

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

A Town Council Workshop of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007. Chairman Joseph Kline opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. p.m to discuss 1) Replacement of Public Safety Building and 2) Discuss whether or not to consolidate dispatch.

Present were:

**Councilor Robin Dayton
Councilor Roxanne Frenette
Councilor James Long
Chairman Joseph Kline**

ABSENT: **Councilor Roxanne Frenette
Vice Chair Shawn O'Neill**

CHAIRMAN KLINE: We are revisiting two subjects that we have discussed in some measure before. Improvements to the public safety building on Saco Avenue were part of a bond package that the Town Manager presented to the Council last fall. Making a decision on whether to keep the Town's public safety dispatch center open is integrally connected to the question of what to do about the aging and inadequate fire and police station. We are televising this because these are important issues. The rationale was to close some issues that still need to be considered. The constant things that we are not going to fix is the moving of PSAP's; it is a given that our equipment needs to be replaced; and it is understood that if we want to keep Dispatch here, our building is not adequate to do this and changes would have to be made. How we make those things happen is what we will be discussing this evening. One of the considerations is how we would pay for a new public safety building. The consideration of using the ballpark was also discussed. I had some conversations with Councilors but we will not be making a decision this evening. My suggestion is that we find out how much it would cost to rehab the present building; or build a new building if that is more feasible. We were told in 1975 that our building already was too small when it was built. Tonight is a brainstorming session. How much will it cost to rehab the present building; and how much to build a new building would have to be determined by someone who is technically able to do this? We recognize that we have other issues such as infrastructure needs – easily spent \$50 million dollars for some of these needs. I am trying to close some loose ends and some of these things that go back many years.

COUNCILOR LONG: We have spent a great deal of time on these matters and it is important to state that we have spent a lot of time on other issues of importance as well. I will take exception to some of the comments of the Chair. Our dispatch is operational at this point. Public safety is important to me. I spent 34 years in public safety business and I have a special affiliation with this. I was involved with a new dispatch and public safety building being built. I was disappointed that the Chairman called for this meeting when we have strategic plan issues that have not been addressed. We know that we have serious infrastructure needs at a cost of approximately \$3 million dollars. We have to be able to talk about all these financial issues. At this time I am very much aware of the Administration's desire to put a mixed use

operation at the ballpark. The only way to move forward with this is to tear down the public safety building. I do not feel that access to the ballpark is the way to do this. This is a framework where we are involved. The essential responsibility of the Council is that we have three areas of spending; essential services (flooding issues and three significant projects that cannot go forward because we are over capacity); we need to prioritize these and make prudent decisions on this. I reviewed all the material given to the Council last year. The numbers on building a new community safety building and dispatch do not pass mustard. Too much casual assembly of data. I am open to listen to the administration and department heads but dispatch is a service that needs to remain in this town. I would like to see what it would cost to upgrade that building. We have \$2 million dollars sitting in the Undesignated Fund and I see no need for that sitting there when we have those needs.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: We prioritize our needs and we will be having a workshop in the next month to prioritize. I want concrete data and the only way is to have an RFP and working with the Chief and determining what we need. We have more requirements from Homeland Security and a number of other issues that need to be addressed. We are stewards of the assets of our Town. I am asking for an outside agency to come in and determine the costs and then we will make intellectual discussions.

COUNCILOR DAYTON: Thank you to everyone for being here and do come up and give us your ideas and I am anxious to know what those are. I have had meetings with Chief Glass and Chief Kelley. I am also on the Policing Committee and have supported the Police and Fire Department when I was heavily involved in Neighborhood Meetings. I have had conversations with Chairman Kline because in spite of my strong support for the Public Safety Building I am concerned of the other needs of the infrastructure of our Town. I am not convinced that now is the time to talk about a new Public Safety building. I like the location and I reach out to my constituents. I believe this location is the right location. In talking with the Chiefs it could be possible that the Fire Department is located closer to Cascade Road. I am very cautious about moving the building and I am not in favor of moving it. I am anxious to move forward on Dispatch and it is a long going issue on what we should do with our Dispatch and it is wreaking havoc with our Dispatch staff. Anxiety and other problems arise in the workplace when people don't know what is happening to our Dispatch. I would like to know how you feel about Dispatch. I have reached out and in my opinion in this Workshop that is what I want to hear about. I do support a feasibility study. I am not favor about moving the Public Safety building without firm numbers and I think that is the way to go. I completely agree that that needs to be done. Thank.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: If we do have a feasibility study we need to have our Chiefs involved for they are the experts in this area. When those decisions come back we can then make the important decisions.

TOWN MANAGER: I think something has to be clarified and over the three years that I have been here the Chiefs have told me about our equipment being old, parts being difficult to obtain. It was indicated to me that we are at a crossroads; we either buy new equipment or we make other decisions. Both of them have come out privately and publicly that the equipment is outdated and has to be replaced. The other item mentioned, and I am not aware, that there has ever been a feasible study done. I did take home some information that was put together by Red Doane, former Deputy Chief, but it was not done by an engineer. He recommended about doubling the size of our present facility. His recommendation was to go to about 23,000 square feet. We toured the 42,000 square feet operation in Westbrook. We talked internally on what we saw. Their needs are different than our needs. We felt that 25,000 square feet

would be acceptable. I am not aware of any professional engineer service coming in. The Chief has also talked about the current holding cells do not meet the Correction guidelines and we are in default of that matter. The facility is definitely in need of upgrading. Sometimes it has been proved that is cheaper to built new rather than add on to the present situation. The dispatchers are working out of about 220 square feet of usable space and when you put the equipment in there it provides for a cramped and confined space. There are definitely needs to be considered. A new 20,000 square foot fire and police station could be built for around \$3.5 million or \$175 a square foot. We need to make a decision one way or the other. Whether we need a new building and whether to keep the dispatch center, something needs to be done. The facts have not changed. We currently have equipment that is falling apart. It is definitely not a functional facility now.

(Note to the Minutes: Councilor Roxanne Frenette entered Meeting.)

CHAIRMAN KLINE: I am asking the Chiefs to put together an RFP to determine what our needs are and the cost involved. We do not have good data. Tonight we are going to talk about Dispatch. We have to bring the equipment up to today's standards. If you are going to keep the building as is and just rehab the Dispatch area, how much is that going to cost. The air quality is poor. I am only stating my own observations. I would ask the Chief's give us their impressions.

CHIEF GLASS: Thank you Council. You are all correct that there is no professional engineering data on the present building. We do not have the data at this time and we do not have any idea of the cost; just opinions but no professional estimates. I would like to see the study also go into remodeling and also whether it is in the best location to service the citizens of Old Orchard Beach. We know what the impact would be if we were to move the station; impact now and later. We also need to look at the future needs and the growth of the community. It is not only growing by leaps and bounds but the diversity in the citizen ratio is growing and is more diverse. I can go into some of the problems we have experienced. I will talk about the Fire Department. We are not ADA compliant. We have several leaks in offices. Water seepage through the walls which blisters the walls. We have inadequate storage blocking egress. Our medical supplies are out in an unsecured area but supplies need to be kept in a better area. We have an inadequate office area. No area for office supplies. Drainage problems all throughout the building abound. We recently relocated the water heater from the female's bunker area which increased a little bit of their area which is totally inadequate. I could go on and on and on and Chief Kelley and I have appeared and presented information to you on a number of occasions. Again I remind the Council that I agree with Chief Kelley's assessment. Even if we keep dispatch a lot of improvements need to be made. Some of the Councilors are looking at different options and realize there is a problem. I would hope a new fire and police station could be built within the next five years or even sooner. Preferably it would happen before that but we definitely need to do something earlier with dispatch. The Fire Department like the Police Department is lacking in space. The roof leaks at the Fire Station and there are constant water issues and my office gets wet every time it rains. When Old Orchard Beach runs two ambulances in the summer there is not enough space for paramedics to spend the night. They end up sleeping in recliners. Another big issues is that four firefighters sleep at the station every night and share one communal bedroom. We are also concerned that there are no separate facilities for female employees to shower, change or spend the night.

COUNCILOR DAYTON: Are we meeting the needs of our citizen; safety needs; health needs; and in a timely manner?

CHIEF GLASS: Yes we are meeting the needs. We do have an area of concerns out on the Cascade Road area. We do our best but sometimes with summer traffic and as the population is expanded it become increasingly difficult.

COUNCILOR DAYTON: Then our citizens are safe?

CHIEF GLASS: Yes.

CHIEF KELLEY: Thank you for allowing us to come forward and discuss this very important issue to the Police Department. This is the furthest we have gotten in addressing these issues. We did present these a few months ago. I would like to go through this quickly and not restate what you have already heard. First our front lobby is too small and has been a problem since we moved in. Dispatch is totally inadequate – an oversized bedroom. Totally inadequate and equipment is outdated and requires constant repair and although anything can be fixed it is difficult to get parts. Some of the equipment cannot be repaired because they cannot get parts and have been taking parts from other old equipment and that is not going to be possible in the future. Bathroom availability is totally inadequate. Hallways are full of storage because there is no other room for it. The State has told us that equipment needs to be moved because it provides an unsafe situation and a safety hazard. This creates a very poor environment. My office is the only place to meet privately; if we have other meetings unless they use my office there is no place to meet. Records of the Court officer are totally not functional and sometimes we have as many as three individuals in this very small office. One of our clerical individuals works out of a cell block. There is no other place to keep our files and she works there. Lighting is poor and it is a terrible place for someone to work. Our booking area is totally inadequate. Officer safety is impossible and it is not designed functionally for what its purpose. Our intoximizer is in there and so we are processing more than one individual in the same area when legally they should be in different areas. We have been notified by the State that we are not functioning in legal requirements of the State. We have to use the Juvenile Cell for the female population. Evidence is kept in a mail box which is totally not acceptable. Our garage area – we store bicycles, cruisers, etc. We have the same problem as the Fire Department – drainage issues. It is a temporary fix of a major problem. The evidence room is a closet and is jammed full of evidence that we are required to keep. It is not heated properly so that material is maintained. Bathrooms we only have two. No separate bathrooms and the ventilation is inadequate. Small room upstairs for training. When we have extra summer personnel 25 and 30 people in a small room is unbearable. No place to keep our equipment so it remains in the hallways. I am prepared to ask questions if you would require anything else or have questions. Our fire and police department building is totally inadequate. It basically is a space issue. When we moved into this building in 1975 it was too small. This is not about creature comforts. It is about the building being functional. That is of much more importance. The needs at the Police Station start at the barn door and go all the way back. The station is not handicapped accessible, the cellblock does not meet state standards, there are no interview rooms and nowhere for the 35 or 40 part time summer people to store their gear. Even if the dispatch center closed down and public safety dispatching duties transferred to Scarborough as suggested by the Town Manager this past fall, there still would not be enough space. The Police Station which is attached to the Fire Station is about 2,400 square feet. I would think we would need four times that at least. We need to design something that will meet the future needs of the Town 20 years down the road. The Police and Fire station was built before the age of computers and the wiring and electrical system is not adequate to meet today's technology demands. We need to move into the 21st century. I have talked to Councilors in the past about our needs. This is not something new. There seems to be some

interest on the Council side to do something but we would need to go out to bond and the question is, does the Town want to do that? Building a new Fire and Police Station would be an opportunity to do a bundle of things. for instance meeting space is lacking in the Town and a new Fire and Police Station could include good-sized public meeting rooms. There has never been a need assessment done on the Fire and Police Station and that is where we need to start. I would like the Town to do an evaluation because right now it is all speculation about the size of a new station.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: The subject of dispatch is based on our ability to be able to keep it operational. No decisions will be made. Anyone who would like to open up and speak.

COUNCILOR DAYTON: I would like some discussion on the September 13, 2006 memo from Chief Dana Kelley to the Town Manager on possible Dispatch costs for equipment.

CHIEF KELLEY: Memo dated September 13, 2006 from Chief Dana Kelley to the Town Manager, James Thomas. In this memo Option #1 – Dispatch Services Remaining in Old Orchard Beach – total Capital Costs would be approximately \$170,760. This would include the Dispatch Console at \$130,800; and Base Radio Replacement is \$15,300. This was Option One. That would be for a one time purchase of radio equipment needed and does not include the annual budget needs or fees related to Public Safety Answering Point Services. Option Two that was presented was a total of \$145,760 which includes a Dispatch Console at \$105,800; Base Radio Replacement - \$15,300; and Repeater System for Fire Department - \$24,600. Both Options 1 and 2 require maintaining the current level of funding (\$470,586) as provided in the 2006-2007 Dispatch Budget. As well as any additional fees related to outsourcing of our Public Safety answering Point Services (E911). Option One is the purchase of the Orbacom Dispatch System which offers the same functions as Option Two which is the Zetron System except that it includes additional features. If in the future digital capabilities were to be considered by the Town, both units are capable of being converted from analog to digital. In my estimation we might be able to save \$100,000 to go to Scarborough.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: I do have a problem with the Public Safety building not being covered as far as the Lobby is concerned. Just knowing there is someone in our lobby is important and consideration needs to be given to the cost to have a part time or full time person there.

TOWN MANAGER: It is our intention to cover the front window walk-up with current personnel adjustment from Police and Fire personnel which will take a Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. time period. We will need to budget some hours which are approximately 17 weeks in the summer, costing approximately \$22,000. This will allow for 24 hours coverage for those 17 weeks. The service provided for those times outside the 17 weeks will be a dispatch hotline where citizens will be able to pick up the phone and get a direct connection to the Scarborough Dispatch office at which time they will be provided information or an officer will be dispatched to the Police Station to answer their concern. Both Chief Kelley and Chief Glass are supportive of this plan and can absorb the costs with our current funding levels.

CHIEF KELLEY: There is not a lot of traffic off season and this was one of the concerns that we had. I don't believe we need to have someone but if you want that level of service then there would not be much of a cost savings.

COUNCILOR DAYTON: If we have a contract with Scarborough they decide on the level of personnel; that would not have our input. The contract would be a clear designation of the charges; it is service related not staff related.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: Has Scarborough been given a PSAP designation?

CHIEF KELLEY: Yes they have.

COUNCILOR LONG: Was that decision based on them being told that Old Orchard Beach intent was to come to Scarborough. It would appear that would affect the decision that the PUC made on giving them the PSAP.

TOWN MANAGER: Mr. Chairman....

CHIEF KELLEY: There has to be some additional personnel considerations. I have heard that one dollar per person so I would guess that we would be considering about \$9,000 or \$10,000. I addressed them about PSAP and they said it would be based on our year round population.

TOWN MANAGER: There are currently 48 PSAP's. Transfer the call back to OOB. I have only dialed 911 my call was transferred – Grey – and identified problem – Biddeford police – call was dropped – Portland Police Department – no control over Biddeford – give us the information and we will forward it to Biddeford. Human error can happen. Calls can be dropped; technologically calls can be dropped.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: Do you know how many towns will keep their dispatch even though they are moving their PSAP?

CHIEF KELLEY: I don't know but I don't believe there are many getting ready to get rid of their Dispatch.

COUNCILOR LONG: We can secure a contract with someone for our PSAP. I would not want to hang out there the notion that we have to move Dispatch because that is not correct.

CHIEF KELLEY: I know that some problems can come up, calls dropped , but I don't believe it is as big a problem as some would make out. A dropped call revolves around where the calls went and I don't believe this is a common occurrence.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: I don't believe we can make that decision until we have the costs in front of us.

TOWN MANAGER: I would like Chief Kelley to talk about qualified dispatchers coming to Old Orchard Beach and I believe that salary is one of the issues involved. If we are one of the lowest in the county area we are not going to attract qualified dispatchers to our community. I think this needs to be part of the savings consideration. Our indication with Scarborough is that this is a \$3,000 increase in salary for our dispatchers.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: I don't think that the salary is the issue for our Dispatchers because obviously they are here. You look at your work environment, salaries, benefits. Is \$3,000 enough to make someone want to change job location. I think there is a bigger picture here. We need the costs updated before we can make a decision. Do our citizens want services and

are they willing to pay for them. If we moved our Dispatch to Scarborough for three years until a building is built or revamped – we need to see those numbers before we can make a decision.

CHIEF KELLEY: This has been discussed for a long time. It leaves our employees hanging and the longer we delay this the harder it is on personnel and for management to contain the issues involved. I hoped that we would come out of this today and would be able to tell our employees what their status is and it is difficult to keep that operation working.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: If you know that we are not making emotional decisions but rather based on fact and if the employees know that they will be patient.

COUNCILOR DAYTON: Are you comfortable with the numbers in this memo? So we do have some numbers to look at. Out of 1 to 10 how to you feel satisfied about the accuracy of your numbers?

CHIEF KELLEY: 7 or 8.

COUNCILOR DAYTON: \$100,000 savings does not take in the human factor. There is no guarantee that any of our current staff will go to Scarborough. Our staff needs to compete for the possibility of working in Scarborough. They have no guarantees and that concerns me a great deal and you cannot put a dollar amount on that. I think our dispatch people have served us well and I think they have gone through a difficult time and I think we owe them a decision, not tonight – they have stuck with us long enough and I would like to take the human factor into it. I am not sure that the amount of money that we save is equal to the commitment they have provided us. I don't think we need four different numbers. How much does it cost to rehab the building with Dispatch and how much does it cost to build a new building and keep dispatch?

SASHA BEAULIEU: Some of the information given is not an accurate account of what happens at Dispatch. Why is it that we have additional concerns about the summer and tourists and do not have concerns for ourselves with the full time residents who live here year round? They expect someone to be available to them when they come to this station. I make \$15 an hour – I like it here – I like it here. I could have gone to Scarborough and Saco but we grew up here and this is our home. You are not taking into consideration that we are loyal to our Town and for your information the Saco Dispatch area is half the size – their Dispatch center is not as big as our.

CHIEF KELLEY: I have never not appreciated the work of our Dispatchers but they have several times complained about the cramped quarters and we have tried to set it up differently. We would have to pay them but that has not been determined. We would have to negotiate with the Union on this.

SASHA BEAULIEU: Is it 1% of the budget that you would be savings – why would you do that for a 1% savings? Only two of the dispatchers – 18 police officers – only three live in Old Orchard Beach but what difference does it make? The Town Manager doesn't live in Old Orchard. We have nine dispatchers and Scarborough needs five – and we are not even sure they will take five of our dispatchers, what happens to the other four? You are not looking at the human aspect. Those have to be factors to be considered. I would ask that you keep an open mind to thoughts of keeping dispatch here and providing us a place to work as opposed to

the small savings and lack of security that would be a consideration if you moved to Scarborough.

DENISE KINNEY: Why this is being considered I don't know. The small amount of savings at the expense of personal service to the community is not acceptable. These people have spent their time and efforts here in our community and we owe them support. The small savings that you are talking about is inconsequential to the merits of keeping the Dispatch here and I would ask the Council to make a decision in favor of the Dispatchers.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: The Council asked the Town Manager and the Chiefs to give us the numbers. The Council asked them to determine if it makes financial sense for us to consolidate – financially – it is not their decision. It is not their job to persuade us. The Chief and I are in agreement that the public safety building is needed to be looked at. I compliment you guys for what you have done by yourself. Now it is time to do something and get it right this time.

CHIEF KELLEY: Things I need to clarify. We have eight dispatchers and my administrative assistant, seven actually doing dispatching. I have been here 35 years and during every budget process time I am asked to come up with a zero increase budget. That is the way it is in Old Orchard Beach. We have always been told that there is a concern about money and we need to take the personnel issue out of it. Council has asked us to do that – to come up with the financial strategy. It is my responsibility as an administrator to do that and although some may be disgruntled with that it behooves the administrator to do that when directed by the Council accordingly. We decided to do that to save money and if the community doesn't care about the savings, it is just my job to provide the information, nothing else. The decision is the Council's as directed by the community. This year a Councilor wanted to cut \$200,000 from my budget. My responsibility is to bring the information to you. If we choose to keep it, that is fine with me. We have good people and I feel fortunate to have the staff we have.

CHIEF GLASS: We started this over two and a half years ago. This came about because of TABOR and the Polesky initiatives have been coming down the pike over the past few years and we have been asked by Council to come up with plans to address it and we have done that as instructed by Council. We were asked to look into the elimination of lifeguards and other services to the community and we have done that, as requested again by Council. The Town has shared expenses by combining assessing services with Sanford, and so all this figures into this examination of combining services – a better bank for their buck. Unknown factors that have to be looked at is the personnel issue affects – what is the best way to take care of our people? It has not been our feeling that we don't care about our personnel – we want to care for those people, but the administration and the Council directs us as to what they want us to do. It is their decision, not ours.

JEROME PLANTE: Several things that disturbed me. I am still interested in this community. I am disturbed by some things that I have heard. I understand referendum – when we constructed the present facility in 1975 – 1972 was the original thought – Nixon years – we had a tremendous inflationary conflict – We went out for bond - \$200,000 to build the complex - 1975 – and over \$39,000 to \$40,000 inflationary restrictions caused cutbacks but the savings came from the Town doing the site work. We are glib about how we talk about savings. How about the risk involved – empty Police Station waiting room with a telephone. Let's not fake the fact that child abuse does exist as does elder abuse. People come to an empty room needing help and just see a telephone. Someone said they are certain if the services are moved we won't suffer from the consolidation. Nothing is more uncertain than the uncertain.

To say that we can save money and people are not going to be impacted is ridiculous. I am reporting from the Journal Tribune – June 22, 2006 – officers safety issues – we would rather have a dispatcher that is familiar with our geographical services – history of those we deal with – and just the tone of our voice when we need help – they keep us safe. To profess that you are sure that the service will not be changes – you are way off base. Why are we going to Scarborough? It is because we burned our bridges with Biddeford and Saco – we burned our bridges by our attitude. The rude and crude manner in which our dispatchers have been address – why do we pretend these things are not taking place – of course that are – they are treated in an unprofessional manner and they will stay. As long as communication is working – how about asking Biddeford if they will be our PSAP?

CHIEF KELLEY: Biddeford is not a PSAP. We did ask Biddeford and they said they did not want to take us on. I talked to Roger and they were not interested .

JEROME PLANTE: You need to go to referendum. Where is the E. Emerson Cummings Drive ?

TOWN MANAGER; I am concerned

JEROME PLANTE: The picnic area described is under the domain of the School Department – paid and bought by the Department of Education. In March in discussing the ballpark and the first forum – every member of the Council that we would be given free reign – information as to the land owned was false. The process was going to be legitimate. School doesn't have the acres that the town says it does. I am sure that we will be given property. GIS maps still has not been changed. The present site is 1.7 acres. Make the decision – we will keep dispatch in Old orchard Beach because the people demand it.

COUNCILOR DAYTON: I have serious concerns and reservations – police and emergency cars going by the school.

JEROME PLANTE: The School property is not part of the equation at this time. I am suggesting that you give consideration to the school and Cider Hill.

TOWN MANAGER: In talking with our legal council – town hall, schools, the assets belong to the corporation – school, public works – let's not get off on a tangent.

JEROME PLANTE: Check the State statutes. Board of Education – copy of that decision. You should have that in writing. Stop being so careless.

TOWN MANAGER: Where I live and where the dispatchers live – loyalty of myself and those public employees who don't live in OOB – never doubted the loyalties of our dispatchers – this community has a lot to be proud of as a community – just because I live – private citizen – my democratic rights – in people of Old Orchard Beach – 55 foot – what we have done here – I have never questioned the loyalty and integrity of our people.

PAT HOLLAND: I have used Dispatch – eight times in the last four years. My mother was very ill and I don't know what I would have done without them. She passed away (emotional) excuse me for being emotional. It was so wonderful to know someone was there that knew me and my mother and we felt like it was family. I am happy with what we have and I hope that we do not lose the dispatchers.

STEVE HARDING: I have been a dispatcher for nineteen years in Saco. You have some vicious decisions to make and employees dedicated to the Town. They are dedicated people. It is hard to get good and dedicated people. You do need a new public safety building. I was a call fireman for eleven years and even then we needed a new building. In Saco we had to make adjustments and the dispatchers solved the problems themselves. We redesigned – there are things that can be usually done. Go to the dispatchers – we know what we need – we took the money and redesigned – under \$10,000 or \$15,000 – so you might want to look there – looking at modular. I think the Dispatchers were looking for a decision – have been hanging out there too long – a terrible feeling – contract time – bottom falling out – make a decision and decide what kind of building you need and where it is going to be. As far as upgrading equipment – should have been done a long time ago. Yearly updates should be done. Whether you spend it here and it is yours or you spend it in Scarborough and they own it and you need someone in the lobby definitely.

ARTHUR GUERIN: Is there 48 PSAP's and are we going down to 24. Are we mandated to get rid of our Dispatch?

MANAGER: We have to go somewhere. Scarborough, State Police, Sanford. \$250,000 with a \$1.5 million guarantee.

PETER LEE: 116 Portland Avenue – I have been here 8 or 9 years. We don't need a new facility and we should move the Dispatchers to Scarborough to save money. I, as a tax payer, don't want to spend money that is not necessary. We don't know what the State is going to do and we have to count every penny. We should consolidate with Scarborough, with Saco, but I think consolidation is necessary and I don't believe we need a new building.

COUNCILOR FRENETTE: Addressing it is not just about Dispatch. If we are going to keep our Dispatch we are going to have to put a lot of money into the equipment and the upgrading of the facility. We have neglected to do that over the years and I am sorry that people think this is an easy question to answer. I don't believe it is about \$100,000 savings. We need to upgrade the equipment and the facility – it is going to require a referendum. If we take the suggestion of Chairman Kline and get an appraisal to upgrade – can we afford to do it – do we want to do it – and then go out to a referendum question. We may have to do something short term – keep our own Dispatch – have a vote – do something about the building – cost more than \$500,000 and the Town Council is not authorized to approve that so it would have to go to referendum.

BEN HUTCHINS: Earlier this evening it was mentioned by the Town Manager about the four hours in the building without the generator working and having to call Scarborough. If the generator had been maintained – it would not have been a problem. The repairman lives in New Hampshire – that needs to be addressed. The Scarborough unit was brought over as a safety issue – 10 feet from the Dispatchers. Equipment service – those were not accurate records. The Dispatchers are underpaid as are the Police – more people are currently applying for Dispatchers here because they still want to work in Old Orchard Beach.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: I am interested in your comments.

CHIEF GLASS: I need to set the record straight about the generator. It was maintained. Two batteries charged – maintenance had nothing to do with it – our repair company is in Portland – but one technician was on vacation and the other was off with family – they did have to go to New Hampshire this time but that was unusual and it had nothing to do with the regular check ups.

ANDREA PERRONE – I understand you need numbers – PSAP – it is moving –

CHAIRMAN KLINE: Service versus cost.

ARTHUR GUERIN: 911 Calls – all 911 calls go to – the – Old Orchard Beach- unless – we do something else?

COUNCILOR DAYTON: I have spend several hours talking to the Chief's and my constituents and I am not convinced that the savings are worth it. But we will see. Thank you for coming.

COUNCILOR LONG: I have seen nothing that our dispatch should be anywhere but OOB for a number of reasons. This entire matter was not handled well. Council was upset that we found out about this by reading the newspaper. I am disappointed in this meeting that we are focusing on one problem and we are one month into the new council and we need to make some important decisions. \$45 million dollars on pump station – 4 or 5 million for the waste water facility – projects being held up in Town because they won't get permits – public works needs 15 million dollars – road and drainage – and not even money for roads – what I had hoped to do immediately with the change on the Council was to develop our strategic plan which should be our highest priority. We have a flooding problem in Town – you can't pass that off. I do not support moving Dispatch or moving it from where it is. No sound reason to move it. In addition, we have legal issues that we were told about last August when Dispatchers were told that October 1st it was a done deal and they needed to go to Scarborough. Those issues are still open to consideration – the contract did not serve Old Orchard Beach well – if any community wants to sell services to Old Orchard Beach, they need to do a better sales job – they have all the input and we do not have any. We have significant issues in that building. We have another need and requests such as a new library, new community center, sidewalks, roads, and drainage issues. We are talking about millions of dollars – we can't wing this and assume that this marriage with Scarborough is a done deal and will solve our issues. A lot of mistakes were made getting us to this point. We need to make sound judgment calls and we can't do that unless we get together and have discussions about what is priority. We are not going to wing our way through this – and not embarrass ourselves with the public – full burden that is before this community and how we manage it. The mistakes of the past do not belong on this agenda.

CHAIRMAN KLINE: I thank Councilor Long for his comments. Perhaps it would be possible to obtain from an architectural firm – an idea – how much it would cost to make changes at public safety building before we go out for an RFP. In order to get a priority – how much assessment – can't event talk to this with \$5,000 – we know we have to go through a formal procedures. There is no contract with Scarborough – not even remotely close to a partnership. We have not made that decision. We need to reexamine the contract – partner or a customer – those issues are in the future. I can't make a decision until we have more information – substantial information – more clear information. I thank you all for coming and I would like to adjourn this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

**V. Louise Reid
Town Council Secretary**

I, V. Louise Reid, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of twelve (12) pages is a true copy of the original Minutes of the Town Councilor Workshop of January 9, 2007.

V. Louise Reid