

Good evening Mayor, Commissioners and Town Hall staff,

On June 25, July's Town Board Meeting was held. I was one of the people, along with Commissioner Barrow, who tried to attend that meeting online. All we saw was a wall, with no sound. It was during that meeting the Town Board Commissioners voted to stop online coverage of all future Town Board meetings.

Then there was a special meeting on July 13. Photos show that Commissioners David White, Charlie Overcash, Alan Price, Martin Barrow, along with Mayor Sally Belangia, Town Manager Diane Miller and other Town Hall staff not wearing masks as required by law. Commissioner Diane Simmons was wearing a mask during the meeting and socially distancing. As a retired RN, I know that an indoor meeting with so many unmasked people is a very high risk situation for everyone in this room.

I want to continue to participate in the Oriental Town Board Meetings, but my only option now is to come in person, to a room full of unmasked people. Town Hall keeps closing its doors "out of an abundance of caution" as employees continue to have close contact with positive Covid cases outside of Town Hall.

The Town Hall employees are paid with tax payers money. The taxpayers and voters expect them to serve and protect. But you all won't wear a mask "out of an abundance caution", nor as the law requires, or to protect your co-workers, families or friends. That continues to put the health and safety of everyone in Oriental and yourselves at risk.

Most of the voters and residents in Oriental are over 55 and at higher risk of a serious Covid-19 infection and complications. I also am in that category, as are many of you.

The citizens of Oriental want to see law abiding, reasonable leadership and a concern for public health and safety.

I know many of you personally. I know that you care about our community, and care about each other. I don't want any of you to get this virus. Or spread it when you are not symptomatic. I care very much about your health and safety. That is why I wear a mask. By wearing a mask you could literally save a co-workers life, or a Commissioner's life. Or my life.

Covid-19 infections are rapidly increasing in our county.
Many of the survivors of this disease now have chronic problems due to Covid-19.

So why not wear a mask at this critical time?

Why not protect yourselves and others?

Wearing a mask is a simple and proven way to greatly reduce the spread of Covid-19.

Do it to keep the county schools open, the Oriental businesses open, and the Town Hall open.

Please Commissioners, start wearing masks at Town Hall.

Start requiring Town employees interacting with the public and taxpayers to wear a mask.

It is gross negligence not to do so.

Please protect our citizens, volunteers, families and employees.

Thank you for your consideration,
Missy Tenhet