

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009**

A Town Council Workshop of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 in the Town Hall Chamber. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m. The purpose of the Workshop was to discuss Town Television Services and Finance Committee and Ordinance Revision Committee goals. Due to the illness of Chief John Glass the workshop on the Town Television Services will be rescheduled.

Present: Chair Sharri MacDonald
Vice Chair Robin Dayton
Councilor Laura Bolduc
Councilor Shawn O'Neill
Acting Town Manager V. Louise Reid
Gary Lamb, Planner

Absent: Councilor Michael Tousignant

Finance Committee: Pat Carter
Michael Gray
Jerome Plante Absent
Peter Prinz
Gary Salamancha
Neal Weinstein

Ordinance Review Committee: Roy Stephen Bryant
Robert Scoville
George Kerr Absent
Linda Mailhot
William Daley

This Workshop was an opportunity for the Town Council to meet each of the Finance Committee and the Ordinance Review Committee members. Information was provided to the two Committees and the duties that the Town Council was counting on them to provide. Although there had been an active Finance Committee in recent years, it is the requirement of the Charter. It was felt that in the past the work of the Finance Committee had not been used as informational and a means of advising the Council on budgetary issues. It was indicated that the Council needed assistance from the Finance Committee in the budget process. Councilor Bolduc indicated that the Town Council is given a budget with a final number but does not know how the categories of expenditures are broken down. She indicated it appeared like a "rubber stamp." She indicated she would like to see a budget built from "zero." It was indicated by the Councilor O'Neill that he would like to see a "fresh set of eyes" on the budget process. Vice Chair Dayton provided specific guidance to the finance committee stating that there are very serious weaknesses in

our financial management system. She stated there are very serious problems with the execution of the budget and no internal automated financial controls. The financial management software does not allow for an electronic approval process, there is no approved vendor list, no means to track commitments or encumbrances prior to expenditure. The Vice Chair clearly sought the finance committee's help to improve internal financial management controls. The Chair indicated "together we can run a tight ship."

The Chair indicated to the Ordinance Committee that they would be given "carte blanche" to clean out the ordinance book. She asked the Committee to look through it and determine what is fit for the age in which we live and what is past the times of necessity. It was noted that any changes would need to be approved by the Council before finalization. The Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Nugent, said that many of the ordinances written several years ago would need to be made appropriate to today. "They are fluid documents because they need to keep up with the times." Councilor Bolduc indicated that "I don't know what Webster's definition of an ordinance is, but in my mind it is a local law." She felt that some of the ordinances on the books were practices or personnel policies and need to be "weeded out." Vice Chair Robin Dayton indicated that she was concerned about giving the Committee "carte blanche," as she felt that land use zoning ordinances were strictly in the Planning Board's purview. Mike Nugent indicated that much of the structure of the zoning ordinances would have to go to the Planning Board first before going to the Town Council. The Chair also indicated to the newly appointed committee that their recommendations may not be adapted by the full Council but that we needed to do our best to update these ordinances.

There was an excitement among the members as to their assignments and the Acting Town Manager, Louise Reid, indicated that the staff looked forward to collaboration between all parties.

The Workshop ended at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria Geaumont
Town Council Secretary

I, Victoria Geaumont, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of two (2) pages is a true copy of the original Minutes of the Town Council Workshop of September 23, 2009.
Victoria Geaumont