The Town Board of Oriental Quarterly Agenda Meeting on January 31, 2019 was called to order at 8am. The Mayor Sally Belangia determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order. She said we have a Public Comment period, if you wish to speak please make sure you are signed up on the correct sheet.

Present: Mayor Sally Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Dammeyer, Commissioner Price, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, Administrative Assistant Jeannine Russo and Members of the Public.

1. Approval of Agenda
Commissioner Overcash made a MOTION to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Simmons. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Public Comment Period
Mayor Belangia stated that there is also a Public Hearing tonight and to be sure speakers are signed up on the correct sheet.

Keith Smith, Oriental, NC: Wished to talk about the street where he lives on South Water St., has had challenges for many years, made worse by Florence. Wanted to make sure that is receives attention, has been discussion about a year and a half ago. Currently, the street has drainage issues in at least three locations, potholes, right of ways are rutted. He feels this affects home sales and has an effect on the town when boaters visit the town. With other streets getting repaired, he is hopeful that his street will be repaired also. Manager Miller stated there was a construction company scheduled to come out before the storm and went under during the storm. This was the only company she was able to get to come out and the company went under. Just as the residents are having trouble getting trades people to their homes, we have the same problem on a larger scale. We did get a contractor to come in last week to look at the street, discussed all of the issues including drainage. One drain has been cleared between Mr. Smith and Mrs. Kennedy to find the other had collapsed. Pipe has been purchased to go from Academy to South Water, the street will be cut and fix the pipe between the two catch basins, replace the junction box. Mr. Smith asked when that may happen. Manager Miller replied after the drainage is running on South Avenue. The contractor referred us to an engineer to be sure it does not run uphill, who will be paid to design how much curb and gutter we need – off South Water around to Main and down to a spillway to the Duck Pond. The issue is getting contractors here. With other work to be done, now is the time as we will not bear separate mobilization costs. That was the next project when the storm came. We will, likely, be cutting the storm water drain at South Avenue to be done before the water line replacement with the next project being South Water. There is currently no calendar window. Five contractors have been contacted; none have been willing to come out for this small project. We do have a new contractor recommended by another municipality and asked us to get us an engineered document prior to them coming back to lay it. Manager Miller made everyone aware, should they lay curb and gutter this street may become one way. Mr. Smith feels this may be good as there is another issue with someone disrespecting the right of ways on that street.

Bill Hines, Link Lane: About five years ago, the Town tried to get jurisdiction over the harbor and waterfront and was turned down. He feels this would be a good time to do it again. This is to deter the homesteading boats that live there and there is an issue with a certain boat in the harbor for a while. Many coastal towns have done this as these boats will flush their holding tanks into the harbor.

REGULAR BUSINESS

3. Whittaker Pointe Progress
Manager Miller gave a timeline of the Whittaker Pointe Restoration. In November when CAMA came out to get permits to repair things from the storm, project permits were discussed. Mr. Connell (CAMA) had offered to take the lead on a scoping meeting held in early January. Manager Miller, Mr. Blackerby and Ms. Thompson met with
Dr. Lexia Weaver to draft the RFQ (Referral for Qualifications for engineering). The selected firm will be the
managing entity for the construction project – bidding, manage the project and provide information to Manager
Miller. She needs assistance with this and the engineer will take over the daily management of this project. The RFQ
includes:

- Other projects on the Neuse River
- Projects that include armoring shorelines
- Living shorelines
- Work in Pamlico County
- Work with the NC Coastal Federation
- Photos/samples of projects
- Resumes of the team
- How many projects they have working
- Any litigation against the company

It went out to 11 engineering firms and posted on the HUB website (Historically Underutilized Businesses – female
and minority owned). This is required as a recipient of State funds. Manager Miller and the interested firms walked
the length of the point. They asked questions which were taken to a scoping meeting with US Army Corps of
Engineers, Department of Water Resources, NC Water Resources Commission, NC Department of Coastal
Management, NC Department of Marine Fisheries and NC Department of Environmental Quality. They commented
on armoring the shoreline and, potentially, working the dredging project in. Their immediate response was “drop the
rock now.” They suggested we need big granite dropped now. We have a restriction, a hard limit of 30’ from
existing shoreline and we lost a good bit to Florence. We want to straighten the edge out to deflect wave energy;
engineers’ report will show this. We received confirmation that all eligible RFQs were received. Dr. Weaver, Mr.
Blackerby and Manager Miller discussed the proposals. Dr. Weaver contacted several firms and asked for
clarification on several things. After the firm is selected, we go into contract negotiations – not a long process. They
immediately start after they are hired gathering data. Conceptual plan is forwarded for permitting. Because of the
pre-scoping meeting, permitting should go smoothly. All entities were receptive to hearing discussion concerning
geotextile tubes – these are laid up against the land side of the sill, filled with material. They can be punctured for
planting – provide many options. This would be a contained method to hold soil/sand behind the wall. CAMA
indicated it would be good to permit the sill and the permit can be amended to do additional work but need to get a
structure in place before we lost more. Commissioner Price asked if we have enough grant money for all of the parts
of the project. Manager Miller stated it depends on the contract. She believes we should be able to get the front, the
new side and around the corner and a good portion of, what they believe to be, a good solution on the back side done
with volunteer assistance such as bagging oyster shells, etc. Commissioner Price commented they have done a lot of
good work. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked how much grant money we have – a little more than $1.2 million -
$900,000 from Golden Leaf, $450,000 from Fish and Wildlife – $50,000 of which goes to the Coastal Federation
and $200,000 from DEQ. Grants do have timelines and will be considered with the engineering and construction.
Manager Miller is comfortable that we have been granted extensions due to Hurricane Florence. Manager Miller
explained the RFQ process – this is the firm you negotiate with. If you choose not to use them, you go to your
second choice and you cannot go back to the first firm. Considerable time has been spent narrowing down our
choice. If none are chosen, they can bid again but this is a very strict process when accepting state and federal
money. Mayor Pro Tempore White feels this is a better process than putting out an RFP. Manager Miller feels you
can choose the firm that is the most qualified this way. With RFP, we have to take the lowest responsible bidder no
matter who it is.

4. Florence Recovery

Manager Miller showed the listed FEMA damages. The wall restoration is almost finished. The railing will be
extended to the new parts of the wall. Manager Miller showed pictures from the drone at Towndock.net and spoke
about the damage. The substrate to the sidewalk and road was collapsing due to the wall failure. It was a tongue in
groove wooden wall. Manager Miller gave an explanation of the work completed. This project was deemed exigent
as it was holding up the road at both ends. About 2’ was lost under the road which started alligating and breaking
off. Sheet piling was pounded in behind the old existing wooden wall. A cement cap will be extended and end at
grade so there will not be a step between the grass and the fishing pier. The fishing pier is the next project. The RFP
is under construction to be taken to bid next week. The small boat has a gangway that goes from the fixed pier to the
floater which went up to the top of the pilings with the gangway falling in and the floater coming down on top of it.
It can be removed and replaced but Manager Miller is not comfortable with this. FEMA has directed us this would be the safest path to order new. We are currently in communication with two companies. Mr. Cahoon’s crew will take the sunken gangway out of the water for us. The static dock has boards at the end for safety. The dinghy dock will be resurfaced, some of which have already been replaced. We are waiting for FEMA to give us a cost estimate and issue checks. Town Dock #1 – the railing and bumper boards are fixed. Town Dock #2 – we are in line for repair to the lift. Manager Miller spoke to the electrician, he stated the entire PEV went under water and needs to be replaced. Lattice work was the only damage to the public restrooms. Lou Mac Park boardwalk has been replaced with force labor. The water fountain needs to be replaced. Manager Miller spoke about a fire hydrant opposite Lou Mac and the water lines connecting to the old water fountain. Town Hall – double doors need to be replaced, cracked tiles from building settling and one refrigerator. We are awaiting an insurance estimate and electrician’s cost to hook up the new generator, which blew up in the storm. Radios have been replaced. Lupton Park needs to have mulch and several places of equipment due to falling branches; the fence line will be replaced with a tree line. Rec Park – re-shingle the pavilion, re-grade drainage near dog park and replace the mulch. The benches at the street ends off of South Avenue will be replaced as well. South Avenue: 600 feet of South Avenue needs to be rebuilt from the substrate up – 10” down all the way up the asphalt – milled and replaced. Some places damaged before the storm are turning into sink holes now. This is all in the FEMA estimate. Manager Miller showed a photo of fire hydrants that are both compromised from debris deposited on the water line. This line was laid in 1975 and will be removed and replaced. An additional fire hydrant will be installed near the hotel. 15 valves will be installed so that each fire hydrant can be segregated from the water line and each block can be separately turned off should we need to. There are currently no valves along South Avenue. This RFP goes out next week. This is a $66,000-$70,000 job. Debris has been removed; water line is next and then the road. A drawing is coming from a retired NCDOT engineer – a resident in town, so we can go to bid to fix the road. The fishing pier will be independent of this as much of it can be done from the water. The water plant things have all been fixed except for the mixer in the 200,000 gallon tank. This may have been hit by lightening or a power surge when the power came back on. FEMA did an extremely detailed inspection. If we believe it will cover our projects, we sign and send back and the money will start coming to us. Commissioners will see a Budget Amendment Tuesday at Town Board for $59,000 plus expenses. Overtime labor, regular time labor – salary and benefits – will be reimbursed. Mayor Pro Tempore White made reference to a discussion from some residents about turning South Avenue into a park but stated Commissioners gave direction to continue as a road and wanted it to be clear that it will remain a road. At High Street, there is a catch basin at the Tingle property that is uncovered and still running. The path from that catch basin under the road to the Woodruff property to the Cox property is plugged solid and not draining. When the water line replacement is being done, we will remove the old terracotta pipe and put in ditches as well as two more drains that are plugged shut. Commissioner Overcash, thinking about the summer and tourist season, asked if there is a rough time estimate. Manager Miller feels as far as the water line and fishing pier, we may see this summer but not the road. Up to High Street may be usable but from High to Vandemere would not. She asked for residents to NOT drive around the barricades. New resident to Oriental Kristin (?) spoke – asked why the Board did not contemplate donating the road as a promenade. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated it is a drainage issue. If a park were put there, there is no guarantee people would not drive through. South Avenue is one of the larger streets where trucks can drive through. This would force them to go down First Avenue which is a small street. He added that we may need to fund some of these projects and while FEMA will reimburse us, this could take up to three years. Manager Miller stated that while this is true, our project manager is very good and is pushing for our reimbursement as quickly as possible. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked if one of the RFP criteria can be quickness and it can be. Discussion was held about the difference between RFP and RFQ, one factor being cost of job. Discussed removal of the remaining asphalt prior to the road project. We have removed what was sitting there but is unsure if we will do that separately or if the engineer prefers the paving company does the removal. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated that Croakerfest will come in July and there are still pieces of rebar that will need to be removed prior. Manager Miller has been in contact with the attorney regarding having Croakerfest on that road if we cannot get it paved. We are trying to get the water line done before it gets hot so that we can get grass growing on the lawns. Mayor Pro Tempore White confirmed that Crokerfest has their own insurance, they do, and feels we need to make them aware of potential liabilities. Bill Hines asked if when the water fountain is replaced, we could get the dog fountain as well. Manager Miller stated she would like to see how the one at the dog park is performing during this cold weather. Resident Missy Tenhet asked when Bay River may be repairing their lift station across from the beach. We currently have no information. The beach is not included as it was not an engineered beach so Christmas trees have been used to shore up the sand.

5. Abandoned/Discarded Boats
Manager Miller presented a document from Duke, “Derelict Vessels and Dirty Dischargers” which has some recommendation. Commissioner Simmons has been in contact with them. They asked for a newer Powell bill map and survey of land. The only one the Town has is of the road. They were sent a 2016 document. Manager Miller provided the 2018 document to the Commissioners signed by Bill Marlow and will send this to Mr. Longest (Duke University School of Law). Had discussion on the problems of enforcement. This came up during acquisition of the property at the point and difference between deeded and metes and bounds, gave specific examples to the Board shown on a map. Manager Miller is awaiting direction on what is needed to get jurisdiction over the water. Commissioners discussed ways to accomplish this such as water survey, nautical charts that show depth. Lisa Thompson feels it may be to our advantage to have a depth survey done. Discussion was held about other counties and their Ordinances and rules. Mayor Pro Tempore White spoke about another town that went after a Boating Infrastructure Grant called BIG, a federal grant, which allows small towns to set up mooring fields which functions under federal regulations. Part of the agreement of putting the mooring field in is no one can stay longer than two weeks, you cannot charge more than $10-$20 per night and there must be ways of pumping out waste and controlling fuel and oil spills which overrules county regulations. He further states the county does not want us to have jurisdiction over the harbor and passed a Resolution to that effect and they maintain that right to do that so we would need to rescind this. Commissioner Overash stated state should supersede the county if we got the survey; Mayor Pro Tempore White agreed and we did not apply for the Boating Infrastructure Grant as the Board directed Manager Miller to go after the Whittaker Pointe Restoration grant. He feels we may want to look at the schedule for the BIG and take control over the harbor. Commissioner Dammeyer feels if we do apply for the BIG, we still need to do something about the derelict vessels. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated the state is aware of this issue. Lisa Thompson stated the Town is on a list to be notified when certain pieces of legislation come up. Discussion was held again regarding enforcement – how is paid for – and much of the time, when fines for overstaying are given, they are rarely paid. Lisa Thompson stated the group they are working with from Duke Law School will have a working office at the Duke Marine Center in Beaufort which will be beneficial. She feels we need to reach out to our legislators. Manager Miller stated we need concrete steps – what needs to be done and how. Commissioner Simmons stated this would be the water survey and has received one estimate, waiting for another. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked after we find out our jurisdiction, step two would be what can we enforce within that jurisdiction. Manager Miller stated members of the public can view this information on our website.

6. Manager’s Notes:
- Monday, February 4, Town Hall will be closed – all staff on vacation.
- There will be a Town Board meeting on Tuesday, February 5. One agenda item is for the Board to consider appointing two citizen representatives for the Pamlico County Hazard Mitigation Update. These cannot be elected officials but can be from our volunteer boards.
- Possible request for a Public Hearing for Annexation.
- Next Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for March. We generally do not have this meeting as Retreat is held the same month. This is where we discuss budget, hear from the committees and go over needs for the next fiscal year. We also will discuss dates and times for budget sessions.
- Planning Board is down one member. We are down to one person on Water Advisory Board. Manager Miller asked if anyone would be interested to serve, this person helps formulate the water budget, looks at needs and priorities with the ORC.

7. Commissioners’ Comments
Mayor Pro Tempore White stated Manager Miller’s Annual Review is up. The Board will go into Closed Session after the March 5 meeting. Manager Miller will give her input and by February 15, he will pass it out to the Board to be returned by February 25. Commissioner Dammeyer wished to thank Manager Miller and Lisa Thompson for their work on the harbor and possibly get someone from Beaufort to make a presentation at our Retreat.

8. Adjourn – Next meeting scheduled as February 5 at 7pm.
Resident Buddy Kelly inquired about intentions for the Town Beach. It had already been discussed and Adjournment had begun. Commissioner Dammeyer made a MOTION to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Overcash. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24am
Sally Belangia, Mayor                                      Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved , 2019__________