

**OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL – Regular Meeting**

November 11, 2013 - 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, Tom Neuenschwander and Bill Miller present. Terri Hughes-Lazzell was absent.

Miller moved to approve the minutes of the October meetings. Neuenschwander seconded. Passed 4-0

President, Brad Pursley opened a public hearing for additional appropriations. There being no comments, Pursley closed the hearing.

There were no questions or comments from citizens.

Fire Chief, Ben Fenstermaker, asked to purchase four (4) sets of turn out gear for a total cost of approximately \$9460. After some discussion to determine if the money would be available Neuenschwander moved to authorize the purchase. Barkley seconded. Passed 4-0

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**Ossian Park Board Minutes December 2, 2013**

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

I. Read and approved the minutes from the meeting on November 4, 2013

II. Discussed lifeline stations to be placed around the pond in the Archbold-Wilson Park. Board decided to accept donation of 4 lifeline stations from Shelton Financial Services of Ossian. Josh Barkley spoke with Luann and said he would dig holes and install the poles for the station poles. The stations will be purchased from Lifeline International out of Fort Wayne. Stations are to be installed as soon as they arrive, which should be by the end of December 2013. Max motioned to accept and Jason seconded. Passed 4-0.

III. Rick Bookmiller here questioning a possible fence around the pond in Archbold-Wilson Park. Bookmiller was informed that our current grant which was received from Indiana DNR prohibits and fence around the pond. Bookmiller also questioned a shelf around the outside of the pond so in someone should fall into the pond the edges would only be 2 to 3 feet deep. Board questioned who would pay the cost of this change. Bookmiller also wanted to know if a snow fence could be installed around the pond. The approximate cost of this fence would be \$800.00 not including labor to install it. Board decided to table any action until more information could be obtained.

IV. Tabled accepting agreement from Fleis and Vanderbrink for as-built drawings until town council can decide of possible change of town engineer.

V. Luann to send a letter to current park board member asking for his resignation due to not being able to attend park meetings.

VI. Max motioned to keep all Ossian-Jefferson Township Park Board members the same for 2014 as in 2013. Steve Andrews as president, Max Lake as vice president and Tim Rohr as secretary. Jason seconded and passed 4-0.

VII. All 2014 park meeting will be held on the first Monday of each month at the town hall unless otherwise mentioned.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 m.

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**OSSIAN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday November 5, 2013**

Members present: Jan Williams, Linda Hambrick, Larry Heckber, Marlyn Koons, Mike Lewis, Larry Smith, Jim Brewer, Bruce Sonner, Kody Kumfer, Eme Dietrick

Members not present: Joel Fremion, Judy Harkless, Luann Martin, Natalie Milholland, Tom Neuenschwander

Minutes from the October 1, 2013 meeting were approved.

Hometown Christmas December 6, 2013 from 5:00 to 7:30

\*Larry Heckber will contact Helen Witte to discuss her needs for the chili. We would like to use cups instead of bowls because it would be easier for people to carry with them. We have permission from Cindi Fiechter to use the back of her business BKM to cook and serve the chili. Chili will be served from 5:00 until it is gone.

\*Jim Brewer reported that we have permission to use the Rex Harris Bldg. for Decorated Christmas trees. Participants may set up trees beginning Tuesday Dec 3, Wednesday 4, and Thursday 5. We will leave a note on the door that the key will be available next door at Edward Jones.

\*Mike Lewis will contact downtown businesses taking posters and inviting them to participate in the store decorating, and the dessert and appetizer contest.

\*Linda Hambrick will contact businesses beyond downtown to participate in store decorating and put up a decorated tree in the Rex Harris building.

\*Bruce Sonner will contact Cliff Biberstine to put up the Christmas banners after Thanksgiving but before December 6. He will also test the tree lights at the same time.

\*Lynn Lipp agreed to play Santa again this year. We will provide a chair and festive surroundings for Santa to sit in the Rex Harris building after the Tree Lighting at the Library. (Stacey Little, Ossian Health Care, will provide candy canes for Santa to give to children)

\*Ossian Elementary Jefferson Street Singers will sing with Santa at the Library for the Tree Lighting at 5:45 and walk with Santa to Downtown.

\*We will invite other local singers to sing Downtown. Jim Brewer will contact Rick & Rob (Stylus Audio Video) about providing a sound system. Wednesday Nov 6 Jim reported they will provide sound on Craig Street for \$200. An email has been sent to Revitalization Members requesting a vote to accept the offer.

\*Jan Williams will ask the printing company to make an attachment to change the date on the two entrances to Ossian banners. (banners are at the printers today, 11-7-13, having the date changed)

\*Psi Otes Sorority will provide music in the Rex Harris building, sell their cheese balls, and serve hot chocolate

\*Bob Miller, pastor of Nazarene Church, will make arrangements for the Live Nativity and accepting Wells County Food Bank items.

\*Linda Hambrick, with assistance of Natalie and Jan W, will design the posters, and print ballots for trees, store decorations, and desert and appetizer tasting.

\*Natalie (has agreed to help) and will be in charge of photos and plaques for the 9 winning awards.

#### **Other Business:**

Received resignation letters from Eme Dietrick and Mike Lewis effective December 31, 2013

#### **Wine Tasting: April 26, 2014**

#### **Next Revitalization meeting: Tuesday, December 3, at 5:00 at the Town Hall.**

Minutes prepared by Jan Williams

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Rose Ann Barrick, Storm Water Board secretary announced that the Storm Water meeting would be on November 20 this month because of Thanksgiving. This is a week earlier than usual.

Pursley presented a resignation letter from Revitalization Committee member, Emeline Detrick effective December, 31, 2013. Barkley moved to accept her resignation. Miller seconded. Passed 4-0 The council expressed their appreciation for Detrick's loyal service while serving on the committee.

Neuenschwander requested to move the discussion of the Employee Handbook to the next meeting. Council had no objection.

Ric Bookmiller and Steve Gerber made a presentation regarding the pond in the Archbold-Wilson Park. Gerber told of various drownings that he had witnessed in his experience as a conservation officer. Then, Gerber recommended installing throw bags every 400 feet around the pond. These throw bags would have 80 foot ropes and be housed in something that resembles a plastic mailbox. Miller asked how we would protect them from vandalism, to which, Gerber answered that there isn't really anything we can do about that. Neuenschwander said that the Park Board is exploring some other options and that the council works off their recommendations. Bookmiller expressed concern over the steepness of the sides and suggested we put a "shelf" in the sides. Martin said we can't do anything during the winter anyway. Miller suggested we wait until it fills up and then see where things stand.

Martin stated that Frauhofer has presented his final bill and that we cannot be reimbursed for this until our as-builts are sent in. She is negotiating with Fleis & Vandenbrink to have those done shortly.

Mike Lautzenheiser presented the Wells County Ten Year Comprehensive Plan. Lautzenheiser explained that there had been no change in the zoning maps. Barkley moved to approve Ordinance #13-11-4 accepting the Comprehensive Plan. Neuenschwander seconded. Passed 4-0

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Sally Bracke announced that the garbage would increase by 30 cents beginning with the December billing. This is per year five (5) of our seven (7) year contract with National Serv-all. She stated that this was written in an ordinance when the contract was originally signed. She further informed the council that they could access the ordinance on the town website if they wanted to read it.

Martin presented a request for a utility adjustment. Council tabled this requested pending a phone call to plumber, Leon Wanner who had done repairs at the location.

Martin presented Nelson Tank Engineering's report of the water tower inspection. This has already been sent to Fedewa. No action was required.

Martin presented quotes for the town website upgrade from Clear Elevation for \$1250 and Crash 31 for \$4250. There was some discussion after which Neuenschwander moved accept the bid from Clear Elevation for \$1250. Miller seconded. Passed 4-0

Neuenschwander moved to approve time cards with a correction of the week # on Rigney's time card from #44 to #43. Miler seconded. Passed 4-0

Neuenschwander moved to approve claims of \$104,165.12. Barkley seconded. Passed 4-0

Neuenschwander moved to adjourn. Miller seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

## ***OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL*** – Regular Meeting

November 25, 2013 - 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 Tom Neuenschwander, Josh Barkley, Bill Miller and Terri Hughes-Lazzell present.

Pursley called for comments from citizens. There were none.

Tim Ehlerding, Wells County Economic Development Director, presented a three (3) year agreement, stating that it was the same as the last agreement. Dues are still 10% or about \$6800 per year. He told of some of the developments that have been made in the last few years around the county. He stated that Ossian's Industrial Park is the only one in Wells County that has rail access which makes it very desirable to new businesses. He reported that the TIF District for the Industrial Park is moving along on schedule. Barkley said he will meet with town attorney, Andy Carnall next week. They are expecting a rough draft of an ordinance establishing a Redevelopment Commission from Ice Miller, a law firm in Indianapolis, who specializes in municipalities. Barkley moved to accept the three (3) year agreement. Neuenschwander seconded. Passed 5-0

Neuenschwander had some concerns about the employee handbook and the council asked town manager, Luann Martin to insert the changes already made so they could go over it again. Martin will have it ready for the next meeting.

Clerk- Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey stated the additional appropriation previously requested had been advertised and the public hearing had been held. Council approval is needed before she can submit it to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). Neuenschwander moved to approve the additional appropriation as advertised. Hughes-Lazzell seconded. Passed 5-0

Council President, Brad Pursley stated that it is the decision of the council that Police Chief, Dave Rigney stay with three (3) weeks of vacation until he has completed the years of service required by the handbook to receive four (4) weeks.

Martin reported that the website should be going live sometime in December.

Martin reported that the street light project is well underway. All the new poles are installed. The underground work remains to be done but should be completed shortly.

The utility adjustment presented at the last meeting was denied after receiving more information from the plumber who made the repairs.

Barkley reported that Jeff Shelton of Shelton Financial Group has offered to donate four (4) lifeline boxes for the pond at the Archbold Wilson Park. This will be presented to the park board at their next meeting.

Pursley said he was looking at the cost of engineering for the last couple of years. He suggested that it may be time to look at some other options. Hughes-Lazzell said we should look at options for all of our professionals for the coming year. Martin said she would need information from interested parties by December 31, 2013 in order to make the appointments in January 2014.

Martin stated that all projects were complete except for the Archbold Wilson Park. All work for this year has been completed, but the as-builts need to be sent to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) before we can receive the final reimbursement.

Neuenschwander inquired about the licenses of two (2) of the town employees. Martin said she had called for information but the schedules for the 2014 classes have not been released. She will keep an eye out for information on both the water licensing and the sewer licensing.

Police Chief, Dave Rigney presented his monthly report. He then reported that the Northern Wells School District has received a \$50,000 grant to put resource officers in the schools. Ossian's portion of this will be about \$12,000. Pursley said he didn't think \$12,000 would go very far toward paying for an officer. Rigney said Officer Tucker is the only one who is close to having the credentials for this but that she would need some additional training. Neuenschwander expressed concern that this project not cost the local government anything. Rigney assured the council that there would be no long term cost to the town. Neuenschwander inquired about the cost of training to which, Rigney replied that it will not cost the town anything. Barkley suggested that we contract with the officers like the courthouse does in Bluffton. Rigney, again, agreed and said there would be a contract. Council was concerned about losing an officer on the street. Rigney said they would not necessarily lose an officer because they would still be on call. Neuenschwander stated there is no room in the budget for adding another officer. Rigney agreed. Barkley said he didn't think an officer in the school should have anything to do with the town. Officer Tucker interjected that the school would not expect the officer to be there five (5) days a week all day. She further stated that their department already handles a lot of calls from the elementary school. Someone from the Northern Wells School Corporation will be at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to present additional information and answer questions.

Officer Tucker reported on the status of the Daremobile saying that we have received the title to the truck from the Regional Director of Frito-Lay. We are in the process of plating it and obtaining a gas card. She also reported that tomorrow students at the Ossian Elementary School may choose to pay \$1 for the privilege of wearing their pajamas to school. The money raised from this project will benefit the DARE Program. She is still working on getting storage for the vehicle.

Barkley moved to pay claims of \$\$80,962.44. Hughes-Lazzell seconded. Passed 5-0

Neuenschwander moved to adjourn. Passed 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.