Board directed staff to continue refining revenue estimates while monitoring state legislative activity.

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4. Insurance and Personnel Costs

Staff reviewed estimated increases in employee-related expenses, including:

- A projected 9% increase in health insurance costs.
- Potential increases in law enforcement and automobile liability insurance premiums.
- Stable dental and vision insurance rates due to multi-year contracts.
- Personnel assumptions related to hiring a new police officer and future public works employee.

The Board discussed the uncertainty of final insurance costs and staffing variables.

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5. Tree Clearing and Maintenance

The Board discussed proposed expenditures related to tree removal and maintenance.
Items discussed:

- Approximately $14,500 budgeted for tree clearing, stump grinding, and debris removal.
- Additional future costs associated with fencing, culverts, gravel, and landscaping.
- Potential availability of grant funding through Duke Energy storm preparedness programs.
- Prior legal and property line concerns involving adjacent property owners.

No formal action was taken.

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6. Christmas Decorations / Lighting Repairs

The Board discussed repairs and upgrades to Christmas lighting infrastructure on Broad Street.
Discussion included:

- Estimated repair cost of approximately $33,300.
- Damage caused by previous storms and downed trees.
- Transition from privately maintained wiring to Duke Energy infrastructure.
- Tourism and "Spirit of Christmas" event impacts.
- Possibility of funding repairs using tourism fund reserves.

Several members expressed support for addressing the lighting repairs due to their importance to community appearance and tourism.
No formal action was taken.

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7. Tourism Fund Balance

The Board reviewed tourism reserve balances and prior budget amendments.
Discussion included:

- Current tourism reserve balances totaling approximately $81,000.
- Prior expenditures related to Spirit of Christmas commitments.
- Use of tourism reserves for eligible tourism-related infrastructure and event support.
- Future obligations and budget sustainability.

Board members requested additional clarification regarding current commitments and reserve balances before future decisions are made.

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8. Public Works and Maintenance Contracts

The Board reviewed current mowing and drainage maintenance arrangements.
Discussion included:

- Continuation of mowing contracts through the current fiscal year.
- Scope of mowing and grounds maintenance services.
- Drainage maintenance contractor services and related costs.
- Public works staffing needs and equipment considerations.

No action was taken.

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9. Board Training Budget

The Board discussed the Town Board training budget and recent expenditures for conferences and educational opportunities.

Discussion included:

- Costs associated with recent municipal training sessions.
- Potential need to increase the training allocation for the upcoming fiscal year.

No action was taken.

General Consensus

The Board generally agreed to:

- Continue preparing the FY 2026–2027 budget assuming property revaluation remains in effect.
- Continue evaluating possible use of tourism reserves for Christmas lighting infrastructure.
- Await additional information regarding ECCOG membership costs and state legislative developments before making final decisions.

Adjournment

The workshop concluded following budget discussion and review.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved: ____________________, 2026

ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING #3
Thursday, May 14, 2026 10AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

The budget workshop meeting was called to order on May 14, 2026.

Call to Order

The Budget Workshop Meeting of the Town Board of Commissioners was called to order on May 14, 2026.

Present

Commissioners present included members of the Board of Commissioners, town administration staff, and members of the public.
Mayor Belangia and Commissioner Ostendorff were not present.

Budget and Revenue Discussion

Town administration reviewed projected revenue scenarios based on proposed tax rates of 14.5¢, 15¢, 15.5¢, and 16¢ per $100 valuation. The Board discussed the county revaluation process and the uncertainty surrounding successful property tax appeals.
It was explained that the revenue-neutral tax rate would be approximately 14.28¢ prior to accounting for new property valuations and growth.
Discussion included:

- The use of a 96% collection and valuation realization rate.
- Concerns regarding aggressive reductions being granted through county property tax appeals.
- Examples of substantial increases in assessed property values.
- The potential impact of county tax increases on residents, especially fixed-income homeowners.
- The possibility of future budget amendments should revenues fall below projections.

Commissioners discussed the risks associated with relying on projected revenues while appeal outcomes remain uncertain.
Consensus of the Board was reached to:

- Continue using the 96% realization estimate.
- Continue budget planning discussions using a tentative tax rate of 15.5¢ per $100 valuation.

No formal motion was made.

Health Insurance and Personnel Costs

Administration advised the Board that updated health insurance rates had not yet been finalized.
Current budget projections reflected:

- A projected 22% increase in health insurance costs.
- Updated personnel calculations for new employees.
- COLA and merit increase assumptions based on regional municipal averages.

The Board discussed:

- The impact of employee age bands on insurance costs.
- Retirement contribution rates for police personnel.
- Comparative salary and benefit data from School of Government surveys.

Credit Card Processing Fees

Staff reviewed proposed increases from the Town's online payment processing vendor, BankCard Associates.

Discussion included:

- Increased transaction fee percentages.
- Reduction in paper billing costs due to increased use of bank draft payments.
- Reduced processing costs associated with electronic billing and payments.

Insurance and Workers Compensation

Administration reviewed increases in:

- Liability insurance
- Property insurance
- Vehicle insurance
- Professional coverage
- Workers compensation insurance

Workers compensation costs increased slightly despite prior projections indicating a decrease.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Discussion

The Board reviewed preliminary estimates related to development of:

- A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Grant eligibility planning related to PARTF funding

Discussion included:

- The potential need for both a park-specific plan and a broader community recreation plan.
- Opportunities for the Town to complete portions of survey and planning work internally to reduce consultant costs.
- Current budget uncertainty due to tax appeal outcomes.
- Ongoing concerns regarding pickleball facility requests.
- The need to prioritize existing park maintenance over major new initiatives during the current fiscal year.

Several Commissioners expressed concern regarding pursuing major Parks and Recreation expansion projects during a year with significant revenue uncertainty.

No action was taken.

Website and Tourism Website Discussion

The Board reviewed website-related budget lines and discussed:

- Existing website expenditures in both Administration and Tourism budgets.
- ADA and federal accessibility compliance concerns with the current website.
- Potential consolidation of tourism and municipal website functions into a single platform.

Administration noted that CivicsPlus currently provides the Town's social media archiving services.

Property Behind Water Plant

Administration updated the Board regarding the Town-owned property behind the water plant.

Discussion included:

- Proposed tree clearing costs estimated at approximately $14,500.
- Ongoing property ownership verification.
- Encroachment concerns involving neighboring property owners.
- Plans to delay clearing activities until ownership documentation is fully confirmed.

The Board noted that the project would be funded through General Fund appropriations and was considered a one-time expenditure.

Christmas Lighting Discussion

The Board reviewed proposed expenditures for:

- Christmas light repairs
- Duke Energy rewiring work
- Maintenance responsibilities and future servicing

Commissioners generally agreed that maintaining holiday lighting was important to the character and appearance of the Town.

Discussion included:

- Duke Energy assuming future maintenance responsibilities.
- Timing concerns to ensure work is completed prior to the holiday season.

No action was taken.

Recess

The Board recessed briefly before reconvening.

Legislative Updates

Administration provided updates regarding pending state legislation involving:

- Income tax caps
- Property tax revaluation limitations
- Down-zoning legislation
- Military county exemptions

Discussion included concerns regarding:

- Future revaluation frequency requirements.
- The impact of state legislation on county finances and local governments.

CivicsPlus Website Presentation

The Board participated in a remote presentation from CivicsPlus regarding municipal website services.

Topics discussed included:

- Improved resident website navigation
- ADA compliance
- Calendar integration
- Tourism integration options
- Department-specific website headers
- Search functions
- Emergency alert banners
- Website analytics
- Drag-and-drop editing functionality
- Social media archiving integration

The representative demonstrated:

- Agenda and minutes management
- Calendar modules
- Department pages
- Website editing tools
- Accessibility compliance features
- Alert center functionality

Commissioners discussed:

- Combining tourism and government websites into a unified platform

- Cost-saving opportunities
- Website analytics capabilities
- Public communication improvements

Administration indicated pricing information would be requested for further review.

Croaker Festival Advertising

A representative from the Tourism Board addressed the Board regarding advertising funding for the Croaker Festival.

The representative advised:

- County assistance and festival funds would cover current advertising costs.
- No Town budget amendment would be necessary.
- Future radio advertising plans would be adjusted to maintain compliance with scheduling requirements.

The Board expressed appreciation for resolving the issue without requiring Town funding.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved: ______________________, 2026

ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING #4
Wednesday, June 3, 2026 1PM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

Present

Commissioners present included members of the Board of Commissioners, town administration staff, and members of the public.

Call to Order

The Special Budget Workshop Meeting of the Oriental Town Board was called to order by Mayor Sally Belangia. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss revisions to the FY 2026-2027 proposed budget following additional information regarding county tax revaluation appeals and projected revenues.

Budget Discussion

The Town Manager reviewed the budget development process, statutory requirements, and recent financial updates affecting the proposed budget. Discussion focused on maintaining essential services while minimizing impacts on taxpayers amid significant countywide property revaluations.

The Board discussed:

- The effect of increasing the proposed tax rate from 15.5 cents to 16 cents per $100 valuation.
- Maintaining a contingency reserve to address uncertainty associated with county property valuation appeals.
- The Town's effort to avoid increases in user fees despite rising operating costs.
- A 22% increase in employee healthcare expenses.
- Anticipated increases in utility and solid waste disposal costs.
- The need to preserve funding for emergency preparedness and storm recovery efforts.
- Potential future reductions in green waste disposal expenses and other operational costs if necessary.
- The importance of retaining recently added services, including funding for a second police officer, which had been identified as a community priority.

The Town Manager noted that the proposed budget already reflected significant cost reductions and that additional cuts could negatively affect services or require use of General Fund reserves.
Board members expressed concern about the large number of pending county tax assessment appeals and the potential impact on projected revenues.
Discussion also included maintaining adequate reserves for hurricane response and recovery, FEMA reimbursement delays, and planned improvements to provide secondary access to the water treatment facility during emergencies.

Public Comment

Several residents addressed the Board regarding the proposed tax rate and county property revaluation process.
Comments included:

- The relatively small annual tax impact of increasing the Town tax rate to 16 cents.
- Concerns regarding Pamlico County's reassessment methodology and appeal outcomes.
- Support for maintaining sufficient contingency funding due to uncertainty surrounding future revenues and emergency needs.

- Observations that residential property assessments appeared to increase at a significantly higher rate than many commercial properties.
- Requests that residents continue communicating concerns regarding property assessments to county officials.

Motion

Motion: Commissioner Moffat moved to increase the proposed FY 2026-2027 property tax rate from **15.5 cents to 16 cents per $100 valuation**.
Second: Commissioner McGuire.
Following Board discussion and public comment, the motion was put to a vote.
Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment

Motion: CM: Motion to adjourn.
Second: PJ: Second received.
Vote: 5-0.
The meeting adjourned following completion of budget discussions.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved: ____________________, 2026