

**Minutes of
Oyster Harbor Citizens Association Meeting
January 29, 2008**

President Brooke Doswell called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm at St. Anne's School. There were 29 members present (sign-in sheet at Attachment 1).

Brooke handed out the agenda (Attachment 2), and the meeting began with a moment of silence. Nancy Plaxico, Board Secretary, handed out minutes of the 11/27/07 Association Meeting and the 12/1/07 Special Call Meeting. Nancy noted that the draft minutes have been posted on the OHCA website for more than a month. After those present reviewed the minutes, Bob Eyster made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, and the motion was seconded and approved.

Review of OHCA Budget for FY 2008-09

Brooke handed out a Voucher Log showing all checks written in FY 2007-08 to date (Attachment 3). She also handed out the proposed budget for FY 2008-09 – both a summary budget to be submitted to the County (Attachment 4) and a detailed budget (Attachment 5). Brooke noted that she sent the proposed budget and a letter to all community members on 12/27/07. She also noted that OHCA's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

She explained that per the format required by the County, the summary budget has the expense categories of Community Property Maintenance, Roads/Drainage, Security, Capital Improvement Fund, and Dredging. The budget also includes the proposed FY 2008-09 tax rate for OHCA (amount to be collected from our property taxes for OHCA), which is 0.32% of assessed valuation.

Bob Eyster asked why the budget that was handed out at this meeting was not the same as the one that was mailed to community members in December. Brooke explained that the County changed the categories required to be submitted (there are now fewer categories).

Brooke went through the detailed budget line by line to explain the entries. There was a question about the landscaping and leaf collection budgeted amounts, and Brooke explained that OHCA is responsible for cutting the grass and leaf collection on the right-of-ways of all roads except Arundel on the Bay, which is the County's responsibility. If residents see that our contractor has missed any area along a road or on community property, she urged them to notify Joni Stone, Chair of the Community Property Committee.

There was a question about lighting maintenance, and Brooke explained that if a street light is out, anyone can call BG&E to get it replaced or they can notify

anyone on the Property Committee and they will call BG&E. The County takes out funds for our street lighting before giving OHCA its tax revenues.

Brooke explained that the amount budgeted for security went up from \$15,000 to \$25,000 a year. We now have off-duty Sheriffs who are here three nights a week for four hours a night. She has gotten all positive feedback so far on the new security personnel.

Regarding roads and drainage, Brooke noted that Norm MacLeod completed a detailed spreadsheet that shows exactly what dollars OHCA has spent where and for what. The spreadsheet is posted on the OHCA website. Norm also completed a detailed budget for FY 2008-09 for roads and drainage.

Some streets in the community need major repairs and others need minor repairs. The biggest problem is the flooding on Shore Drive. The budget contains a rough estimate of \$100,000 for raising the height of Shore Drive, but we will get a more specific estimate from engineers. Resurfacing of roads is not in this FY 2008-09 budget except for Cross Road. Danny Butler asked if the 7200 block of Creek Drive (the paper road) is in this budget and Brooke said no.

Brooke explained that what we are voting on is the five general categories in the summary budget that goes to the County. OHCA can change detailed line items in the budget during the year if the community so decides.

Bob Eyster again asked why the budget handed out at the meeting was different from the one mailed out in December. Brooke explained that the County is holding \$146,000 of OHCA funds and we are not earning any interest on that. We increased the numbers shown in this budget so we can get all those funds out of the County and into our own accounts and earning interest for OHCA.

A question was asked about dredging and Brooke responded that there are no funds for dredging in the proposed budget. Joe Butcher said he thought we wanted Fishing Creek to be dredged, and Calvin Kidd noted that he thought someone was going to research getting special funds for that dredging. Phil Staller replied that if we filed for permits today for dredging Fishing Creek, it would take at least a year to get the permits, so that expense would not be in this FY 2008-09 budget. Phil added that we could apply for a Maryland Waterways Grant for dredging Fishing Creek but that would probably take three to four years to be approved since there is a waiting list. Rhodes Whitehill, the new Chair for Piers and Harbors, said he will apply for a Maryland Waterways Grant for the dredging of Fishing Creek.

Norm MacLeod made a motion to put \$50,000 in the FY 2008-09 budget in the Dredging category, with those funds coming from the Capital Improvement Fund. The motion was seconded and approved.

Bob Eyster asked about the \$250,000 in the budget for a community clubhouse. He said he thinks it's a good idea to have a community clubhouse, but he wants to know what the \$250,000 is for specifically. Brooke said it's just an estimate, and we will be doing more specific budgeting once we know what is needed charter-wise to move forward with a clubhouse. We need a letter from the County Attorney to determine if we need to change the community charter to allow a clubhouse and, if so, how specifically the charter needs to be changed.

The question was asked about how we know what the Fund Balance is today since the budget cites the Fund Balance as of 6/30/07. Brooke said the Fund Balance in the budget comes from the County and is based on our audited financial statement (the audit that was just completed for the FY 2006-07 fiscal year). That audit was completed last week and will be posted on the OHCA website.

Ian MacKinnon said what is important in approving the budget is agreeing on the 0.32% tax rate. Nancy Plaxico asked how that tax rate compares with prior years, and Kathy Burk said the rate has been that same 0.32% for the 15 years she's lived in the community.

Approval of Budget

Joe Butcher made a motion to accept the FY 2008-09 OHCA budget as amended, and the motion was seconded and approved. Brooke said she will post the new budget on the OHCA website.

Norm MacLeod commended Brooke and Kathy for their great work on the budget, and for recasting the numbers into the County's new format. He noted that they did not just plug in numbers but put a lot of thought and effort into the budget.

Norm moved that the meeting be adjourned and the motion was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Plaxico, OHCA Recording Secretary