

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, April 14, 2014
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS
6:30 p.m.**

A Town Council Meeting of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council was held on Monday, April 14, 2014. Chair O'Neill opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

**Chair Shawn O'Neill
Vice Chair Bob Quinn
Councilor Malorie Pastor
Councilor Joseph Thornton
Councilor Michael Tousignant
Councilor Kenneth Blow
Councilor Jay Kelley
Town Manager Larry Mead
Assistant Town Manager, V. Louise Reid
Fire Chief John Glass
Planner Jeffrey Hinderliter
Code Enforcement Officer Dan Feeney**

Absent: Finance Director Diana Asanza

The emphasis of the Workshop this evening is fee increases for the Planning and Code Office and for emergency services for the Fire Department. In looking at the possible fee changes to bring in additional revenue next year included fees that are far below those in other communities. Non-property tax revenues include all sources of funding other than the property tax, including fees for services, permits and licenses, revenue from other governmental entities, and excise taxes on motor vehicles. As proposed in FY15 these revenues total \$4,273,854, an increase of \$183,111, or 4.5%. The FY15 proposed budget includes increases in fees related to business licensing and permits issued through the Code Enforcement office. The intent is to increase the portion of the Code Enforcement office that is funded by those using its services. Fee increases are proposed for emergency medical services to bring the Old Orchard Beach fees more in line with surrounding communities.

Discussion occurred regarding building fees and also license related fees. The question of raising the fees is always difficult because it affects the business owner but also the resident for increases in revenue are necessary from both aspects to keep the tax rate fair. Discussion occurred mostly on the campground site increases and the hotel/motel/Inn areas. There was conflict in whether the increases were fair, too high, too low, the impact they would have on business investment and the fact that the Town needed to raise revenue to balance an increase in the tax rate. There was a request for more understanding in the licensing discussion of the one year frame and the two year issuance of licenses. The importance of the business license was mentioned by Kathy Smith, License Coordinator, who indicated that this document issued by a business owner's state of residence gives the company or individual the right to do business in that community. The issuance of those licenses requires ours of staff responsibility. The question was raised by the Chair about the need for some permits being

issues but should those requirements change it would require ordinance changes. The staff had been asked to provide suggested sources of revenue which was their desire this evening but it was obvious during the discussions that there were pros and cons to raising the fees even though it appeared compared to other communities we are consistently lower. Again the Chair reminded everyone that there are only two communities in the state that have this permitting process. Due to the complexity of the details being discussed it was decided that the discussion with Planning and Code would continue at another time and a workshop be established to discuss these items. This subject is to be revisited and also perhaps an update on the fees for other municipalities which would be more current than the past seven years.

Fire Department

A review of fees charged for the Town’s emergency medical services revealed that the current fee structure is significantly below that of almost all other municipalities in Southern Maine. The proposed increase will add at least \$40,000 in revenue. Individuals who are eligible for Medicaid will continue to be charge only up to the Medicare limit which is below market rates.

Service Code Category Current Fee	Medicare Limit	Proposed Fee	Difference	
<u>BLS2 A0429</u>	<u>\$350.00</u>	<u>\$360.34</u>	<u>\$450.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<u>ALS1 AO427</u>	<u>\$425.00</u>	<u>\$427.90</u>	<u>\$550.00</u>	<u>\$125.00</u>
<u>ALS2 AO433</u>	<u>\$560.00</u>	<u>\$619.33</u>	<u>\$800.00</u>	<u>\$240.00</u>

+++Assumes full collection at Medicare limit amount and 25% collection rate of all fees above Medicare limit.

+++Uses the 3 year call average as the assumed volume in FY15.

The Council was presented a comparison with other communities.

BLS2 Medicare Emergency Rate -	\$360.34
ALS1 Emergency Rate -	\$427.90
ASL2 Emergency Base Rate -	\$619.33

Old Orchard Beach:

BLS2 Medicare Rate Emergency Rate	\$350.00
ALS1 Emergency Rate -	\$425.00
ASL2 Emergency Base Rate -	\$560.00
Mileage -	\$ 10.00

Biddeford:

BLS2 Medicare Rate Emergency Rate	\$ 789.80
ALS1 Emergency Rate -	\$ 866.80

ASL2 Emergency Base Rate -	\$1,081.30
Mileage -	\$ 11.00

Scarborough:

BLS2 Medicare Rate Emergency Rate	\$ 474.00
ALS1 Emergency Rate -	\$ 633.00
ASL2 Emergency Base Rate -	\$ 1,070.00
Mileage -	\$ 8.86

Westbrook:

BLS2 Medicare Rate Emergency Rate	\$ 420.00
ALS1 Emergency Rate -	\$ 500.00
ASL2 Emergency Base Rate -	\$ ----
Mileage -	\$ 15.00

Saco:

BLS2 Medicare Rate Emergency Rate	\$ 456.25
ALS1 Emergency Rate -	\$ 543.75
ASL2 Emergency Base Rate -	\$ 793.75
Mileage -	\$ 10.00

The Chief explained the various differences in the charges. For instance in the Basic Life Support – this is a basic fee that will be charged to each patient that is transported by ground ambulance and received any of the listed procedures that are considered basic care. The Advanced Life Support I patient may receive a couple of medical procedures such as cardiac monitoring, vascular access including catheters, saline locks, administration sets, blood draws, fluids, obstetrical kits, etc. The Advanced Life Support Transport II patient receives at least three administrations of medications by IV and any of the following procedures including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, defibrillation/cardioversion, endotracheal, nasotracheal intubation, central venous line, cardiac pacing, Chest decompression, surgical airway and medications.

The Town Manager reviewed the Service Code Category Fee for Old Orchard Beach and said that to increase to the proposed fee would be a 25% increase in the BLS fee from \$350 to \$450; an increase of 28 ½% in the ALS1 from \$425 to \$550; and a 30% increase in the ALS2 fee from \$560 to \$800. The Vice Chair made a suggestion which the Council agreed was a good way to address the need for raising fees and tie it to the percentage of increase in the Medicare limit each year (to be determined whether anytime it is increased or decreased or once a year such as January 1st of each year.) John Bird remarked that there has to be some consideration to residents as well as business owners and those fees are necessary to maintain the tax base. He cautioned that consideration needs to be afforded both business owners and the residents who live here year round.

The Town Manager was to provide to the Council a suggested policy relative to setting a policy for relating the increase/decrease to the Medicare rate.

REVISITS:

**PLANNING OFFICE
CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Revisit the fees for both business/license permits.

Secure more accurate estimates of impact of increases in fees

Secure a more up-to-date listing of municipal fees from other communities.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Propose policy to be brought back to Council reflecting that when Medicare is Increased or decreased it is reflected in the fee structure of the Fire Department Rescue Billing. Decision to be made if it Is yearly or when Medicare adjustments made.

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 four (4) pages is a copy of the original Minutes of the Town Council Workshop of April 14, 2014.

V. Louise Reid