

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008 – 7:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

A Town Council Workshop of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 in the Town Hall Chamber. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30

Present were:

**Vice Chair Robin Dayton
Councilor Laura Bolduc
Councilor Michael Tousignant
Chair Sharri MacDonald
Town Manager Stephen Gunty
Assistant Town Manager V. Louise Reid**

Absent:

Councilor Shawn O’Neill

Chair Sharri MacDonald spoke to those attending of the desire of this council to be more positive and a change from the previous Council sometimes controversial manner. The purpose of the workshop this evening is to present the possibility of a roundtable discussion between the Council members and the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager.

The Chair indicated that this will be the first in a series of goals and objectives workshops that will be held providing the opportunity for the Council to present a transparent approach to issues facing our community and to permit the interaction between the Council and each other and the community and the Council. The Chair made it very clear that in the coming year the Town Manager will have a voice and that she and the Council will look to the Town Manager for leadership. She indicated that “This is a new day, a new day for Old orchard Beach, a new day for the Council, and a new day for the Administration.”

The main purpose of the workshop was to set the playing field or open communication. Councilor Laura Bolduc indicated that she wanted also to improve communication between Council members. She indicated that it had been difficult and sometimes frustrating to watch the Council meetings in the past because members could not disagree without letting their personal feelings get in the way until relationships between Councilors became dysfunctional. She indicated that she felt that once the Council members worked together for a period of time there would develop a level of trust between the members which will grow and make them effective in governing. “That’s my hope and goal as a Councilor, not to make politics personal.”

Councilor Robin Dayton said that in the past asking questions and getting answers from town officials was difficult and she was looking forward to change. She spoke about economic conditions that we are all facing and crisis situation and during the discussion on two open positions at Town Hall she suggested possible freezing positions do to the seriousness of the environment in which we find ourselves. Councilors Bolduc and Tousignant in discussion of this subject indicated that the administrative function of

hiring is the responsibility of the Town Manager and that in the budget process is where governance takes place. The Town Administration presented their documentation and justification for the two positions that are now open in the planning and tax departments.

Councilor Mike Tousignant echoed the sentiments of the others on the Council pressing for open communication between the Council members and the Administration. “It seems like everyone wants to act professionally and that the way it should be.”

In further discussions the Council also asked for some feedback and information from the Administration including budget books from the 2009 budget considerations; copies of the Little River Report which was brought forward by the request of Jack Sarno who has promoted the attention required in that area and the suggestion that this Council become fully involved in the issue by having workshops and moving forward with constructive attention to what has been an issue for several years. Councilor Dayton indicated that she has asked for an Organizational Chart/Matrix and she pressed the Administration to make that available quickly.

Councilor Mike Tousignant suggested that a sign be erected in honor the Old Orchard Beach High School Marching Band’s accomplishments in its performance and the Town Manager was asked to look into the possibility of such a sign.

The meeting ended with the commitment to work together in the furtherance of community good and with a commitment to keep confrontation out of politics, working together to bring forth solutions to our many infrastructure issues.

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 two (2) pages is a true copy of the original Minutes of the Town Council Workshop of November 18, 2008.

V. Louis Reid