



Town of Old Orchard Beach
Office of the Town Manager

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Town Council Workshop Minutes

January 14th, 2024

I, Tim Fleury, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of 6 pages is a copy of the original minutes from the regular meeting of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council held on 1/14/2024.

Prepared By:	Tim Fleury
Approved By:	Old Orchard Beach Town Council
Approval Date:	2/6/2024

Respectfully
Submitted,

Tim Fleury
Town Council
Secretary



Town Council Workshop Agenda

Wednesday, January 17th, 2024, 6:00pm
Council Chambers - 1 Portland Avenue

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**Members of the public wishing to view the meeting from home may tune into Local Access TV (Channel 3 or 1301 - check with your provider) or by clicking the Meeting Videos link on oobmaine.com.)*

There will be a Town Council Workshop on Wednesday, January 17th, 2024 at 6:00pm to discuss updates on the Wastewater Facilities Upgrade project and to discuss public bathrooms.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

Chairman O'Neill opened the workshop at 6:08pm

Town Manager Asanza introduced Brent Bridges from Woodard and Curran – Brent offered his sympathies to town for what has transpired with the recent storm damage. Brent present a short power point on funding opportunities for WWTP upgrades – he gave a quick overview of the project – cost estimate in April 2023 around \$30m – earmark reduced to just under \$1m – not awarded CWSRF funds from DEP – bid tab presented – 3

contractors in ME that do similar work – one decided not to bid – 2 bidders – over \$1m apart in bids – roughly \$4m off between estimate and low bid received – electrical \$1.7m over estimate, current market trend – Brent Bridges – broke down project into smaller projects to match funding to bid – placed smaller projects in priority order.

Councilor Rague – have we talked to APEX about scaling back project to meet funding? Brent Bridges – yes – met at waste water office to go over project – Vice Chair Blow – optional cover for clarifier, smell concerns – Brent Bridges – not source of smell – Vice Chair Blow – are the electrical upgrades scaled for entire project for future expansion? – Brent Bridges – yes planned for entire project – Vice Chair Blow – concern on putting off project parts that will need to be redone in future if something changes – retrofits may not work with existing system – Brent Bridges – initial items on list are critical for continued work, additional items are up for additional funding opportunities – DEP funding scored really well, DEP ran out of money – suggesting in March applying to SRF again, grant or grant/loan 1% – DEP top is typically capped at \$1m – successful twice with earmarks, another round coming March 1st, apply again – Congresswoman Pingree supported earmark – need Senator Collins and King – USDA Rural Development – no users fees, will not award grant, will offer loans below market value – USDA grant money resiliency funds for communities that need to build resiliency – wastewater with more capacity builds resiliency during emergency situations – 2022 Christmas storm issues with WWTF – outlined in email sent to USDA establishing resiliency, not fixing broken infrastructure – roughly \$8m – Vice Chair Blow – how long to get answers?) – Town Manager Asanza – June 11th election, April 2nd public hearing to put a bond on the ballot – Town Manager Asanza – how can we move forward with APEX bid with existing funds? Do we need to wait until June for confirmation? – Brent Bridges – APEX extended bid to mid-February –

award bid and do immediate change order to move forward with funded projects – Councilor Tousignant – if wait until June – how many people need to vote on the bond issue? – Town Clerk McLaughlin – a percentage of voters only for charter questions, no minimum number of voters needed – Councilor Tousignant – important to find money to pay for the entire project – exhaust all avenues before going to bond -if Town comes close is the Council willing to take funds out of savings to make up small shortfall – Brent Bridges – rural development, will know in a month, DEP won't know until mid-April – earmark is the end of May – Vice Chair Blow – makes sense to move forward with funded parts of projects and search out additional funding so pricing does not go up – Chairman O'Neill – need to decide if we need to go to a referendum – Brent Bridges – APEX is giving pricing to mid-February, APEX can ask vendors if project started in September instead of now for pricing – Councilor Tousignant – jeopardy holding off until July? – APEX is planning on coming in May, would they be upset if pushed to June? – move forward with the project and figure out funding before June – need to build in contingency – doesn't see an advantage to waiting – Chairman O'Neill – let APEX know they have Council support moving forward with the entire project but they have to know funding is reliant on June referendum vote – Councilor Tousignant – rough timeframe for the project? – Brent Bridges – 2 years.

Public Restrooms

Town Manager Asanza gave presentation on Op Box bathroom project – Council approved 2 bathrooms to be installed – location needs to be set – Vice Chair Blow – concern on storms similar to what we've recently had and how they would hold up – Town Manager Asanza – would be town asset and insured – Brent Bridges – buildings can be moved, deck would be there –

Councilor Tousignant – could be answer to move buildings to prevent damage – Town Manager Asanza – presented existing bathrooms and proposed bathroom layout –

Councilor Tousignant – Union Ave – existing portable building is not functioning – good location for one of the items – remove Staples St Ext because of West Grand bathroom – not sure if right on beach is best locations – Chairman O’Neill – large crowd at Staple St – Vice Chair Blow – buildings not bad looking – Chairman O’Neill – only on town property – Vice Chair Blow – Staples, allows for Town storage at that location – Councilor Tousignant – would like to see one on Union Ave – landowner would allow on new location – new owner wants compensation of land – Chairman O’Neill – Union Ave was a compromise – these items are presented close to beach for beach access – Brent Bridges – stayed in ROW at end of proposed roads serviced by gravity sewer, Staples is most expensive because of water access is longest run – Councilor Tousignant – Union Ave is located where it is because no one wanted it at the end of Union – Town Manager Asanza – trying to see where the first 2 would fit to set stage for moving forward – Councilor Tousignant – Atlantic and Brown good spread on both sides of Old Orchard Street – Council discussed options – Town Manager Asanza – Ocean and Brown Ave decided for initial 2 locations –

David Walker – permitting from DEP – setbacks and lot sized and permits from Town – Brent Bridges – considered when choosing locations – Councilor Tousignant – smaller buildings, design with winter removal in mind – need to figure out cleaning costs in summer as well –

Sarah Petrin – Winona Ave – statement on recent storms – grew up in OOB – storm of 1978 – rebuilt pier and dune grass areas – recent storms defining moment for the town – Town needs to better prepared as coastal

community to be better prepared for climate change – grants available now – climate action plan needed with Town to access those funds – Comp Plan includes climate action plan – needs to move forward – wants Town to be more unified in working towards climate action plan – Ocean Park community upset over damage done to homes and infrastructure – Town needs to define which areas are more vulnerable for future disasters – Vice Chair Blow – suggestions to help move this along? – Sara Petrin – have community meetings on storms, but better by neighborhoods and separate communities – Vice Chair Blow – to help implement suggestions, form more committees at smaller levels? Suggestion with background – Sara Petrin – encourage on town website and social media to report damage to MEMA – Vice Chair Blow – is there something the Town could be doing better to mitigate the impact of these storms? Looking for what thoughts are to reduce damage instead of repairing damage – Chairman O’Neill – intrigued and appreciates comments – off topic – would like to hold a public workshop to hear more public concerns and input – would not like to segregate Ocean Park from rest of town – Councilor Tousignant – can Town Manager Asanza have a conversation with Sara Petrin on items – existing emergency management agency work on potential storms.

Chairman O’Neill – closed workshop at 7:31 pm