

**OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL – Regular Meeting**

December 9, 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, Bill Miller and Terri Hughes-Lazzell present.

Barkley moved to approve the minutes of the November meetings. Miller seconded.  
Passed 5-0

Steve Bracke complimented Ossian employees on their handling of the streets during the recent inclement weather.

Fire Chief, Ben Fenstermaker, reported that he ordered four (4) sets of turn out gear, which was approved at the November 11 meeting. He also requested authorization to purchase a variety of small hand tools to put on the trucks totaling approximately \$1698. Neuenschwander moved to allow this purchase. Miller seconded. Passed 5-0

Police Chief, Dave Rigney, reported that the new police car is in and we will take delivery in January. He then said that Officer Tucker had gone to Pennsylvania in May for forensic training and the cost had been taken out of the regular budget. He said the council had voted to pay it from the Police Continuing Education Fund. Clerk-Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey pointed out that the Continuing Education Fund had not been appropriated for 2013. Hughes-Lazzell asked if there was money in the fund, to which Dickey replied that there was cash in the fund but we could not spend it without appropriation. Dickey said there was money appropriated in the Continuing Education Fund for 2014, but not 2013. Hughes-Lazzell inquired about doing an additional appropriation but Dickey said there was not enough time to do it this year. Rigney stated that in the future he would present paperwork stating which fund it should be paid from.

Rose Ann Barrick, Storm Water Board secretary, announced that the Storm Water meeting would be on December 18 this month because of Christmas being on their meeting night. This is a week earlier than usual. She also stated that the 5 year loan from the sewer department would be paid off this month.

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**OSSIAN STORMWATER BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013 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, Sec'y. Town Mgr., Luann Martin was ill and not able to attend. Also attending were Tom Neuenschwander, Town Council, and Glen Werling, The News-Banner.

**Minutes Approval** ----- Tim made a motion to approve the minutes for Stormwater meeting held on November 20, 2013, Rose second, vote was 3-0 to approve.

**Old Business**

- **Maplewood Drive** – update on letters requesting info from property owners.  
Nothing new to report this month.
- **600 block between Shady Lane and Bittersweet**—update on Engineering plan from Marty.  
Rose suggested that she and Luann may need to contact Jarrod Hahn, Wells Co. Surveyor, or the Drainage Board for assistance with maintenance associated with the ditch on the west side of Rose Ann Heights. Due to farm ground to the north draining into the ditch, it carries some dirt and other debris causing the ditch to fill. The Stormwater run-off from the Rose Ann Heights area is clear water from grass areas. Rose also stated that the dirt level is approx. 6 to 8 inches higher than the tile running under the old Interurban track causing a flow restriction. It was also discussed that sometime in the near future, I&M will be tree trimming in the easement area of the power lines, adjacent to the ditch. Some discussion about Town crews being able to clean out part of the buildup in the ditch may be a possibility.
- **Siebold and LaFever Sts.**--- update  
Nothing new to report this month, Marty may be offering some info later on.  
**Storm Water Budget** update  
Rose reported that the current balance in Stormwater Fund is \$ 1,721.15.  
**Melching** – Metts project balance -- \$ 0  
The group expressed happiness that the final payment of the 5 year internal loan from the Wastewater Fund has been made. This will allow approx. \$ 6,500.00 per month to go into

the Stormwater Fund balance for future projects and expenses. This arrangement also benefited the Wastewater Fund by earning 2% interest on the loan amount.

Further discussion included the possibility of setting up an emergency equipment fund for unplanned events or equipment needs. A brief review of the 5 year plan written in 2009 to project 2010 – 2014 budget items concluded this topic.

#### **New Business**

- Update from Town Manager on new Projects – absent ill
- The Agenda for January 29, 2014 will include first item of business to be election of Stormwater Board Officers for 2014.

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

The next regular scheduled meeting for the Stormwater Board will be on Wednesday, January 29, 2014, at 6:00 PM, Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted, Dennis Ramey, Secretary

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### **OSSIAN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday December 3, 2013**

**Members present:** Jan Williams, Linda Hambrick, Larry Heckber, Marlyn Koons, Mike Lewis, Larry Smith, Jim Brewer, Bruce Sonner, Kody Kumfer, Judy Harkless, Luann Martin, Tom Neuenschwander

**Members not present:** Joel Fremion, Natalie Milholland, Eme Dietrick  
Minutes from the November 5, 2013 meeting were approved.

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

Linda Hambrick is creating ballots for local business dessert and appetizers, and for trees at the Rex Harris building. She will get gift bags at Dollar General for ballot collection at each participating business. We will print 1,500 ballots for dessert/appetizers and 1,000 for trees.

Jan Williams reports the Ossian Elementary Jefferson Street Singers will be dropped off at the library at 5:40, begin caroling at 5:45 when Santa arrives. She will confirm this schedule with Lynn Lipp, Santa, and Mrs. Pascall, music director.

Luann and Larry Heckber are coordinating the switch to turn on the lights around 5:50. Santa will lead students to West Craig Street where they will complete their caroling and open Hometown Christmas at 6:00

East and West Craig will be blocked to traffic, Sound System will be set up on West Craig and Ferrell train will operate on East Craig.

**Downtown Banners:** Bruce Sonner is working with Cliff Biberstine on banner changes throughout the year. He charges \$100 per change. Committee appreciates the banners are installed tightly and on schedule.

**2014 Chamber Magazine:** after a discussion Judy Harkless made a motion second by Larry Smith to place a full page ad in the 2014 Wells County Chamber of Commerce Directory. Motion voted on and passed. The bill for the ad is \$330. Town of Ossian and Revitalization are sharing the cost of \$165.00 from each account.

**Other Business:** It was suggested that we bill in December 2013 any committed Corporate Sponsors for the Wine Tasting in April 2014. There may be advantages to some businesses to budget this in their expenses for 2013 – 14. We will ask Natalie if she has the invoices in her computer and will help get these sent out early December 2013.

A motion was made by Judy Harkless, second by Larry Smith that we recommend Bob Miller as a member of Revitalization to replace Eme Detrick's position. Motion voted on and passed.

**Wine Tasting: April 26, 2014**

**Next Revitalization meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 5:00 at the Town Hall.**

Minutes prepared by Jan Williams

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Brian Nieuwalndt, representing Shelton Financial, was on hand to present a check to the Town of Ossian for \$780 to pay for four (4) Lifeline boxes to be placed around the pond in the Archbold-Wilson Park. Jeff Shelton had previously offered to make this donation.

Northern Wells Community Schools Superintendent, Scott Mills, said there is a school board meeting tomorrow where he, Rigney, Scott Holliday, Chief Deputy for the Wells County Sheriff's Department, Monte Fisher, Wells County Sheriff, Daphne Dahl, Northern Wells Community Schools Safety Director etc. would be present to discuss what kind of arrangement would be entered in for the School Resource Officer at Northern Wells Schools. He reported that Northern Wells had received a Federal grant of \$100,000 to be used for security in the schools. This grant will be administered by the Department of Homeland Security. This is \$50,000 a year for two (2) years. Ossian's portion of this will be about \$12,000 each year. Mills asked the council if they would be willing to enter into a contract with the school district to provide this SRO. He stated that Lancaster School already has a contract with the Bluffton Police Department. Norwell High School and Middle School are located in the county, so the Wells County Sheriff's Department would be responsible for those schools. Neuenschwander expressed concern about the cost of the School Resource Officer. Rigney assured him there would be no cost to the town. Hughes-Lazzell said the council would need more information before entering into a contract. A discussion ensued with Mills stating that the School Board had been discussing this for quite a while and it is a slow process. Mills said the grant for the first year is for November 1, 2013 through October 31, 2014. But, he went on to say that extensions would most likely be granted if decisions were not made in a timely manner. When the subject of training came up, Mills stated that the cost of the training could be stipulated in the contract. He further stated that vehicle costs, uniforms, equipment etc. would need to be factored in the contract. Pursley brought up the bad publicity from the last meeting because the council had asked questions. He suggested that a council member be present at the school board meeting. Mills was not receptive to this. Pursley continued by saying it was rumored that the council wanted to get rid of the Dare program. Barkley said that the majority of the council had donated to the Dare program, so why would they want to get rid of it. It was suggested that the Wells County Sheriff's office handle this and take all of the \$50,000 allotted to the Northern Wells Community Schools. Officer Tucker said this would not be good for the students as she has already built a good relationship with them. Hughes-Lazzell said we need more information before we can negotiate a contract. We need to know what is expected from everyone. Neuenschwander said if we are going to negotiate a contract one of us needs to be at the meeting. Mills stated that it wouldn't really be a negotiation. It would be more of a drafting of an agreement to be presented. Mills said they are very set on putting a School Resource Officer in the Northern Wells Schools. The School Board would like for the Wells County Sheriff's Office to handle the high school and middle school and for Ossian to take care of the elementary school. If this can't happen we will look for another option. Mills said they would like to draft some kind of agreement to present to the council at the first January meeting and they would like some sort of commitment from the council. They would like to see a School Resource officer in the school by April 1, 2014. Officer Tucker stated her fears that if the Council did not sign a contract with the School Corporation another entity would most likely take over the Dare Program. Mills stated that the Dare issue would be spelled out in the contract. No decision was made.

Neuenschwander suggested a few corrections to the Employee Handbook and the suddenly tabled the discussion to the next meeting.

Neuenschwander nominated Pursley for 2014 President of the council. Hughes-Lazzell seconded. Passed 5-0

Neuenschwander nominated Barkley for Vice President. Hughes-Lazzell seconded. Passed 5-0

Neuenschwander moved to have council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in 2014 with the second meeting being held on as "as needed" basis. Hughes-Lazzell seconded. Passed 5-0

The Ossian Journal was designated as the official newspaper for 2014.

Martin presented two requests for a utility adjustment. Neuenschwander moved to approve the request for a \$19.42 adjustment. Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0. A request for a \$132.38 adjustment due to filling a pool after the sprinkling credit date was presented. After Sally Bracke, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, stated that approval of this would have far-reaching ramifications in the future, Council chose to take no action on that adjustment.

Pursley announced the following openings for committees and boards for 2014:  
Revitalization – 1 township position, 2 town positions, 1 business position  
Storm Water Board - 1 member  
Police Commissioners – 1 member

Letters of intent for all positions must be received in the town hall by 12-31-13. Appointments will be made at the January 13 meeting.

It was announced that committee and board members should pick up their Christmas hams at the town hall on December 20.

Martin reported that the flood plain meeting went very well with most of the homeowners involved attending. She pointed out that the flood plain maps will be hanging in the town for some time for anyone to look at.

Neuenschwander moved to approve time cards. Barkley seconded. Passed 5-0

Neuenschwander moved to approve claims of \$41,346.27. Miller seconded. Passed 5-0

Hughes-Lazzell moved to adjourn. Barkley seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

\*\*\*Addendum:

At the end of the discussion with Scott Mills, Officer Tucker expressed concern that if the School Resource Officer were handled through the Wells County Sheriff's Dept. they would also take over the DARE Program. Barkley asked Sheriff, Monte Fisher, who was present, if that would be his intention. Fisher replied that if his department was responsible for the School Resource Officer they would make a couple of trips to the school each day and they have no intention of taking over the DARE Program in Ossian.

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## ***OSSIAN POLICE COMMISSIONERS*** – Regular Meeting

December 13, 2013 - 9:00 a.m.

Ossian Town Hall – 507 North Jefferson

The following people were present: Ossian Police Chief, Dave Rigney. Police Commissioners Scott Holliday, Steve Schadle and Steve Bracke, Ossian Town Council representative, Terri Hughes-Lazzell, Ossian Officer, Stephanie Tucker, council member, Tom Neuenschwander, Clerk-Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey and Glen Werling from the Bluffton News-Banner.

Ossian Police Chief began the meeting by asking Officer, Stephanie Tucker to read her prepared statement. Tucker expressed her disappointment if the Wells County Sheriff's Department were to take over the DARE Program. She said she has spearheaded the program for at least 10 years and the students are used to seeing her in the school. She further stated that she has also been involved with Junior Achievement and Child Protective Services at the school. She said that the children that she interviews through Child Protective Services are more comfortable with her because they already know her from her other activities at the school. She feels it is important for the Ossian Police Department to take ownership of the programs in the schools within the city limits of Ossian. Hughes-Lazzell, Ossian Town Council's liaison with the Police Commissioners, asked why Tucker is the only officer being considered for the School Resource Officer. She thought it would be good to have other officers recognizable to the students, as well. Rigney replied that none of the other officers expressed an interest and that Tucker is the closest to qualifying, as far as the training that is required.

Commissioner Holliday asked that everyone just relax because nothing is set in stone yet. The position hasn't even been created yet. He said that Bluffton already has a School Resource Officer who is used on an "as needed" basis. He also stated that we can't hire cops and then just get rid of them when we don't need them. They need to be hired on a long term basis. Hughes-Lazzell said she thinks Ossian Elementary and Norwell Middle should have the same Resource Officer for the sake of continuity.

Rigney presented financial information to show how Tucker's absence as the school resource officer would free up money to pay for an additional part time officer. He stated that he doesn't want to incur any additional expense. It needs to be a wash. He thinks an additional part time officer may reduce the overtime, but, of course, there is no guarantee. Hughes-Lazzell stated that Dave had said at the last meeting that he could do this with the man power we now have. Rigney initially denied saying that then retracted and said he didn't recall saying that after several others present recalled the same thing. Rigney went on to say that if, at some time in the future, funds just dried up, the part time officers would lose their job. If we were to use our current reserves they would need to attend the Full Time Police Academy. He thought a better way might be to contract with officers from other entities. He said we should have a pool of officers in case just one may not be available when needed. Rigney said at this point we just need to wait and see what the school comes up with and then go from there.

Hughes-Lazzell asked about training required. Tucker stated that they are required to complete a certain number of hours of training every year for DARE training and also to be a school safety officer. She further stated that school resource officer training is 40 hours or a full week of training. Holliday stated that this is offered every month in Jay County. Hughes-Lazzell informed them that council needs as much information as possible and since it was stated that another officer would not be needed you will have to answer these questions. Rigney pointed out that having the county cover all the schools would create problems for both the town and the county.

Rigney reported that Officer Tucker has registered for SRO training in January that has nothing to do with the School Resource Officer. She would still need this training for the DARE Program. This training is in Portland, IN which would require no hotel.

Holliday's term is up 12-31-13. He said he will stay on another term.

Rigney stated that last year not everyone in the department received the full raise because they did not meet certain requirements. Now that those requirements have been met they will receive the rest of the raise. Hughes-Lazzell informed him that they would have to see what the ordinance said and then decide. Neuenschwander corrected 3% to 2%. It was pointed out that longevity pay is not included in the salary ordinance.

Bracke requested blank evaluation forms and said evaluations would be done soon. Hughes-Lazzell asked if the evaluations would go to the Clerk-Treasurer for employee files and Rigney stated they would go in his files.

Rigney reported that the new car is in but they would not take delivery until January because it was budgeted for 2014. He said that it will have interior lights because they have been having corrosion problems with the exterior light bars. The only difference is they cannot be seen from the side very well so he will also put small lights on the mirrors. He will also add the mirror lights to his car, as well. The new car will still be marked like the other squad cars.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.