

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007 – 7:00 P.M.**

A Town Council Budget Workshop was called on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall to discuss the following budgets:

20110 – Planning; 20173 – Conservation Commission; 20114 – Zoning Board of Appeals; 20135 – Animal Control; 20113 – Code Enforcement; 20111 – Planning Board; 20112 – Design Review Committee; 20138 – Fire/Rescue Department; 20137 – Lifeguards; 20139 – Hydrant Rental; 20134 – Emergency Management; 20136 – Public Safety Complex; any budgets that were unable to be discussed at the April 11, 2007 budget workshop.

Attendance: Councilor Roxanne Frenette
Councilor Robin Dayton
Councilor James Long
Vice Chair Shawn O'Neill

Absent: Chairman Joseph Kline

Also in attendance: James Thomas – Town Manager
V. Louise Reid – Assistant Town Manger
Sandra Mowery, Planner
Chief John Glass, Fire Department

The following adjustments were made to the budget:

20110 – Planning; The Town Planner has given us a nearly flat line budget – with a increase of 3 ½ %.

Councilor Long indicated he thinks planning is too involved in economic development and Councilor Dayton focused again on the comprehensive plan and staff's efforts towards the development of a revised comprehensive plan. Councilor Dayton expressed appreciation to Councilor Long for bringing this up and expressed disapproval that there was no funding designated for the comprehensive plan. She disagreed with the Planner indicating that she does not believe that the comprehensive plan has even been started. The Planner gave her explanation as to what has been done and is being done in the comprehensive plan but Councilor Dayton disagreed several times.

The Town Planner recommended a merit increase for Carol Kingsbury who has assisted in graphics to the extent that the outside sources previously needed are no longer required; and a merit increase for Caroline Segalla. Caroline has been praised by numerous citizens and business owners for her hard work, particularly with the grant process and for her positive attitude; and merit increases for Ken Shupe and Matt Leconte. Council asked Ms. Mowery for salary comparisons from other communities. The Planner said operating costs for the departments have again been reduced since staff continues to reduce advertising, graphics, etc. expenses on the whole.

Councilor Dayton inquired about Will Watson. Ms. Mowery explained that Will is the Animal Control Officer first, then a Code Enforcement, and then the Health Officer. He is a Reserve Police Officer, a position which he trained for and acquired last year, at the recommendation of the Police Department so he could write and issue summons for Land Use issues and not have to involve the Police. Vice Chairman O'Neill indicated he felt the staff was too large and as last year would reduce it by \$50,000 but there did not seem to be the support needed to consider this. The Assistant Town Manager expressed her personal appreciation to Caroline Segalla and Carol Kingsbury for the unbelievable support to the office of administration both in the graphics for the Annual Report and also for the Wellness Program under the leadership of Caroline Segalla resulting in a reduction in our insurance costs.

20110 – Planning – approved as is and only the salary increases possible given for merit increases are to be reconsidered at the time of discussion of salaries.

20173 – Conservation Committee; Discussion about the lack of activity of the Committee and given the result of the storm – we might make an effort to make this more active. Indication that much of this budget was usually used for trees and Memorial Park. (Jim long) We don't seem to be very active - Conservation – we are going to have to do something on this.- Memorial Park for trees. It was suggested that some of this money might be used in fencing the dunes.

20114 – Zoning Board of Appeals; Approved as given.

20135 – Animal Control; no changes made.

20113 – Code Enforcement; salary increase for merit for Matt Leconte and Ken Shupe to be reconsidered at the time of salary discussions. Otherwise approved as presented.

20111 – Planning Board; Approved as noted.

20112 – Design Review Committee; Approved as noted.

The other area of disagreement was the amount of efforts on economic development and the reference of community development as economic development.

The Fire Chief requested consideration of the lifeguards to be done first so the lifeguards in attendance could leave when concluded.

20137 – Lifeguards – A request was made to show the number of lifeguards and their rates of pay. Information, as much as possible is a consideration for request as well. It was noted that our life guards are the lowest paid in the State; even camps are coming in paying higher. Councilor Long indicated that there are many areas of the beach where there are no lifeguards. He suggested that the residents again are paying for what the businesses should be funding since the lifeguards are there basically for the tourists. We need this lodging tax to pay for these costs that we incur. We don't cover the entire beach – that we don't cover the weekends – and for what we have heard tonight and hiring guards – Councilor Long indicated that he supports eliminating the lifeguards completely – it is not

under complete supervision – and the State is not willing to help us. We can't cover the beach with what we are paying and I believe the course of action would be to eliminate lifeguards and they are swimming at their own risk. Councilor Dayton, indicating she is a life guard, totally disagreed with this and indicated it is our obligation to have lifeguards. Families congregate around lifeguards. I do not support getting rid of the life guards. Chief Glass indicated that people expect to see lifeguards. They assist with first aid, pick up trash and other areas of assistance as well. Councilor Dayton said she didn't think \$100,000 was a lot of money. Councilor Frenette said that it is not the residents who use the service of the lifeguards but on the other had we have an obligation if these people are coming to Old Orchard to provide this service. Vice Chairman O'Neill indicated that the beach brings the tourists, not the lifeguards bringing the tourists. The Town Manager was requested to find out the legal ramifications if there are no lifeguards and someone is hurt or drowned on the beach.

20137 – Lifeguards; Question of liability is to be readdressed.

20138 – Fire/Rescue Department; Chief Glass had indicated he would like a Deputy Chief – position – valuable position – there used to be one and he is asking that it be reinstated. The question of overtime was addressed and it was felt that this position might assist in the reduction of overtime. Saco utilizes their deputy chief in this manner which has always been historically a problem for the department. Deputy could do duties in inspection, better augment the fire safety part of code enforcement. Fire inspections are now done by code enforcement. It is working but it has caused some problems. An actual fire inspector would have more experienced in fire inspection. Deputy would be able to back up EMS and ensure Federal and State agencies compilation. Other departments that have a deputy chief have permits to cover those fees. Councilor Long indicated he did not agree with this position. He also suggested a study or discussion be done on consolidation with Saco. Efficiencies of doing some of these operations – this discussion need to start these conversations. Vice Chairman O'Neill said it is alright to have discussions but previous discussions with Biddeford and Saco two years ago went no where. We say we are going to do something and we back out because of the lack of making decisions.

20138 – Fire/Rescue Department – report to the Council on possible consolidation.

20139 – Hydrant Rental; Only thing they don't do is shovel around during a snowstorm. The fee for the hydrants is set by the PUC. Biddeford Saco Water petitioned the PUC to charge towns and city by a hydrant basis.

Revisit the taxes on hydrants. Are they being charged tax?

20134 – Emergency Management; No change.

20136 – Public Safety Complex; No change.

ADJOURNMENT: The Workshop ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**V. Louise Reid
Secretary to the Town Council**

I, V. Louise Reid, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of three (3) pages is a true copy of the original Minutes of the Town Council Workshop held on April 18, 2007.

V. Louise Reid