



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING

Tuesday, April 12, 2023, 9AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Budget Meeting #1 (following Retreat) held on April 19, 2023 was called to order at
2 9:00 AM. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present, opened the budget meeting and turned it over to the
3 Manager. The meeting was open to the public. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's
4 website at www.TownofOriental.com.

5
6 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price, Commissioner
7 Roe, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, and members of the public.
8 Commissioner Winfrey absent.

9
10 Approval of Agenda: Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to approve agenda. Commissioner Roe
11 seconds-4-0.

12
13 Revenues:

14 Fees: Watercraft Rental fee: propose taking it back to old fee \$5/mo and not use our locks. Commissioner Overcash
15 asks if we do not have control if we do not have locks. We just will cut off locks. Commissioner Roe says ask
16 HWAC. Water Rates AFTER change are still less than County rates prior to their raise. Meter Changeout has
17 changed the averages of usage from 500-1000-1500 gallons per month, due to newer, more accurate meters.
18 Manager notes garbage and recycling fee income versus what we have paid out YTD. We have taken in \$91K and
19 \$32K. Currently a few hundred dollars over what it costs. Green waste is included- holds its own. Recycling- has
20 taken in \$31K and paid out \$66K Trash charges up from \$4.50/recycling bin to \$6.75/bin. Disconnect fee is
21 currently \$25 (6-8 people)- not a disincentive. Does not cover what it costs to send someone out to turn off and turn
22 back on- BUT it's only 6-8 people. BUT, late fees are \$5 and not a deterrent- and we are running 60 people/month.
23 When its late- we generate list COB after the 25th. We have to print out cards, stamp by hand, take to post office and
24 send. Costly process. Commissioner Roe says to raise the fee to make it noticeable. Fee schedule is approved at the
25 same time as the budget. Commissioner Price asks about those who go out of town and have water turned off- NO-
26 this is disconnect for nonpayment. Commissioner Roe notes that our costs are up- people, gas, materials, etc. Double
27 it. Manager notes that it needs to be relative to our cost. Commissioner Price notes that there are several groups in
28 the County that assist. Manager notes that only other request for fee is driveway fee. Send PAW out to make sure
29 the driveway is not going over the meter. (Had this conversation with attorney- attorney fees double what budgeted).
30 Driveways submitted with building plans do NOT require additional fees.

31
32 Manager notes Water Fund is on watchlist, noting that once depreciation is noted in the water fund, it is not looking
33 solvent. Barely covering costs. Manager goes through County's Water Rates vs Oriental water rates and the
34 consequences potential. County is charging \$4.95 at lower level. We can fund our water system, or the State can
35 FORCE you to give it to Pamlico County. Once taken away, you no longer have control over cost or quality. We
36 might not need to go all the way to \$4.95/1000 (county rates) but \$4.25/1000 (Oriental rate) is not adequately
37 funding it. Commissioner Overcash does not want us to lose control of the system. There is a significant quality
38 difference at this end of the County. Commissioner Price notes the large difference in commercial rates. Manager
39 states that the Board can change any of those. Mayor Pro Tem White asks what is the distribution between users.
40 Manager notes most in the middle- meter changeout has proven that the older meters stop working and register less.
41 Water Loss is a factor of that issue. Water Loss was 25% 9 years ago, down now to 8%- acceptable. Meters are

42 warranted to 375,000 gallons. Manager's meter was over 900,000 gallons when changed. There are also subtractive
43 (dock) meters and irrigation meters that are not charged sewer. Sewerage is calculated off of water gallons, not rates.
44 Mayor Pro Tempore White offers \$4.50, \$4.75, and \$4.95. Commissioner Price asks about adjustments in revenue
45 due to that. Manager explains it is not a one to one- you raise rates, people conserve. Commissioner Roe notes we
46 used ARPA funds to make major fixes, but distribution needs real funds- more than we have. Also- employees,
47 equipment, etc. County is worried about being forced into district- worried about County being taken over also-
48 Distribution system goes with the water system- fixes would be delayed. Commissioner Roe says we need to go up.
49 Manager suggests we do not go over County rates, but there is a HUGE difference on commercial rates.
50 Flat rates- Oriental \$16/month, 2inch meters are \$40. We may come close this year because you added depreciation
51 as a line. Manager will look at commercial usage on the high months and see how the numbers will change. We're
52 at \$5 and the County is at \$7/1000. Suggestion to go to \$6/1000. Mayor Pro Tempore White notes that waterfront
53 (dock) usage is wasting water as all stands are leaking.

54
55 Revenues General fund- Taxes- that is what we are legally allowed to budget- no flexibility. Prior year taxes high
56 this year as several properties have been caught up. Sales and Use Tax- NCLM recommends (for major metro areas)
57 but ours went up when theirs did not- our number is a portion of the 6% projected- not justifiable.

58
59 Interest well overran this year, but the NCCMT says it will NOT be the same situation next year.
60 Franchise tax- cable- cutting the cord lowers this. Also, corded phones, the state tax you see on those bills. A lot of
61 these come AFTER the year is over and then Tammy backs those deposits in.

62
63 FEMA reimbursements are in there- any event at all gets us something. We recovered \$20K for preparation in time
64 and equipment for a tropical event- tying it down, picking it up. Public Works is professional at documenting time
65 and equipment used.

66
67 Occupancy Tax- way up. Commissioner Price notes that we overran in the last part of the year last year, which were
68 not counted in our projection. Discussion on AirBnB sending a check with no documentation of rooms used each
69 month. Homeowners are required to send that in.

70
71 Water Bill Service fee- the charge for using a credit card for online bill pay- needs to go up from \$3.50 to \$4.00. We
72 are currently \$100 behind- not covering that cost to us. Most expensive transaction is the most expensive- one
73 person takes it, another counts, another takes it to the bank- but we have to take cash. All agreed to cover cost.
74 Manager notes that is the only reason to increase costs- cover our costs. For example: trash- we can cover it or we
75 can NOT have the service- individual contracts cost residents TWICE what they currently pay. We got a good deal
76 in the extension this year- tipping increased 8% - our extension caps our increase at 2%- we will likely be hit with
77 that next year.

78
79 Census Stats- #99 of 100 counties in young age residents, we are #100 out of 100 for weekly wage- worst wages in
80 the state. We are a Tier 2 county, not a tier 1 county, and we STILL pay less than the poorest counties in the state.
81 Water Rates- our average bill (WATER ONLY) is \$23/mo- highest (in Carteret County is \$206/mo.)

82
83 CPI and Pay- we have worked from the CPI in January- which is 6.4%. State is looking at 7.5%. We have been
84 working with the annual CPI. County instituted a pay and class study- brought to us. It enumerates positions and
85 before/after study. This study would cost for a staff of 150 of tens of thousands of dollars. With 11 staff members
86 and attorney input, the Manager can certainly pull data from NCLM salary survey and give same results for those 11
87 positions (gathered from population under 2500) (smallest denomination). Apple to Oranges- Manager in County
88 has an Asst, Finance Officer, and Clerk- Manager here is all three- and it is similar for other positions here- many
89 hats for many workers. Dep Finance Officer/Admin Director- all kinds of extra responsibilities- not even close.
90 County has PW Director at \$73K and a Water Operations Mgr at \$72K-hard to compare our stuff to theirs.



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING

Tuesday, May 10, 2023, 8:30AM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Budget Meeting #2 (following Retreat) held on May 10, 2023 was called to order at
2 8:00 AM. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present, opened the budget meeting. The meeting was open
3 to the public. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's website at
4 www.TownofOriental.com.

5
6 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price, Commissioner
7 Roe, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, and no members of the public.
8 Commissioner Winfrey absent.

9
10 Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to approve agenda. Commissioner Overcash seconds-
11 4-0.

12
13 The Town Board additionally called a CLOSED Session meeting for 8AM, prior to the previously scheduled
14 8:30AM budget meeting. Mayor Pro Tempore White made a MOTION to go into Closed Session: In accordance
15 with N.C.G.S.§143.318(11)(a)(6) The Board will enter a CLOSED SESSION to consider personnel matters.
16 Seconded by Commissioner Overcash. 4-0.

17
18 Board returns from CLOSED SESSION at 8:49AM.

19
20 2023-2024 meeting schedule- Mayor will be away Sept 28 and Oct 3- Mayor Pro Tempore White will run those
21 meetings. Commissioner Roe notes January meeting scheduled day after holiday. Board removes/cancels January 2
22 meeting and retains the January 25 workshop. Move the November meeting to the 14th.

23
24 Fee Schedule: All things the Board asked to change are in the updated fee schedule. Water rates change. We spent
25 thousands on the last rezoning- moved from \$500 to \$1,000. Recycling going from \$4.50 to \$6.75 as planned last
26 year.

27
28 Revenues: columns C and D: Paving: Manager explains bond process: In order to get a bond, we must spend \$50-
29 \$60K up front to hire bond counsel, financial advisor/planner and several others. The Manager does not do the bond
30 request- this hired team does- part of the LGC rules. That must all be approved by LGC. That takes about 6 months.
31 Once approved, you now have that sunk cost plus interest on the bond. Then you must designate a new revenue
32 stream to pay for that bond. This new revenue stream is a raise in the property tax. Likely about 10 cents on the
33 \$100. That might get you \$5M and you pay for it for 20 years. You are also on the Unit Assistance List- you are
34 already being watched by the LGC. The LGC must approve a bond. 50/50, after spending \$60K, to get that bond.
35 Another option: You could NOT spend the \$60K, approve the same property tax increase, and earmark that money
36 for paving- that gives you \$247,580/year for paving as long as you leave that tax in place. HOWEVER, you cannot
37 commit a future Board to continue that. You COULD do it for this year, and then the next Board could potentially
38 do away with the tax and not have additional paving. So you have both options in front of you in those two
39 columns, plus \$40K in Powell funds every year. Commissioner Roe asked for comparable taxes. Pamlico County-
40 our rate and the combined rate- right now at 84.5 cents on the \$100. This increase would put you at \$.945/\$100.
41 County tax is currently \$.625/\$100 and ours is \$.22/\$100. Everything you see highlighted in pink is higher than us

42 with a raise. Looking at Onslow- County is higher and all municipalities are higher. Up to a future Board to change,
43 continue, end, whatever.

44

45 Solid Waste fees are changed- revenue projections up.

46 Interest rate will not stay up, plus you will drain Powell reserves in the current year.

47

48 Water Revenues: best projection, taking into account reduction in usage for conservation. Also raised late fee and
49 disconnect fee- raised to deter the action.

50

51 GF expenditures: Salaries are according to salary survey- not every staff member gets the same raise and less going
52 into the water fund. This can change on your direction. Merit line is 3% of the total payroll. If you chose to
53 decrease or increase any, all of the other calculations change as well- FICA, retirement. Health is age banded.
54 Dental changed minimally, and Health also. Employees pay for eye care insurance in order to select a more robust
55 dental plan for the same cost as previous dental and eye. Comparing our benefits to the County- they are on the State
56 Health plan, averaging \$568/employee- they pay \$25/month, eye and dental, 401 K additional contribution and life
57 insurance. Oriental provides Health (BCBSNC) at \$630/employee average, dental, required 401K only, no life
58 insurance, no eye care- pretty similar costs. Orbit- State tells us what we have to pay- we pay LEOs more (required).

59

60 Added \$1,000 to audit in case we have a yellow page.

61

62 Utilities: we moved all of the P&R utilities as directed to utilities, so significantly higher than last year.

63

64 Additional funds budgeted for closed session issue. GF appropriated covers closed session thing and capital
65 reserves. Can be removed and put back if/when it happens. If take those out, take out the appropriation. Never
66 recommended to balance the budget on GF appropriated- use for capital project or capital purchase (one time
67 things), but we will do as directed.

68

69 Commissioners had some difficulty understanding that there is no savings in taking the projects out.

70

71 Commissioner Roe asks what impact this water budget has on us being on the watchlist- NONE- once you're on,
72 you're on for three consecutive years. This year's revenues SHOULD cover because you (1) raised rates and (2)
73 budgeted depreciation- builds your reserve. Low reserve got you on the list. WF currently running \$78K above its
74 cost. We have not budgeted depreciation for years. Proposed budget is due to NC Treasurer May 16 as part of the
75 process being on the list. 23-24 budget is \$13K, but Manager believes that we should cover that, but if chemicals
76 rise like they have, we could get behind. Salt from \$45K last year to \$58,800 this year. Chlorine is already over
77 budget. Using LESS chemicals, but cost is skyrocketing. You also had an injection of cash from ARPA, but that's
78 gone. We used that to fix and make more efficient the process. Also- required additional testing. Adding to the
79 unrestricted unreserved should get us off the list. Commissioner Overcash asks if this affects ability to get grants.
80 So the raising of rates should show we are raising rates to solve the problem. Those in Carteret at base rate of
81 \$206/month will get grants first- because their rates are painful. Ours are not. Ours are .1% of Monthly Household
82 Income goes to our water bill(from the NC dashboard for rates).

83

84 Commissioner Roe does not want to raise taxes. If you do not raise taxes, we would need to re-order our priorities.
85 Take Occupancy tax and fund Parks and Rec from it. That frees up GF. Manager notes they are at \$19,950, \$4,000
86 of that is Tree Board. Commissioner Roe also suggests to remove the Capital Reserves. Sell the 3rd Police vehicle.
87 Take all of that and shift into paving/drainage.

88

89 Mayor Belangia is excused from the meeting for an appointment- Board takes a 5 minute break.

90

91 Commissioner Roe- we have to pay our people- leave the human costs alone- look at other things- again, if remove
92 the project, you take out what is funded from GFA. It only removes the \$8K from Police Capital Reserve. You gain
93 nothing from removing those things, except that it remains in the GF unreserved, unappropriated.

94
95 Last year's total budget had extra projects- Neuse Beach project, Net House project- larger total budget.

96
97 Occupancy tax can only be spent on those things designated from that tax- reserved, restricted.

98
99 Election cost- we have elections this year.

100
101 Tourism funds: Commissioner Roe: from Occ Tax- Take \$23,000 and divide between Tourism and P&R- \$13,800
102 to Tourism, \$9,200 to P&R. Commissioner Roe asks about requested funding- what for? Repair backboard, ADA
103 progress, replacing pickleball.

104
105 Manager asks for clarification. Manager notes revenues and expenses need to match and be moved together- he is
106 looking for \$100,000 for paving. Manager tries to explain that moving the funds within the general fund moves it to
107 a different department, it's still in the general fund. Proposal for Occ Tax to go to 50% P&R, 25% to Tourism, 25%
108 to P&R. No bond, no tax increase. Don't want to do it this year- kick the can down the road. Manager notes
109 \$100,000 gets you \$75,000 of paving. Remember, we have moved the utilities from Parks and Rec to utilities. This
110 also reduces both P&R and Tourism requested budget. If you make that funded out of OCC Tax, then it is restricted
111 to that reserve unless you appropriate from GF in addition. \$23K/\$11.5K/\$11.5K. Go through HWAC expenses-
112 maintenance. MPT White offers 50-35-15% split. Dog Park under Parks and Rec. Commissioner Roe wants us to
113 make progress on drainage and streets. Manager explains the Capital Reserve Ordinance and ability to move the
114 reserved funds from designated asset to another within the department. Talk about deferring contributions. MPT
115 White is calculating from removal of expenses, but some of those expenses were designated to be funded from GF
116 appropriated. Instead of GF appropriated at capital assets, put it to paving. GF appropriated should not be used for
117 operating expenses. Split for Occ Tax- will talk to Boards about actual numbers. 50-30-20 is agreed. Board feels
118 expense of Our State and radio may not be the best use of funds. \$23K-\$13800-\$9200.

119
120 Manager tries to recap- \$30K in drainage.

121 Conversation goes to new crowd of fishermen coming in powerboats- huge addition. Significant decrease to P&R,
122 Tourism. Commissioner Roe notes he will blame the manager- she understands that! Manager notes, doing the
123 calculations, that P&R is left with \$5200 because \$4000 of that department is Trees. Back to Parks and Rec- you can
124 cut Tree down- we are required to fund them at a rate due to Tree City. Discussion concerning Trees in Parks and
125 Rec. Manager offers to take Trees out and put it elsewhere. Commissioner Price asks what can be moved out? Asks
126 if additional funding from GF can be put out- Manager asks if we really want to do it. Manager suggests moving
127 Tree Board to Public Works and then Tree (\$4,000) is funded from GF, and removed from P&R, INCREASING GF
128 expenses by \$4,000. Discussion concerning not tracking every nut, bolt, and screw and just allot the amount to the
129 department- whatever we have to do to work in those areas. What did we do away with in Recreation? The ADA
130 project- your plan is not approved yet. Draft ADA plan JUST came in- you have to look through and prioritize
131 projects- plenty of time.

132
133 MPT White notes we need to let people know that the budget was cut in order to NOT raise taxes, but if we can't
134 find the money to pave, those taxes will have to go up. Manager notes on the sheet of taxes around the area- a good
135 number of them will change this year. Commissioner Price asks if the Manager is good with the changes. Increased
136 costs we are absorbing, the budget is still lower. We did have additional income and some very large project
137 expenditures.

138

139 Revenues- YTD numbers- we always outrun our projections- we're currently behind on property taxes, more than
140 usual. This affects the amount I am allowed to budget- if the collection rate goes down, the amount we can budget
141 going forward also goes down.

142
143 Sales and Use Tax is not close-we make most of our S&U Tax in the crossover portion- May, June, July. Still
144 awaiting April, May June for Occ Tax as well. But we were open when others were not, so we were MORE of a
145 destination.

146
147 Commissioner Roe notes this was a great session- reduced issues, moved funds, still balanced. Reallocate
148 Occupancy Tax. Raising water rates, recycling.

149
150 Manager notes this is the end of our garbage contract. We were the beneficiary of a contract extension- we are
151 limited to a 2% raise while others went up 10%- we will likely see a large increase next year.

152
153 Manager will redistribute after cleaning this up and meet again on the 15th- in time for the Manager to get the
154 required documents to LGC.

155
156 Next meeting: May 15th: 9AM,

157
158 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board Budget Meeting – May 2, 8AM, Regular meeting.

159 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at AM by MOTION of Commissioner Price, second by Commissioner Frank. 4-0.

160
161

162 _____
Sally Belangia, Mayor

163 _____
Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

164

165

166 Approved _____, 2023



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING
Monday, May 15, 2023, 9AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Budget Meeting #3 (following Retreat) held on May 15, 2023 was called to order at
2 9:00 AM. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present, opened the budget meeting. The meeting was open
3 to the public. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's website at
4 www.TownofOriental.com.

5
6 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price, Commissioner
7 Roe, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, and one member of the public.
8 Commissioner Winfrey absent.

9
10 Commissioner Roe distributes his thoughts on several aspects of the budget. Discussed watchlist, depreciation-still
11 not funding that in this proposed budget. We raised rates. Base rate raise potential. Raise it a dollar- \$738/month.
12 (\$8856)- straight into water fund. Commercial rates are higher- could raise an additional amount (still would not be
13 significant. Also look at every item for cuts. Human expense is disproportionately in the general fund. OR- we just
14 give it up. Looked at base rates. \$16>\$17, \$20>\$22, \$40>\$45. While balanced, does not address the problem.
15 Depreciation funded at \$2,000.

16
17 Hard to estimate when usage is highest while we are preparing the next budget. Manager notes the \$39K into
18 depreciation 22-23 was RIGHT- we don't have that this year. There is enough extra spread through several lines for
19 one of the two breaks you had last year, and that's IT. Distribution system is beyond life expectancy- capital assets
20 now depreciating from scratch. Reset of softeners, filters makes those items new and depreciate from new.
21 Commissioner Roe: Can either raise the price or lower the cost- simple. MPT White agrees with raising base rates.
22 Manager notes by COB today she needs to forward a balanced budget. Commissioner Roe says the Manager needs
23 to be aggressive in finding the required depreciation- MPT White agrees.

24
25 In paving- his calculations were wrong because of moving things around, but not out. If we want to pave, we need to
26 raise property taxes, but we don't have the stomach for that this year. Manager notes that there is no revenue for
27 paving-you have to remove it as a priority. Commissioner Roe states that he looked at every line- PEV- \$2,000-
28 funds software maintenance. Non-Powell signs (parking, street signs, etc). Portable toilets, dog bag stations, bank
29 fees (steady). If we move everything out, we have to drive to make a deposit. Bank fees are relative to those using
30 credit cards for transactions. It's a pass-through cost. What we are charging, we pay what we are charged.
31 Commissioner Roe has issue with we earmark a tax increase for roads- new Board can change that. Salaries-
32 Commissioner Roe thought we were going to take the two positions and adjust according to pay and class. He heard
33 that the rest were to be 5%- no, 6.4%. Manager notes she was directed to do pay and class. Some got more than
34 6.4, some got less. He understood only those two were to be raised over the 6.4. He struggles with pay and class
35 AND 3% Merit. Are we being good stewards of taxpayer funds. Manager notes she was directed to do pay and
36 class, so these are the results of pay and class. MPT White asks for suggestion. Commissioner Roe says other than
37 the two designated employees, these are too rich. Commissioner Overcash asks if this brings us back to "does this
38 bring us to standard?" Manager notes- yes, much closer. The Merit line provides UP TO 3%- some do not get 3%.
39 Manager notes again that the PW Director and ORC gets paid more in the County for just ONE of those duties.
40 Commissioner Roe says average raise is 7.5%- retirement rate goes up- state mandated. Commissioner Overcash
41 notes we said people were a priority and now we're backing up- Mayor agrees. Commissioner Roe wants to do them
42 all at 5% and see what happens. Commissioner Overcash says that's kind of nebulous.

43 Green waste: Commissioner Overcash asks about the cost of emptying- Dep Finance Officer notes that is dependent
44 on how often we call. MPT White notes if we deduct all of these things and then get ¼ mile of paving for it- is it
45 worth it? MPT says if you want paving, you need to raise taxes. If you don't, pull paving out of the budget. We've
46 gone to legislature, state's not giving any- but piece-mealing it isn't going to get it. A lot of places are skimming
47 over bad roads- looks great, will last a few years tops. Take paving off.

48
49 Manager notes \$40K from Powell gives you paving every 3 years. Statute prohibits transfer of funds as other than a
50 loan.

51
52 Commissioner Roe sees lines 61000- money in the GF for pier, docks, etc. Manager notes we can remove- has
53 always been in both- it's for PW repairs. MPT White notes we sell the Charger, we might get \$1,000/\$2,000. Strip
54 it, remove equipment. Obviously we're reducing everything, and still not able to pave. It has to be clearer that we
55 are going to have to raise taxes to pave. We have \$2,000 in EV stations, but a lot of times it is residents using them.
56 That \$2K is to maintain- insurance on the stations plus access to the usage logs.

57
58 Again discussed deferring payment to Capital Reserve. Manager explains how Capital Reserves are restricted
59 accounts. MPT White asks about putting \$ into unrestricted unreserved for paving. Discussed percentage of reserve
60 with respect to operating budget. Anything extra- revenue over income- has to be put SOMEWHERE- regardless of
61 intended use. Manager recommends it be put into storm prep- anything over \$3600 we are able to apply to FEMA
62 for.

63
64 Commissioner Roe asks if we have a catastrophic water emergency, we can use unrestricted from GF to fix? YES-
65 awaiting the answer on whether that is a loan or it has to be paid back.

66
67 Police: speeding signs removed- capital project intended a National Night Out type event. Commissioner Roe says
68 it's National Police Week- we should do something for them. Tammy notes one is on vacation and the other is on
69 limited duty this week.

70
71 Is there anything that we can "risk" by not funding, and get to save that? Expenses must equal revenues. We also
72 do not know what the County will do. MPT says we have not raised taxes in several years. Commissioner
73 Overcash notes we need to settle salaries before we leave. Commissioner Roe asks if we re-grade, are we still
74 giving merit? Yes. Who got the whole 3% last year? ALL. Because the traditional raise was cola and 3%- you
75 gave cola-3% and then 3% in merit. Manager notes that you can re-grade or change the percentage. Commissioner
76 Roe believes we need to get our people on grade, but not necessarily the whole 3% merit. Commissioner Roe asks
77 to remove the prior to 18-19 years in order for the print to be enlarged on the spreadsheets. Confirms that staff does
78 not get 5% plus the re-grade- no. Manager's bonus is decided by Board- Manager decides the rest.

79
80 MPT White talks about green waste- might need to police it better, but it is being used. Unless lock it up, how do
81 we police it?

82
83 Mayor recognizes Bonnie Crosser- limit green waste to one, limit the pick up of green waste by PW. Too often large
84 vacant/second homes with contractors left all debris. Duke also clears and comes back later to chip/shred and we
85 have removed. One dumpster is sufficient. Saves money, gas, staff time. MPT White notes the burning had
86 stopped. It's an asset to the town. People abuse everything. Agree that we should not pick up unless called.
87 Burning- our resident population has changed- second homeowners don't burn as much. Remember the movement
88 from every day recycling to one day recycling – did not happen. Suggests the staff can pick it up once and take to
89 the dump. Manager notes that we use the dumpsters also- with additional drainage work- we are filling them up. So
90 it may be better to revisit this issue next year. Ms. Crosser suggests putting one of them into the yard to be locked
91 up. Taking it directly to the dump is gallons per mile, and there is a greater cost, while the manager understands the

92 point of view of touching it twice. Let's not pick it up. If someone calls- Town Hall does not know who is doing it
93 themselves and who has a contractor. Commissioner Overcash says just cut out the pickup.
94

95 Drainage is still being worked. Grade was expected to go down 3 inches on average and we are averaging 6 inches.
96 We also have some culverts set at the wrong place- holding water- permitted under previous rules.
97

98 Mayor notes that she skipped Public Comment- Ms. Crosser- the only participant- was asked if she had any other
99 comment. Mostly was green waste issues. Training- recommend that training is budgeted for classes necessary for
100 licensing. All of Public Works training is required- all else is to maintain existing certifications. Like OSHA
101 training- took them all- but all completed in one day. Ms. Crosser objects to extra Police Training. Manager explains
102 checklist issues- got to the end and they were missing 2 classes. They got the advanced LE certificates, which took
103 other off their plates. Some of the training is also joint training with no certification to be gained – with Sheriff or
104 Fire. Also asks about “short pay”. Manager explained that short days usually Friday-(3PM), get moved to the
105 previous day- hours are made up via lunch- 4- ½ hour lunch and 1-1 hour lunch- 40 hour week.
106

107 Commissioner Roe asks why we do not close for lunch or close earlier. A lot of people come at their lunch hour.
108 But PW leaves at 3:30- so the extra half hour would help Admin tremendously in getting paperwork caught up.
109

110 Portable Toilets- in Utilities- we just moved them out of Parks and Rec- portable toilets are not utilities. Board
111 disagrees- leave it in Utilities. Manager reminds that if moved to P&R, it is then coming from a restricted fund. Ms.
112 Crosser believes it should be in Parks and Rec. County pays for cardboard dumpster. We are only billed for 2
113 portable toilets- one is paid for by the County.
114

115 We have to put it somewhere (overage) and then move it if you need it. If you use it- Manager chooses Storm Prep-
116 if we don't use it, it goes back to unrestricted unreserved- if you want to use it- that's a good place to put it.
117

118 \$1699 lack of balance is because insurance quote came in- that will go up as additional bond on the finance officer
119 this year as an unfunded mandate. Maybe a few hundred more- based on operating budget.
120

121 Commissioner Roe asks about the revenue line of GF appropriated- to balance. Manager again reiterates, never a
122 good idea to balance operating costs- better for capital projects and purchases. Asks about street light costs. We
123 will be renegotiating the street light contract- we can't just turn them all off because of safety- but our options, while
124 better than last time, still not great. Drainage is split between contracted services and in-house drainage (purchase
125 of culverts, etc.)
126

127 Mayor asks if the Manager has enough information to clean this up. YES- will send a draft corrected to the Board,
128 ask for responses on corrections, so it can be filed with LGC May 16.
129

130 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board Budget Meeting – May 19, 9AM, Regular meeting.
131 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at AM by MOTION of Commissioner Price, second by Commissioner Frank. 4-0.
132

133 _____
134 Sally Belangia, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

135
136
137
138 Approved _____, 2023



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING
Monday, May 19, 2023, 8:30AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Budget Meeting #4 (following Retreat) held on May 19, 2023 was called to order at
2 8:30 AM. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present, opened the budget meeting. The meeting was open
3 to the public. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's website at
4 www.TownofOriental.com.
5
6 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price, Commissioner
7 Roe, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, and one member of the public.
8 Commissioner Winfrey absent.
9
10 No agenda.
11
12 Commissioner Price questions the green waste pickup for seniors that can't do it themselves. Have decided NOT to
13 do it. MPT White would like to turn over discretion to Manager and Public Works Director. As opposed to the
14 Board in the weeds- let them do it- Commissioner Price forwarded a form that says they do not have a way to get it
15 gone, certifies the work is not done by contractors, etc. Guys driving around and picking up often is because storm
16 is moving in.
17
18 Manager has concerns with removing dumpster are about drainage work. Might be best to revisit next year. There
19 are people who need assistance. MPT- we're a small town- we have to help each other. Manager notes we go onto
20 private property to help move heavy things in prep for storm- they call us in a panic.
21
22 Police \$1500- change to COMMUNITY EVENT.
23
24 Cardboard pickup to continue.- maybe 8-10 businesses. Some leave in right-of-way, some do not leave it in right-
25 of-way. (That may have to be adjusted). MPT White repeats that we need to help people when we can.
26
27 Marsha- does not use that service. Others should also. Commissioner Overcash asks about time- about an hour each
28 Monday. Commissioner Roe disagrees.
29
30 Commissioner Roe requests private lesson on General Fund balance.
31
32 Commissioner Overcash asks if Merit was changed back from 2 to 3%. Board answers yes.
33
34 Might be a good idea to send out something to all residents about changes with the new budget.
35
36 MPT White asks if Manager needs a MOTION to move forward. Manager needs direction- this version is good or
37 something else needs to change. MPT White makes a MOTION to move the budget forward as presented.
38 Commissioner Overcash seconds. Discussion. Manager notes we are still awaiting some firmer numbers on quotes
39 AND BRMSD rates ARE going up. Flats \$23.50 to \$24, rates increasing by 50 cents/tier. Commissioner Roe asks
40 for estimates per residents- Water/Trash/Recycling: about \$1.50/mo for each water and sewer and \$2.25 for
41 recycling/mo. 4-0.
42

43 Meeting schedule/Holiday schedule- all good with moved meetings. Columbus Day and Presidents' Day are both
44 bank scheduled holidays. We are required to make deposits daily. Our vacation schedule is about 2 days shorter
45 than average- you lose nothing (budget) by granting these. All good with the proposed schedules.

46
47

48 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board Budget Meeting – June 6, 8AM, Regular meeting.
49 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 849 AM by MOTION of MPT White, second by Commissioner Overcash. 4-0.

50
51

52 _____
53 Sally Belangia, Mayor

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53 Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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56 Approved _____, 2023