

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

A scheduled Town Council Workshop of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council to be held on Monday, January 14 was snowed out and rescheduled for Tuesday, January 15th following the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting. The purpose of the Workshop was to look at Capital Needs.

Present were:

**Chairman James Long
Vice Chair Shawn O'Neill
Councilor Roxanne Frenette
Councilor Robin Dayton
Councilor Sharri MacDonald
Acting Town Manager V. Louise Reid
Gary Lamb, Acting Town Council Secretary
Mary Ann Conroy, Public Works Director
Dana Kelley, Police Chief
John Glass, Fire Chief
Chris White, Waste Water Superintendent
Jason Webber, Recreation Director
Kim McLaughlin, Town Clerk
George Greene, Assessor
Ken Shupe, Code Enforcement Officer
Jill Eastman, Finance Director**

Acting Town Manager, Louise Reid, thanked the Chairman and the Council for their willingness to permit the Department Heads to present what they consider to be the critical capital needs in the area for which they are responsible. Chairman Long indicated that this is a blueprint for going ahead, a snapshot of the needs of the department and that this type of blueprint going ahead is very helpful. Capital needs improvements, any non-operational items costing more than \$5,000 and displaying a projected service life of at least three years are distributed per order of recommendations from the Town Council. The amount of capital a department receives is based on their need and the availability of tax dollars. Operational needs improvements will be outlined along with final capital needs by the Town Council during a special meeting on March 25, 2008. This provides an advance to the formal needs application process for finalization of the budget process. Between renovations to the public safety building and outdated town records, department heads voices the need of approximately \$25 million in projected capital.

The fire and rescue department is in need of a two new engines to replace those purchased in 1993 and 1979. Chief Glass asked the Council to consider either improving upon or completely rebuilding the public safety building. He indicated that the preferred approach would be to rehabilitate the entire existing structure because of code issues, suitable living quarters for the fire personnel, lack of space, mold and poor air quality. Police Chief Dana Kelley also voiced the need for a new public safety building citing

issues such as space problems and code violations that require immediate attention. He also requested another workshop in a timely manner. The current building could be updated or completely redone based on a study completed by Port City architecture in February of 2007 to the tune of \$866,000 or \$4.6 million.

Waste Water Superintendent Christ White presented the Council with a thick packet of information pertaining to the multitudinous required repairs and updates to the waste water treatment facility. He said that in order to have continued reliable operations we need to think about short term and long term capital needs. He highlighted such needs as outdated systems and technology, problems with the pump stations and a study that showed because the plant has been updated at different times and in different sections overall problems with systems continue. He estimated his total need at approximately eleven million.

Public Works Director Mary Ann Conroy indicated she needs \$11 million and includes the possible removal of the Bayley Dam in Scarborough and unclogging of culverts in Old Orchard Beach in order to mitigate flooding on Walnut and Milliken Streets. A little less than half the roads in Town are in pretty good condition but we still have lots of infrastructure concerns. Six sewer projects have been proposed to the tune of \$2.6 million as well as the \$4.8 million in storm water outfalls, street repairs, and the aforementioned dam removal. She said the need for new sidewalks on Saco Avenue is one of her biggest concerns and will cost \$1.5 million as a part of the \$3.5 million street and sidewalk improvement plan. She said her department will need \$200,000 for clean up at Memorial Park, a downtown lighting project and an on-going effort to keep trees healthy and trim in the downtown area. We don't want more trees, we just want to take care of the ones we have a lot better and maintain the image of Old Orchard Beach.

Recreation Director Jason Webber said his department could make use of a small \$20,000 pick up truck because of increased travel and wear and tear on employee vehicles in meeting the needs of the recreation department. His greatest request is for a recreation center and suggested that just as the Town planned for Memorial Park, putting funds away each year, they could do that in preparation for a Recreation Center.

Town Planner, Gary Lamb, laid out the various capital needs for the Code Enforcement, planning and animal control departments. Among his concerns were a bathroom at the town kennel on Portland Avenue and a shade canopy at Memorial Park and also continued funding of the town wide geographic information (GIS) system.

Town Clerk Kim McLaughlin spoke about the need for a scanning agency to update the town's records which go back to 1883. She spoke of the fear of losing history if we don't do something soon.

Finance Director Jill Eastman spoke of the critical need for upgrades to the town's computer network. Problems such as downtime in the e-mail system, lock ups and the lack of space are critical problems.

The Town Council listened carefully to the presentations of each of the department heads recognizing the importance of all they presented along with the financial needs of the community and the need for fiscal responsibility.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Gary Lamb
Interim Town Council Secretary**

I, Gary Lamb, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of three pages (3) pages is a true copy of the original Minutes of the Town Council Workshop of January 15, 2008.

Gary Lamb