

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2009  
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

**A Town Council Workshop of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2009 in the Town Hall Chamber. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The purpose of the Workshop was to present an opportunity for the Council to review the fiscal 2009/2010 budget.**

**Present:**

**Chair Sharri MacDonald  
Vice Chair Robin Dayton  
Councilor Laura Bolduc  
Councilor Shawn O'Neill  
Councilor Mike Tousignant  
Town Manager Steve Gunty  
Assistant Town Manager V. Louise Reid  
Finance Director Jill Eastman**

**The Councilors discussed the manner in which they would begin the budget process from this point as they gain consensus on bring a budget into finalization by the end of June. They spent some time discussing the past practice and decided that they would start at the beginning of the budget book and go through each section and when an issue needs to be revisited, and then place in separately to be brought up at a later date.**

**They discussed revenue and the Finance Director was asked to see if more definitive information could be obtained from the State regarding State Revenue Sharing which is expected to be decreased.**

**During the discussion the subject of possible interest by BBI in bringing "gray water" to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The question was asked if this could be a profitable business and add to the revenue of the Town. Chris White, Superintendent of Waste Water, indicated that the car was waste is generally not a biological waste and is not compatible with our process and we are not set up for that type of waste and that he would advise against such a decision.**

**Discussion included the addition of \$1,500 for a Charter revision in the Town Council budget with the assumption that in the falling year budget additional money (perhaps \$4,500) would be appropriated to this revision. It is necessary as there are many areas in the Charter such as agenda and public hearing advertising which costs over \$9,000 year is required; the statement that the Town Clerk who is elected can not be responsible for minute taking and council packets as is the case in most communities in Maine. In the discussion of the Town Clerk's office this was another area in which interest by Council was to move the minute taking and council packets to the Town Clerk's office if it meant possibility hiring a stenographer to take the minutes. This is currently the responsibility of the Assistant Town Manager who was appointed seven years ago as Secretary to the**

**Council. The Finance Director was to determine how much was paid for a stipend to the person taking the Town Council Minutes prior to 2003.**

**The request of the Council was to revisit the Intern position which has been extremely helpful in working on research and other assignments during the summer months. The amount was \$5,000 and the Planner indicated that this was extremely helpful the past three years to have a summer intern. Also in the Town Manager's budget were funds for professional/engineering expenses and the Finance Director was to give them a current list of those expenses (\$9,000.) This was to be revisited.**

**The question of adding \$10,000 to the Legal line was discussed but it was the consensus that this amount remain at \$80,000.**

**In the question of the Finance Department, the Town Manager was asked what position he would recommend to be cut to allow for the hiring of an Accountant? He indicated that he had made his proposals to provide for the Accountant's position without a cost to the Town and that he did not feel is appropriate to recommend any other cuts; he indicated that he felt we were not over staffed. The comment was made by a Councilor that perception is that we are.**

**There were no changes made or revisits requested to the Tax and Voter Registration Departments.**

**In discussing the Assessing Department, the question was asked if there is a need for two Assessors and the request was made for a reduction in that department of \$30,000. This was to be revisited as well.**

**The final department discussed was Planning in which professional/engineering costs were recommended to be cut from \$3,000 to \$1,500. There was consensus here.**

**The question was also raised about the labors costs percentage. It was suggested that it was 80% of the Budget but the Finance Director secured the information that 44.5% of our budget is for labor.**

**Another issue that was discussed at length and the request for further discussion was the licensing of 1 and 2 unit homes. Life safety concerns were raised and the past history of Old Orchard Beach which necessitated the need for inspections before licensing. Future discussion was to be held when more information was provided by the Planner. The loss would be approximately \$16,000 in license fees but the savings in labor involvement would need to be analyzed and weighted against the safety hazards.**

**It was recommended that discussion continue after the Workshop on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 following the School Board Budget review.**

**The Council workshop ended at 9:30 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 May 11, 2009.**

**V. Louise Reid**