

OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

January 9, 2017 - 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 Dowty, Jeff Kemper and Renee Sweeney present.

Pursley nominated Barkley for President. Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0

Barkley took the reins and nominated Pursley for Vice-President. Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0

Pursley moved to approve the minutes of the December meetings. Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Jan Williams, representing the Revitalization Board, presented the Ossian Town Seal to the Town of Ossian with Council President, Josh Barkley accepting on behalf of the town. Williams stated that the seal will be placed on the back of the welcome signs on the north and south entrances of the town and it can also be used anywhere the town deems appropriate.

Police Commissioner, Caleb Chichester presented a rough draft of a contract for newly hired police officers. He said it was written by Mike Hartburg, Town Attorney and the commission would welcome input from the council before making any recommendations. Chichester reported that most small towns require such a contract because of the substantial investment in hiring and training a new officer.

Chichester recommended that the part time officers be kept in place until the end of 2017 unless they are no longer needed before that. The part time officers were originally to be terminated at the end of 2016, but due to the resignation of Officer Arnold the department is still short an officer. He stipulated that they would be limited to forty two and one half (42.5) hours per week, allocated between the two officers with neither officer working over thirty (30) hours per week. Sweeney asked if the forty two and a half hours could be extended in cases of emergency or illness. Neither Chichester nor the council took exception to that. Pursley moved to keep the part time police officers through 2017 as needed. Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0

Barkley stated that Wells County Economic Development Director, Chad Kline had planned to attend this evening, but another commitment had come up. Barkley suggested that they approve the contract since it was the same as the previous one. Pursley moved to accept the contract with a second from Kemper. Passed 5-0

Town Manager, Luann Martin presented a contract for computer maintenance from Innovative Concepts of Decatur. The contract for the Police Department was for twenty eight hundred (\$2800) dollars and twenty six hundred fifteen (\$2615) dollars for the town hall. Pursley moved to approve the contract for the town computers with a second from Sweeney. Passed 5-0 Pursley then moved to approve the contract for the police computers with a second from Kemper. Passed 5-0

Dowty moved to approve the following Council Liaison positions:

Park & Recreation – Renee Sweeney

Storm Water – Jeff Kemper

Chamber of Commerce – Luann Martin

Ossian Development Corp. – Brad Pursley

Wells Co. Economic Development Council – Josh Barkley

Area Plan Commission – Dan Baumgartner
Solid Waste District – Bill Dowty
Police Commission – Bill Dowty
Board of Zoning Appeals - Rose Ann Barrick
Fire Department – Jeff Kemper
Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0

Martin declined to make the appointment for the Park Board member, stating that the Park Board wanted to make the recommendation and they had not held their January meeting yet.

Martin reported that no one had expressed interest in the Storm Water Board position.

There were three (3) letters of interest received for Police Commissioner; however one candidate did not live within the Ossian town limits. This is a requirement of the position, therefore the candidate was disqualified. The other two (2) candidates were interviewed in the order their letters had been received.

Andrew Wanner stated that he lives in the Town of Ossian and is a member of the Libertarian Party. He stated that he had accomplished a lot of positive things in his three (3) year term as commissioner and he wanted to be able to continue what he had started. Wanner said he is open to suggestions and wanted to keep the police department on a positive note. He stated that he had not been convicted of a felony in the last ten (10) years.

Lynn Lipp stated that he lives in the Town of Ossian and he is a member of the Democratic Party. He said he loves the Town of Ossian and had been in business here for forty five (45) years. Lipp went on to say that he wants to improve relations between the department and the commissioners which, he feels have been damaged in recent years. He asked that the council really think this through and do what's best for Ossian. Lipp stated that he had not been convicted if a felony in the last ten (10) years.

Bob Meyer asked permission to speak, even though comments from the public were to be later in the meeting. Barkley granted him permission to speak. He stated that Police Chief, Dave Rigney had every right to sue the Town for age discrimination after remarks made by Wanner over a year ago. But Rigney had not done so. He was about to go on when Barkley stopped him and said he had heard comments made in the past that his children should not hear and he was not going to go down that path again. Barkley said he appreciated Meyer's comments and dismissed him. Barkley then asked council if there was any discussion. There being none, Dowty moved to appoint Wanner as Police Commissioner. Pursley seconded. Passed 3-2 with Sweeney and Kemper voting no.

Barkley then stated that the Police Commission had been a three (3) member board since 2000 and perhaps it was time to make it a five (5) member board. There was no discussion.

A letter of resignation from Dennis Ramey of the Storm Water Board was read. Dowty moved to accept his resignation and Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Pursley moved to appoint Mike Hartburg as the Town Attorney for 2017. Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0

Dowty moved to appoint Engineering Resources as the Town Engineers for 2017. Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Pursley moved to approve intra-fund transfers as presented by Clerk-Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey. Dowty Seconded. Passed 5-0

Lynn Lipp commented that he was disappointed in the council's decision to appoint Wanner to the police Commission. He said he would not put his hat in the ring if the commission were expanded to five (5) members.

Ossian resident and former police commissioner, Mike Lampton, stated that he did not agree with the action taken. He said that Wanner had damaged the relationship between the department, the commissioners and the public. Pursley pointed out that he had attended many police commission meetings where they all went in the small interview room and closed the door on meetings that were supposed to be public, a violation of the Open Door Law. Lampton continued saying that Rigney had not been involved in the hiring process of the two (2) recently hired officers. Wanner retorted that there were seven people on the interviewing committee, including the three (3) commissioners, two (2) council members, Chief Rigney and Sheriff Monte Fisher. The addition of the Sheriff had been requested by Rigney. Wanner also said that the same procedure would be followed in the hiring of another officer.

Barkley asked Rigney and Wanner if they thought they could work together and both agreed they could.

Chad Kline arrived and briefly reviewed the report that had been reviewed by council. He pointed out that there had been a lot of new investment in Wells County recently and the jobless rate was the lowest since 2009. Kline also reported that Wells County planned to do a housing study for all income levels and much more was in the works for 2017.

Sweeney moved to approve the December time cards as presented. Pursley seconded.
Passed 5-0

Sweeney moved to approve claims of \$167,951.04 as presented. Kemper seconded.
Passed 5-0

Pursley moved to adjourn. Dowty seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

OSSIAN BOARD OF METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

January 3, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

Ossian Town Hall – 507 North Jefferson

Commission Chairman, Andrew Wanner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with Commissioners Caleb Chichester and Bob Miller present. Town Council Liaison, Bill Dowty was also present. Glen Werling of the News-Banner and Clerk-Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey were present along with Police Chief, Dave Rigney and wife, Barbara and Ossian residents Lynn Lipp and Mike Lampton.

Miller moved to approve the minutes of the December meetings. Wanner seconded.
Passed 3-0

Police Chief, Dave Rigney presented his monthly report, which was for the entire year of 2016. He explained that the overtime was a little high because of being short two (2) officers for most of the year. He went on to say that the part time officers helped a lot to reduce the overtime.

Rigney reported that he had contacted Town Attorney, Mike Hartburg regarding a contract for new hires. He said he has a rough draft. Rigney stated that most small communities require a time commitment contract of 2-5 years. Commissioners decided to review the rough draft and include it in the council packets on Friday.

Chichester asked Rigney if he had any plans to replace his car. Rigney said he is planning to replace it in the fall.

The policy discussion will be tabled until the February meeting because they want to do some more research on this. Wanner stated that he is working on the uniform and equipment portion of the policy and he will make February a hard goal for completing this part of the policy for discussion. Miller said he would also have his portion ready for the February meeting.

Chichester said he had received information from Hartburg regarding Rigney's salary. He stated that it is long and involved so he would like time to read and digest it before discussing it.

Rigney presented a study that he had done on his overtime since 2008. This included overtime for the entire department plus Rigney's individual overtime. He explained the how and why of these figures and suggested that it is a complicated subject. There was some discussion of this report.

Chichester said his original opinion was to end the part time officers at the end of 2016 as planned. However, since the resignation of Officer Arnold, we are again short an officer. Rigney said it is beneficial to have the part time officers available when someone is sick or has an emergency. He pointed out that it is less expensive to have the part time officers cover these times than to pay a full time officer overtime.

Wanner brought up increasing the number of reserve officers. Rigney stated that Allen County still is not offering the reserve academy and the future of that is still up in the air. He stated that the county prosecutor will only accept citations from reserve officers who have attended the Allen County Reserve Academy. Wanner and Chichester asked Rigney if he would contact the prosecutor to see if there could be any changes made to those requirements since Allen County is no longer offering the Reserve Academy. Rigney agreed to look into it. After further discussion of the current situation, Chichester moved to recommend keeping both part time officers until the end of 2017, unless there is no longer a need for them before that. The hours they can work will be limited to forty two and a half (42.5) hours per week. These hours can be distributed between the officers as needed with neither officer accruing more than thirty (30) hours per week. Miller seconded. Passed 3-0

The next meeting will be February 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall

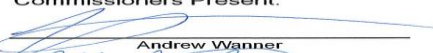


Wanner moved to adjourn. Miller seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Metropolitan Board of Police Commissioners
Executive Session
507 North Jefferson, Ossian, IN

An executive session was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
Time
on January 8, 2017
Date
Subject
To discuss the job performance evaluation of individual employees.

We, the undersigned, certify that no final action was taken on this matter, no other subjects were discussed and that all proceedings will remain confidential.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.
Time

Commissioners Present:	Guests Present:
 Andrew Wanner	_____
 Caleb Chichester	_____
 Bob Miller	_____

Ossian Park Board
December 5, 2016

Attendance: Tim Rohr, Joe Lewis and Chrystal Streeter

1. Read and approved minutes from meeting on November 7, 2016
2. Miracle Midwest Group quote for Sandalwood Park discussed. Discussed removing some larger items from project. Another meeting with representative from Miracle Midwest and Sandalwood committee to be scheduled before making presentation to park board.
3. Discussed letter of intent to serve on park board from Jenni Milholland. Luann to contact Jenni and ask for her to be at January meeting to meet board.
4. Quickly discussed expense report. Board would like to review at January meeting.
5. Next meeting January 2, 2017
6. Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm

Ossian Park Board

January 16, 2017

Attendance: Tim Rohr, Joe Lewis, Ashley Harmon, and Chrystal Streeter

7. Read and approved minutes from meeting on December 5, 2016
8. Bob and Beck Kink presented illustrations of proposed Sandalwood playground equipment. Railroad ties would be most economical for retention of ground cover. \$61,038 is estimated cost of project. Removal of old equipment and any concrete would be additional. Railroad ties for containment are not included in the above cost. Ashley motioned to present plans to town council for approval to start funding options. Chrystal seconded. Passed 4-0
9. Jenni Milholland here with interest in becoming a park board member. 6 year Ossian resident. Has some ideas to bring interest to the parks. Chrystal motioned to accept Jenni. Ashley seconded. Passed 4-0
10. Discussed baseball user fees. Fee to remain at \$15 per player. Minor league to pay \$25 per month for water and electric. \$100 fee to use big diamond per day. \$25 per day to use tennis courts for league play. Ashley motioned to approve fees. Chrystal seconded. Passed 4-0
11. No updates on 2017 finances. Board has spent \$320.76 this year for expenses.
12. Next meeting will be February 6, 2017
13. Chrystal motioned to keep meetings on the first Monday each month at 7pm. Ashley seconded. Passed 4-0
14. Chrystal motioned to keep Joe as President of Park Board, Tim as Secretary and Ashley to be Vice President for 2017. Ashley seconded. Passed 4-0
15. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

MINUTES

OSSIAN STORMWATER BOARD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2016

The Ossian Storm water Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Storm water Board members present included Tim Miller –President, Rose Barrick -V.P., Dennis Ramey –Sec’y. Also attending Luann Martin -Town Manager, and Glen Werling -The News-Banner.

Minutes Approval -----Rose made a motion to approve the minutes for the Storm Water meeting held on November 30, 2016, Tim second, vote was 3-0 to approve.

Old Business

☐ **Railroad Drainage west of Rose Ann Heights** ----Jim was unable to attend for an update. Work continues to get estimates for options on making alterations to accommodate working around existing AEP transmission poles.

At some point in the process, the Town will also need to obtain a long term working agreement with the R.R. to avoid going through all these steps every time the swale needs cleaned or re-graded.

☐ **600 block between Shady Lane and Bittersweet and adjacent area** -----Luann reported that any final work remaining to be completed will have to wait until spring when the ground conditions are favorable.

☐ **Mill Street rebuild proposal**-----Rose and Dennis reported on attending the Town Council meeting on Dec.12. They inquired about funding for the Stormwater portion of the project to find out how much would be assigned the the SW budget. The planning is still in early stages and no dollar amounts are known at this time.

□ **Storm Water Budget** -----12/28/2016 Report Balances are \$ 64,161.68 in Savings and \$ 88,109.93 in Checking Acct.

▪ **Goals for 2018:** the group will be reviewing budget items for

future consideration.

New Business

□ **Stormwater Officers for 2017**-----Election of SW officers will be scheduled before the start of January's regular meeting. In a related matter, Dennis reported to the group that he will not seek re-appointment to the Board after serving for 10 years. He thanked the other Board members and the Town of Ossian for the opportunity to serve as well as all individuals involved with the operations of the SW committee.

□ **Update from Town Manager on Projects**-----Luann reported that a catch basin will be installed on Dehner Dr. and connect to an existing catch basin. This should resolve an issue of water ponding on the road after heavy rains.

**With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.
The next regular monthly meeting for the Storm water Board will be on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 6:00 PM, Town Hall.**

**Respectfully Submitted,
Dennis Ramey, Secretary**