

OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

April 10, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

Ossian Town Hall – 507 North Jefferson

Council President, Josh Barkley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council members Bill Dowty, Brad Pursley and Renee Sweeney present. Kemper was absent.

Dowty moved to approve the minutes of the March meetings. Pursley seconded. Passed 4-0

Kemper arrived.

Police Commissioner, Caleb Chichester presented a request for Police Chief, Dave Rigney to attend a national training in Philadelphia in October. Pursley moved to approve the request. Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0 Chichester then, presented a new Reimbursement Agreement for new police officers hired laterally and one specific to Officer Alig, who is already an officer, but was not asked to sign an agreement at the time of hire. Chichester assured the council that both agreements were written by Mike Hartburg, Town Attorney, and the police commission approved them at their April meeting. Sweeney moved to approve these agreements with a second from Pursley. Passed 5-0

Chichester reported that part-time officer Brooksher has resigned from his position effective April 11, 2017.

Jim Berry presented three (3) CF-1s and one (1) SB-1 for Roembke Manufacturing. They are adding on to their building to accommodate a business they recently acquired along with several more employees. Pursley moved to approve all four (4) requests. Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Fire Chief, Ben Fenstermaker reported that the Firemen’s Breakfast went very well. He said that they don’t have definite numbers yet, but attendance was well above last year.

Fenstermaker reported that two (2) computers are needed to replace older ones that are barely operational. He said the Ossian Firemen are willing to purchase one (1) and he asks the Town to purchase the other one at a cost of eight hundred (\$800) dollars. Dowty moved to approve the purchase with a second from Pursley. Passed 5-0

Town Manager, Luann Martin, presented three (3) bids to construct a half-court basketball court in Melching Park. She stated that it will be built in such a way so as to facilitate adding on if they should want to make it a full court at a later date. Bids were as follows:

Veteran Concrete – Spencerville, IN	\$8246
Minnich’s Lawn Care – Bluffton, IN	\$9000
Newell Construction – Ossian, IN	\$11280

Pursley moved to accept the low bid of \$8246 from Veteran Concrete. Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0

Martin introduced Janet Riley as the newest Park Board member. The Park Board approved her appointment at their last meeting. She was sworn in by Clerk-Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey.

Rose Barrick, reporting for the Storm Water Board, stated that they are still working with the railroad on the Hickory Street Drainage Project. They have a telephone conference scheduled with the railroad on Thursday, April 13. Barrick said, in the meantime, she and Martin will work on obtaining the eleven (11) permanent and three (3) temporary easements required for the project. Barrick went on to say that the board hopes to complete a couple of

small projects in Bunn Addition and the Industrial Park. She will try to have one (1) company do both projects, which will be more economical.

Martin reported that she had received only two (2) applications for the seasonal mowing position. One of them was Ed Weisenauer, who has worked for the town as a mower in previous years, whom she recommended hiring because he is already trained. Pursley moved to hire Weisenauer with a second from Kemper. Passed 5-0

Kody Kumfer, Larry Heckber and Phil DiNovo, representing Ossian Revitalization, requested that the Town of Ossian take over the watering of the flowers downtown. They stated that Vern Dowty will no longer be able to do the watering and they have had no luck finding someone else to do it. Barkley stated that the town did not have the money to pay employees extra to do this and they are already maxed out with their regular town duties. Barkley went on to say that, without expanding the tax base we cannot raise taxes any more than we are now. He said the council is trying to improve the town's infrastructure at this point, and without infrastructure no one will come to the parks. Martin suggested offering the position to the other person who had applied for the mowing job. After considerable discussion with no solution, it was decided to have a special public meeting on April 24 with the Town Council, Park Board and Revitalization to determine the future of the Archbold-Wilson Park.

Tom Neuenschwander of Amstutz Insurance presented an insurance quote for 2016-2017. He stated that he had gotten quotes from the six (6) companies willing to write municipal insurance. He eliminated three (3) because they were not willing to write on an occurrence basis. Neuenschwander explained that this is very important because it eliminates the time deadline for filing a claim. Bliss McKnight declined to cover the town because it was too small, leaving EMC and Selective in the running. Neuenschwander stated that this year's price was fourteen thousand (\$14,000) dollars less than last year. Dowty asked why there would be such a large price drop. Neuenschwander said there were two (2) reasons; the first being that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has found that the Town of Ossian had done no wrong in the case of Dave Rigney vs. Town of Ossian. Rigney had ninety (90) days to file a claim, and that time has lapsed with no case filed by Rigney, so the case is closed. This relieves the town of a possible liability and thus lowers the premium. The other reason is that EMC has been losing clients to Selective for several months, which prompted a bidding war between the two (2) companies, resulting in very low premiums for Ossian. Neuenschwander stated that workman's camp would stay with IPEP because premiums had gone down 5% because there had been no claims. Dowty moved to accept the bid from EMC. Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0

Rose Barrick, reporting for the Ossian Days Committee, requested permission to have Highway 1 closed for Ossian Days on September 14,15 and 16.

She further stated they have completed the paperwork with the Internal Revenue Service required to be a 501(3)(c) Non-profit corporation. This enables anyone making a donation to the Ossian Days Festival to deduct the donation on their tax return.

Todd Nash has agreed to sponsor a Kid's Fishing Derby this year. Barrick said they are in the early stages of planning and hope to have several other new activities this year, as well as the traditional activities that people have come to expect.

Tom Neuenschwander, who lives directly across the street from where the carnival rides are set up requested that they not be allowed to set up rides after 10:00 p.m. He stated that last year they were banging away at 3:00 a.m. on Thursday night. He said he does not object to this on Friday or Saturday night, but on Thursday night he must work the next day and needs sleep. Barrick stated that Ossian Days is closed on Thursday at 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Dowty moved to grant the road closing and set the September dates for Ossian Days. Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0

Jim Breckler and Dennis Fredrickson presented a detailed report showing areas of Ossian's sanitary sewer lines that are being infiltrated with clear water that should not be going to the sewer plant. This study was concentrated in the areas of the Davis Road lift station, the Mill Street Lift Station and the Roe Street gravity area revealing that, of 171 manholes inspected, 14 showed major inflow, 11 showed moderate inflow and 122 showed minor inflow. They suggested prioritizing several small projects as funds are limited. They also suggested putting a long-term plan with a long-term funding plan in place. Dowty moved to approve an expenditure of nineteen thousand (\$19,000) dollars to Engineering Resources to design a plan for the project and funding. Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Martin presented information from Fuhrman Electric for replacing the junction box at the Davis Road lift station for fourteen hundred forty three (\$1443) dollars. Barkley moved to approve this with a second from Pursley. Passed 5-0

Martin stated the need to have all the sirens in the town integrated so that all areas of the town could hear the tornado sirens. Martin said there may be some money available from EMA to offset some of the cost. Barkley moved to approve Emergency Radio Services linking all sirens together for sixty eight hundred eighty six dollars and one cent (\$6886.01) stating that the expense should come from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (CCD) with any reimbursement from EMA being returned to the CCD Fund. Dowty seconded. Motion passed 5-0

Martin reported that there had been several close calls on the curve where Woodcreek Drive turns into West Woodcreek. She suggested "No Parking" signs could be placed on the inside of the curve. Council asked her to have an ordinance drafted for this.

Barkley reminded everyone to have their ideas ready for the future of the Archbold-Wilson Park at the April 24th meeting. Kemper asked if there are any activities we could do to bring money in instead of always draining money out for the park. He suggested we encourage activities that can support themselves. Kemper went on to say that we could have activities that would pull people from Fort Wayne to increase revenue to the park.

Martin stated the number of ball players is up this year and that there is an addition girl's softball league playing this year.

Pursley questioned why Officer Tucker had listed two (2) Thanksgiving holidays in two (2) different weeks. Martin clarified that town employees receive two (2) days off for Thanksgiving – both Thursday and Friday. Pursley moved to approve the January time cards as presented. Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0

Dowty moved to approve claims of \$123,583.14 as presented. Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Pursley moved to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Ossian Park Board

March 27, 2017

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

1. Read and approved minutes from meeting on March 6, 2017
2. Discussed quotes for basketball court from Newell Construction \$11,880. Minnich \$9,684 and Veteran Concrete \$7,800. Stone is not included in the Veteran Concrete bid. Area to be 50' x 42'. Ashley motioned to accept bid of \$7,800 from Veteran Concrete and Minnich Lawn Care to supply stone not to exceed \$500. Chrystal seconded. Passed 4-0
3. Power Up Electric has received material to install electric at pavilion in Melching Park. Work not started yet
4. Girls softball league has been established. They will pay \$400 per season. Candace Keller to be contact person
5. Janet Riley here expressing interest in becoming member of the park board
6. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm

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

An executive session was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
Time
on March 7, 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 7:56
Time

Commissioners Present:


Andrew Wanner

Caleb Chichester

Bob Miller

Guests Present:

OSSIAN BOARD OF METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

April 4, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

Ossian Town Hall – 507 North Jefferson

Commission Chairman, Andrew Wanner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Bob Miller and Caleb Chichester were present along with Town Council Liaison, Bill Dowty. Police Chief, Dave Rigney, Glen Werling of the News-Banner and Clerk-Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey were also present.

Wanner moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Chichester seconded.
Passed 3-0

Rigney presented information on IACP training in Philadelphia. Since this is usually out of state, Rigney suggested that he and Victor Torres, the new police sergeant, alternate years to hold down expenses. Miller moved to approve the IACP training to be held in Philadelphia in October. Chichester seconded. Passed 3-0 Chichester will present the request to the town Council at this Monday's meeting for the approval required for out of state training.

Rigney reported that Torres wished to attend CIT (Critical Incident Training) in 2017. Rigney went on to say that his specialty was firearms, so he would handle that aspect of the department and Torres would concentrate on the operations portion of department management.

Rigney reported that his AR-15 license expires in 2017 and requested to attend Armorer training in Evansville, Indiana in October 2017 to renew his certification. He also requested to attend a two (2) day event that includes both basic and advanced Glock training in Plainfield, Indiana in July 2017. Miller moved to approve this training with a second from Chichester.
Passed 3-0

Rigney brought up purchasing the old Ossian Journal Building in Ossian to be used as a future police station. He reported that the asking price is one hundred six thousand (\$106,000) dollars. He said that includes the lot north of the building, allowing for expansion room to the north and east of the present building. When asked if he had informed the council of this, Rigney stated that Barkley was cool to the idea at first, but he is warming up to it. The commissioners decided they should, at least, look at the building to determine if it would be feasible. They will try to schedule a special joint meeting with the council to look at the property next week.

Rigney said he was going to make some adjustments to the New Officer Training for lateral hiring, since they would require less training than new officers fresh from the academy. He will present this at the next meeting. He reported that Torres, who starts next Monday, will work with Rigney first, then Officer McClish and last, with Officer Tucker before working alone.

Chichester presented a revised Complaint Policy. Chichester moved to approve this to be sent to Town Attorney for legal approval. Miller seconded. Passed 3-0

Miller stated that he had the Disciplinary Policy finished, but no one had received his emails containing the revised version. Wanner moved to accept the policy for legal approval if there were no objections by 5:00 p.m. on April 12, 2017. Chichester seconded. Passed 3-0

Rigney suggested they initiate some sort of policy on car cameras and mikes used by the officers. Chichester asked if body cameras would be useful for Ossian. Rigney reported that there are some still legal questions regarding body cameras that have caused the Indiana State

Police to say no to them, for now. He also said there could be storage questions, such as, how long to store data and how much storage would be required so, the issue of body cams was dropped for now.

Rigney reported that Ossian officers would be attending training in Bluffton, along with Bluffton Police, Wells County EMTs, and the Wells County Sheriff's Department on the use of Narcan. Narcan is an opioid overdose reversing drug, mostly used to revive people who are overdosed on heroin. Rigney said this drug is highly effective, but training is required in order to use it effectively and safely.

Miller revisited the discussion of using Lexipol to finish the legal portions of the updated policy. Wanner said he thought they should wait until they get all the local policies in place before moving on to the next phase. He set a goal of the end of the year to have all of that accomplished. Wanner also stated that he thinks they should review any policies from Lexipol to see if they fit the needs of Ossian, aside from any legal issues.

Chichester presented Reimbursement Agreements for Officer Alig, specifically, and for any lateral hires. Chichester moved to approve both agreements. Miller seconded. Passed 3-0

Rigney reported that there will be a Staff Meeting at 3:00 p.m. on April 12, 2017 and expressed his wishes that as many commissioners as possible attend.

Chichester distributed copies of the exit interview with former Ossian Officer Reid Arnold.

Wanner suggested they change the meetings to Wednesday for the summer. Chichester said that would work for him and Miller said he was OK with that, but stated he would not be at the June meeting. The next meeting will be May 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

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

OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL – Special Meeting
With Park Board and Revitalization to discuss the future of Archbold-Wilson Park
April 24, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.
Ossian Town Hall – 507 North Jefferson

Council President, Josh Barkley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council members Bill Dowty, Brad Pursley, Jeff Kemper and Renee Sweeney present. Also present were Park Board members, Joe Lewis, Ashley Harmon, Janet Riley, Chrystal Streeter and Tim Rohr. Revitalization was represented by Kody Kumfer, Larry Heckber, Nicole Gahman, Marlyn Koons, Rose Ann Hinesley, Cheryl Laley, Jan Williams, Linda Hambrick, Jim Brewer and Larry Smith. Town Manager, Luann Martin and Clerk-Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey were present along with Ossian residents Roseann Barrick, Steve Bracke and Phil DiNovo.

Barkley began the discussion, stating that the council is not against the parks, as some have stated in the past. However, there are limited funds available to develop the Archbold-Wilson Park which requires council to be realistic regarding the parks, as a whole.

Kumfer stated that Revitalization does not want to keep going back to High Performance Government (HPG) for advice/help with this project. HPG wants to continue with the housing project but without the no subsidized housing clause required by the Ossian Town Council. Barkley stated that Ossian residents he has talked are not in favor of giving away half the park for a housing project.

Lewis reported that the Park Board has been trying to make improvement to the existing parks for the last few years but they do not have the funds to develop the Archbold-Wilson Park. He pointed out the projects for this year have already been completed or, are in the process of completion. These being the addition of electricity for the Melching Park pavilion and restrooms and a half-court basketball court at Melching Park. He also reported that they have asked police to keep an eye on the Melching Park after dark to try to alleviate some of the vandalism that has been going on there. He stressed the importance of being able to maintain whatever improvements are made.

Heckber suggested we might use CEDIT money for the park. Barkley pointed out that this might be a possibility, but council would not be willing to do that until the sewer plant problems have been solved. He went on to say that it is unfortunate that we have inherited the sewer plant problems, but the sewer problems would take priority over the parks.

Others in attendance suggested we might concentrate on the trails connecting the town's parks. Koons reported that Ossian Healthcare would love to see the connecting trails completed. Heckber stated that years ago he wanted to install a bridge to connect Brook Ridge Estates with the Park, but this met with opposition among the Brook Ridge residents and the plan was abandoned.

Bracke offered a little history of the Archbold-Wilson Park, stating that the money for the purchase of the park in 1999 had been donated anonymously through Attorney, Keith Huffman. Bracke reported that, even though it is not in writing anywhere, the donors intent, was for the land was to be a park. He said that plans had been drawn up years ago for several baseball diamonds and soccer fields, making up a "sports complex." Plans have changed since then, but Bracke warned that, if we give away the land, we will never get it back.

Kemper asked what "infrastructure" means. Is this roads, sewer lines, water lines, electricity etc.? In response to this, Barrick suggested we decide what features we want to build and then design the infrastructure needed for the features. That way we could get estimates and have a good idea what things were going to cost. It was suggested that a pavilion in the park could be, at least partially, self-supporting. Martin said she would contact engineers and Barkley said he will contact builders in the area for estimates. Dowty said the community is willing to support the park, all you have to do is ask.

Barkley said he thought the discussion had been very good and thanked everyone for coming.

Pursley moved to adjourn with a second from Dowty. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Ossian Park Board

April 24, 2017

Special meeting with Town Council and Revitalization to discuss Archbold Wilson Park

Kody Kumfer with Revitalization is looking at options for the park with limited funds. Would like to know what the next steps might be for development.

Larry Heckber would like to have estimates on getting infrastructure installed in park for a possible pavilion.

Luann to check with town engineers to get cost of infrastructure to a possible pavilion

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm