

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Tuesday, June 5, 2012
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS
Following the Town Council Meeting**

A Town Council Workshop of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012. Chair Quinn opened the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

**Chair Bob Quinn
Vice Chair Michael Tousignant
Councilor Sharri MacDonald
Councilor Robin Dayton
Councilor Michael Coleman
Town Manager Mark Pearson
Assistant Town Manager V. Louise Reid
Members of the Finance Committee**

The Town Council Chair, Bob Quinn, indicated that this workshop was an opportunity for the Council to review departmental budgets that have been discussed before and the discussion this evening started with a review of the Police budget again which lasted nearly the entire workshop.

Some of the areas of review included fuel issues as it related to the Police Department with discussion on the cost for fuel of those who take the vehicles home and whether the mileage and the cost is accounted for in the daily operation of the fleet. There was a discussion on the building repairs listed at \$10,000 in the proposed budget and the question of what would be considered needs since it is a new building. The Finance Director previously had indicated that there were emergency situations where building needs come up that would be addressed through such a funding amount. The question was raised if the \$40,000 for fuel was sufficient since \$41,951 was used in the current budget. In discussion of the purchase of two vehicles, it was again consensus that we purchase only one.

Another issue of discussion was the keeping open of the animal shelter on Portland Road. This has always been a controversial issue and it seemed to be the consensus that the kennel would stay open. During the discussion of the possible building of a storage building for the Police Department, that the temporary keeping of animals could be in such a facility before they go to Animal Welfare but this again is something that has been discussed before.

In discussion of salaries it appeared to be a consensus that there would be no raises this year until the establishment of a performance evaluation system. It was also noted, however, that the Police and Fire Departments have had difficulty in hiring recruits and lifeguards because of the salary line being lower in Old Orchard Beach than in other communities. The suggestion was the \$30,000 placeholder for possible raises out of the various salary lines should be removed and place in contingency. Performance evaluations were suggested to be done by the end of the year and perhaps raises considered in January of 2013. During this discussion

the question was raised about the fairness of the raising of the health insurance percentage for non-union employees and it was a subject to be discussed further with the Finance Director.

In the discussion of the performance evaluations the question was asked if this would also encompass the employees who work under Union contracts and it was noted that this probably would be a consideration when the contracts are up for renegotiation. Discussion continued on the actual repairs to the current vehicles in the Police Department and a comparison of the cost versus the purchase of the new vehicle cost. It should be noted that of the seventeen vehicles that are included in that total one is a transportation vehicle, two unmarked vehicles, the Community Watch vehicle; seventeen seems a large number but some are specifically noted.

A great deal of discussion came up on the bond issue for the new police department. This resulted from the suggested building of a storage garage for the Police Department and for the Town's need for storage. Questions were raised on the use of bond funds and a slight disagreement as to how the funds can be used. The Town Manager was asked to further investigate how the left over money of approximately \$200,000 can be used. The concern was whether it could be used to build a storage facility on the present location of the new police station; if not would it fund building improvements on the property of the Public Safety Building? Discussion continued on the history of why building for the new Police Department was smaller rather than larger and it was explained for the purpose of not having to have a sprinkler system in the new building. The expense to have railings and wall protectors in the new police department was discussed and the question, again, if this could come out of the bond monies left over. There was a reminder also that there was a consideration to use the left over funding for the repairs needed at the Fire Department/Public Safety building. What are DEP requirements in the building of the storage unit? Further clarification on these questions is needed and the Town Manager was asked to look further into this discussion. A further workshop on these questions has been suggested. The questions include what is the left over bond money to be used for or to pay down the bond; to divert to another option.

In further discussion of the need for the Deputy Chief position to remain; consensus appears to be that removal of the position is not a consideration.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and participating in the budget process.

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 copy of the original Minutes of the Town Council Workshop Meeting of June 5, 2012.

V. Louise Reid