

OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL- Special Meeting

February 10, 2014 - 5:30 p.m. Ossian Town Hall – 507 North Jefferson

Council Vice-president, Josh Barkley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Council members Bill Miller and Tom Neuenschwander present. Brad Pursley arrived at 5:35.

Council heard presentations from attorneys Andrew Carnall of Bluffton and Mike Hartburg of Huntington. Council expressed some concerns that Carnall may not have the time to address Ossian's needs as he will most likely be the Wells County Prosecutor in 2015. Also, his firm is short-handed right now and his partner, Andrew Antrim, is running for a judgeship in Wells County. Carnall assured them this will not be the case because they will be hiring additional lawyers.

Council heard presentations from three (3) engineering firms. Jamal Anabtawi and Aaron Ott represented A & Z Engineering. Jim Breckler and Derrick Fredrickson represented Engineering Resources along with Ben Beer, who represented USI Consultants, engineers and land surveyors. These two firms work in conjunction with each other. Representing DLZ Engineering were Miguel Trevino, Rob Hathaway and Casey Irwin.

OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

February 10, 2014 - 7:00 p.m. Ossian Town Hall – 507 North Jefferson

Council President, Brad Pursley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council members Josh Barkley, Bill Miller and Tom Neuenschwander present. Terri Hughes- Lazzell was absent.

Barkley moved to approve the minutes of the January meetings. Miller seconded. Passed 4-0

There were no comments from Ossian citizens.

Barkley moved to extend the insurance contracts until May 1st to allow time to obtain quotes from additional insurance companies. Miller seconded. Passed 3-0 with Neuenschwander abstaining.

Fire Chief, Ben Fenstermaker, announced April 5 as the date for the 2014 Annual Firemen's Pancake & Sausage Breakfast. He requested permission to use the entire Town hall on that day. Neuenschwander moved to grant this request. Barkley seconded. Passed 4-0 Fenstermaker also requested permission to purchase new Firehouse Cloud Software at a cost of \$2000 per year for five (5) years. This cost would be split evenly with Jefferson Township. He reported that the old software is still working but because of its age the company will no longer support it. So, if anything would go wrong with it they would be unable to submit the required reports to the state. He further stated that the new software works better with the Spillman software currently in use in Wells County. Neuenschwander moved to purchase the Firehouse Cloud Software. Barkley seconded. Passed 4-0

Ossian Park Board February 3, 2014

Attendance: Steve Andrews, Max Lake, Jason Heckber, and Tim Rohr

- I. Read and approved minutes from meeting on January 20, 2014.
 - II. Steve Lutz has turned in a letter resigning from the park board due to moving out of the area. Max motioned to approve with Jason seconding. Passed 4-0.
 - III. After discussing the open position on the board, members decided to accept letters of intent to be new member until February 21, 2014 at noon.
 - IV. Learned that Jason has found 8 people willing to serve on the Ossian Minor League board of directors. A meeting will be held on February 10, 2014 at the Ossian New Hope Church to discuss direction of the league with only board members to be present.
 - V. Discussed the 5 year plan for the park board. Max suggested having a work session to discuss updates to the plan. Luann to prepare a questionnaire ready for public input about current parks in town. The Ossian website will be utilized for the survey. Survey deadline to be February 28, 2014 and the tabulated.
 - VI. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.
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There was no Park Board report, however Town Manager, Luann Martin, said she has received a good response to the park survey that is currently on the town's website.

Police Chief, Dave Rigney, presented his monthly report and went over it with the council. He stated that there has been no overtime costs so far this year because officers are banking overtime instead of paying it out. He reported that the new squad car is just about ready to be put on the road. Rigney also reported that Officer Hunt's car had been hit, but they were just going to pop out the dent instead of fixing it because the car would soon be used only as a spare.

OSSIAN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE Tuesday February 4, 2014

Members present: Jan Williams, Larry Heckber, Marlyn Koons, Bob Miller, Joel Fremion, Natalie Milholland, Larry Smith, Bruce Sonner, Kody Kumfer, Luann Martin

Guest: Tom Woodward

Members not present: Linda Hambrick, Jim Brewer, Judy Harkless, Tom Neuenschwander

Minutes from the January 14, 2014 meeting were approved.

Tom Woodward agreed to order flowers for pots and start planting hanging baskets in the green house. Committee asked for all flowers to be petunias in shades of pink.

Wine Tasting, April 26, 2014 A Spring Extravaganza

An Evening of Wine Tasting, Microbrews, Jazz, and more.....

Natalie presented examples of posters for discussion. She will have posters printed by February 25.

She is checking with printing prices and will have tickets printed using wallet size.

Tickets should go on sale the beginning of March which will give 8 weeks for ticket sales.

It was decided to downsize the silent auction to a possible 12 items. Larry Smith will serve as chairman. There is still a need to follow up on contacts made for sponsors, wineries, etc.

Confirmed Champagne Sponsors: Ossian State Bank, Country Squires, Ossian Dental, Edward Jones, National Oil, Energy Control, Pena, Mike Anderson, and Dale Huffman, and Babcock.

We are hoping for 2 more.

A work session is planned for Tuesday, February 18 at Marlyn's house at 5:00 for updates and continued review of responsibilities for the event.

Other Business: Joel brought information for a town clock. No action was taken.

Important Dates:

Town of Ossian Garage Sale: June 21, 2014

Town of Ossian Clean-up Day: June 28, 2014

Wine Tasting: April 26, 2014

Next Revitalization meeting: Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 5:00 at the Town Hall.

Work session for Wine Tasting: February 18 at 5:00 at Marlyn's house.

Minutes prepared by Jan Williams

There was no report from the Revitalization Committee.

OSSIAN STORMWATER BOARD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014 6:00 PM

The Ossian Stormwater Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Stormwater Board members present included Tim Miller, President, Rose Barrick, V.P. and Dennis Ramey, Secretary. Also attending was Luann Martin, Town Manager, Jarrod Hahn, Wells County Surveyor, and Glen Werling, The News-Banner.

Election of Officers for 2014 ---- Rose made motion for present Officers to continue in their same positions for 2014, Dennis second, vote was 3-0 in favor.

Regular Monthly Meeting time, date, and place---- Rose made motion to keep same schedule, last Wednesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., at Town Hall.

Minutes Approval ----- Tim made a motion to approve the minutes for the Stormwater meeting held on December 18, 2013, Rose second, vote was 3-0 to approve.

Old Business

- 600 block between Shady Lane and Bittersweet—

Luann informed the group that R&V Engineering will not be under contract to provide services for the Town of Ossian in 2014. Three other firms are scheduled to be interviewed in the near future by the Town Council.

As discussed at last month's meeting, Jarrod Hahn, Wells County Surveyor, was requested to attend this meeting to discuss the ditch which runs behind Rose Ann Heights along the old interurban tracks. Using the aerial view flood plain map for reference, the group

discussed with Jarrod the proposed plans of cleaning up and/or upgrading the existing ditches which drain west and flow into the Eight Mile Creek. The area currently being reviewed starts in the 600 block between Shady Lane and Bittersweet Ln., then north along and under Hickory Lane through 3 – 12” culverts, and then west in an open ditch on the north side of property at 711 Hickory Lane. This open ditch flows west into the old interurban ditch and finally dumps into the Eight Mile Creek. Main points of discussion are as follows:

1. Jarrod commented that some but probably not all of the 70 acres of farm ground to the north of Rose Ann Heights drains into the old interurban ditch.
 2. A drainage ditch constructed by two or more adjacent land-owners for evacuating Stormwater is classified as a “mutual drain”. Responsibility for a “mutual drain” is described as “everyone is responsible for it and no one is responsible for it.”
 3. A drainage ditch considered to be County Regulated is one that the Surveyor’s Office has some records on file and was petitioned by property owners for the County to have jurisdiction over. This condition can develop when land-owners cannot agree on the construction of a new ditch, or maintenance on an existing ditch.
 4. Jarrod gave a couple of examples of how maintenance disputes could be resolved when they arise. If one property owner refuses to repair or agree to pay a portion of the repair cost of a broken “mutual drain”, a petition can be presented to the County Drainage Board for a ruling on how the repair will be executed. In general, an assessment cost will be determined by the Board to be paid by each property owner. In the process of determining if a drainage ditch will be a “mutual drain” or a County Regulated, if one property owner refuses to participate, legal paperwork will need to be submitted to the Drainage Board.
 5. Commenting on the Town’s situation with the old interurban ditch, Jarrod suggested that each adjacent property owner connected with drainage into the ditch is contacted for input. Luann suggested we may invite all affected property owners to our February Stormwater meeting.
 6. The general consensus was that if and when cleaning of the old interurban ditch occurs, most of the access would need to be on the RR side. Jarrod advised this will require much planning to satisfy the RR requirements for working on their property.
 7. On a related Stormwater topic, Jarrod offered a reminder that the new flood plain map for Ossian has been submitted and a letter of final determination is expected in April. The map would become official 6 months later in October. Luann and Jarrod both stressed that anyone concerned that they may be in or near the flood plain should verify their status and sign up for flood insurance if needed before the October deadline. It normally takes 30 days for a policy to become effective. There is a significant rate savings by signing up before being declared in the flood plain.
- Maplewood Drive – update on letters requesting info from property owners. The original purpose of sending the survey letters to property owners in this area was to seek input for future changes to improve the Stormwater flow through the swales and culverts. Luann said she may try to assemble the info from surveys received back into a spreadsheet for future reference.
 - Siebold and LaFever Sts.--- update Nothing new to report this month. Anything that would require engineering in this area is on hold for now.

Storm Water Projects for 2014

Two items discussed that are targeted for completion in 2014 include the swale drainage area between Shady Lane and Bittersweet Ln.

The second item is to replace the old section of Stormwater pipe that is downstream from the emergency repair in the funeral home area, and ending around Homestead and Roe Sts. where the recent new pipe was installed in 2013 running to the intersection of Mill and Highland west of Tim’s home. Also discussed was the drainage from the apartments on Ogden which is still a work in progress and remains to be determined if any additional pipe will be needed.

Storm Water Budget ----- update

Rose reported that she talked with Jeanette about setting up an Emergency Equipment Replacement Fund within the Stormwater Budget account. Jeanette said that would work fine. After discussing what some of our future needs may require, Rose made a motion to appropriate \$ 3,000.00 per month from the Stormwater Fees monthly income received into this account, Tim second, vote was 3 – 0 in favor of the motion.

Luann also informed the group that \$ 4,687.50 was paid for the Stormwater’s share of the new pipe installed between the detention pond in Archbold Wilson Park and the Bunn Addition pond. This expense was approved last year.

F&V Engineering is paid in full.

The current balance in Stormwater Fund is \$ 5,840.74 for Period 01-2014.

New Business

- Update from Town Manager on new Projects

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular scheduled meeting for the Stormwater Board will be on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 6:00 PM, Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted, Dennis Ramey, Secretary

Rose Ann Barrick of the Storm Water Board reported that they had checked with Jarod Hahn, Wells County Surveyor, and the drainage tile behind Hickory Lane would not come under county jurisdiction. The tile in that area is not draining properly causing some problems for the residents nearby. She stated the next project they would tackle when they get a break in the weather would be the drainage between Bittersweet and Shady Lane. Then they would finish up on the Roe Street project and any other loose ends on other projects. She also said that now that they have the five (5) year loan from the sewer department paid off, they will establish a Long-term Equipment Replacement Fund. Two thousand dollars (\$2000) will be deposited each month into the new fund. She announced that their next meeting will be February 26 at the town hall at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Todd Nash, of Yoder Tree Service, presented a bid for \$4420 to trim and/or remove 38 trees around town. Martin said that some of these trees are located in a right of way and some are not. Barkley requested that Martin send letters to the homeowners involved informing them of the work to be done. Steve Bracke said he thought it would be a good idea to include the scope of the work to be done in these letters. Martin said she would get the letters out by March 1st. Nash said this would be a spring project. No decision was made.

Andrew Carnall was appointed Town Attorney for 2014. Barkley stated that both candidates were very well qualified, but he didn't think it would be a good idea to change attorneys in the middle of the TIF Project and the sewer plant lawsuit. Other council members agreed. Barkley moved to appoint Carnall and Miller seconded. Passed 4-0

Neuenschwander moved to appoint Engineering Resources as the Town Engineer for 2014. Miller seconded. Passed 4-0

Neuenschwander stated that the repeal of the Business Personal Property Tax that is currently being considered in Indianapolis could cause Wells County substantial concern. He went on to say that up to 20% of our Asset Valuation could be affected. He said the state is looking at options to replace that income to local governments. He also encouraged residents to contact their legislators and express their concern on this situation.

Clerk-treasurer, Jeannette Dickey, presented Encumbrance Resolution #14-2-1 to the council. She stated she has been having an issue with some suppliers not sending invoices in a timely manner. This caused an issue with the police department equipment and uniform appropriations. The resolution would allow Dickey to pay these 2013 invoices with 2014 money and not have the current budget affected. Neuenschwander moved to pass Resolution #14-2-1. Miller seconded. Passed 4-0

Neuenschwander asked Police Chief, Dave Rigney, why they would be paying Officer Tucker to attend a council meeting. He said he would check into it. Neuenschwander moved to approve time cards with this exception. Miller seconded. Passed 4-0

Neuenschwander moved to approve claims of \$185,889.11 Barkley seconded. Passed 4-0.

Barkley moved to adjourn. Neuenschwander seconded. Passed 4-0 Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.