

**OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL – Regular Meeting**

May 8, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

Ossian Town Hall – 507 North Jefferson

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

Sweeney moved to approve the minutes of the April meetings. Kemper seconded.  
Passed 4-0

Gil Pena of Pena's Mechanical Contractors requested tax abatement for a remodeling project and one for personal property added in 2016. He reported that 2016 was their best year ever and that 2017 was on track to be even better. Sweeney moved for approval of both abatements with a second from Dowty. Passed 4-0

Diane Johnson of Wells County Economic Development and Jenni Milholland of H & N Properties (Berne Apparel) requested tax abatement for a remodeling project done in 2010. Pursley moved to grant the abatement. Dowty seconded. Passed 4-0 Milholland requested that council look into the speed limit on 850 North and a pothole at the end of their lane. She also asked that the time allotted the stop light for 850 North at the intersection of Highway 1 and 850 intersection be longer. Martin informed her that she would need to contact INDOT for that request since they are the ones who set that traffic signal.

Haldrup USA was represented by Brandon Gephart and Diane Johnson, who also requested tax abatement. Gephart stated that business has been good and they have added more employees than expected. Sweeney moved to approve. Kemper seconded. Passed 4-0

Greg Thornton and Diane Johnson represented Rethceif Properties LLC, requesting tax abatement for a building and dock addition. Pursley moved to grant the abatement with a second from Dowty. Passed 4-0

Sweeney moved to approve an abatement request from Justin Melching of Melching Machine, Inc. and Johnson. Kemper seconded. Passed 4-0

TI automotive, represented by Johnson and Lorena Lucy, requested two (2) tax abatements for personal property. Dowty moved to approve. Sweeney seconded. Passed 4-0

Johnson announced that Linder Oil had been granted an extension by Wells County Assessor, Rick Smith and would appear at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> council meeting.

Town Manager, Luann Martin stated that the old ice rescue truck had been sold to the Town of Ellsworth, Minnesota for three thousand (\$3000) dollars. She pointed out that Fire Trucks Unlimited charges a five hundred (\$500) dollar fee for listing and selling the truck. Dowty moved to approve the sale with a second from Kemper. Passed 4-0

Police Commissioner, Caleb Chichester submitted a request for time off without pay for new Police Sergeant, Victor Torres. Torres requested the week of June 4-9 off to represent the State of Indiana at a National Conference of Hostage Negotiators. Chichester reported that Police Chief, Dave Rigney had already approved the time off. When Pursley asked if there would be any cost to the town, Chichester assured him there would be no cost to the town. Martin pointed out that the week off without pay would extend Torres's vacation and other benefits by one (1) week, per the Employee Handbook. Dowty moved to approve the request. Sweeney seconded. Passed 4-0

Chichester asked if they had any questions on the Chief's monthly Mileage and Overtime Report, since Chief Rigney was not able to attend. There were no questions.

Martin reported that the mulch for the parks would be thirteen hundred eighty (\$1380) dollars for eighty six (86) cubic yards as quoted by Dettmer Saalfrank Farms.

Rose Barrick, reporting for the Storm Water Board, said they had not had a meeting in April because they did not have a quorum. Tim Miller was sick and they are down one member since the resignation of Dennis Ramey at the end of 2016. Barrick stated that if anyone is interested please send a letter to the town hall. The next meeting will be May 31, 2017.

Jim Breckler of Engineering Resources, presented an estimate of the cost to install water and sewage service to the Archbold-Wilson Park. These costs were less than estimated as follows:

Water Lines \$31,831 for a 2" line and \$63,235 for a 6" line with hydrants.  
Sewage \$46,560 for a grinder system and \$87,830 for a gravity system.

Breckler recommended the higher of the estimates because of the long-term value, stating that if the gravity sewer system and the larger water lines were installed we would have more options for expansion of the park in future years.

Marlyn Koons and Jim Brewer, of the Revitalization Committee, were surprised and pleased with the figures. Martin said she will contact DNR to get the infrastructure requirements and funding opportunities, if any are available.

Martin introduced Ordinance #17-5-1, which would allow "No Parking" signs to be put up on portions of Woodcreek and West Woodcreek. This would improve the flow of traffic and allow emergency vehicle access to that area. Dowty moved to approve the ordinance with a second from Kemper. Passed 4-0

Marlyn Koons of the Ossian Revitalization Committee said that she really appreciated the opportunity to get all the entities together to discuss the Archbold-Wilson Park. Pursley pointed out that we all have the same goals, we just need to figure out how to get there. It was suggested that we have these joint meetings more often, perhaps quarterly.

Pursley read aloud the resignation of Herbert Bergman effective May 19, 2017. Dowty moved to accept the resignation as written. Sweeney seconded. Passed 4-0 Pursley asked Martin to post the job opening as soon as possible.

Martin presented a quote from ABP Masonry of Fort Wayne to replace the block and brick around the back door to the garage area for thirty-eight hundred ninety five (\$3895) dollars and a quote from the same company to repair the masonry on the west end of the town hall at a cost of thirty seven hundred (\$3700) dollars. Pursley suggested waiting until Barkley was available before making any decisions.

Sweeney moved to accept the time cards as presented. Dowty seconded. Passed 4-0

Dowty moved to pay claims of \$150,857.24 as presented. Kemper seconded. Passed 4-0

Breckler presented a quote to do the engineering for the sidewalk project on LaFever Street by the Presbyterian Church of forty eight hundred (\$4800) dollars. Martin explained that the entrance to the church on that side of the building is lower than the sidewalk. Breckler said it can be designed in such a way so as to get the water away from the building. Dowty moved to accept the price for the project. Kemper seconded. Passed 4-0

Dowty moved to adjourn. Kemper seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

## ***Ossian Park Board***

May 1, 2017

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

1. Read and approved minutes from meeting on March 27, 2017 and special meeting on April 24, 2017
2. Electric has been installed at pavilion in Melching Park. Lights will be on in pavilion from dusk to dawn.
3. Basketball cement has been installed in Melching Park. 10 ton more stone will be needed. Basketball pole and backboard have been purchased for \$399.98 from Dunham's in Fort Wayne. Hopefully, the project will be completed this week, weather permitting.
4. Discussed fee to rent Melching Park pavilion. Joe to check with Bluffton Parks to see what their fee is. Janet to check Fort Wayne Park fees. Tabled any fee decision until next meeting.
5. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

## ***OSSIAN BOARD OF METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSIONERS***

Special Meeting

May 3, 2017 - 6:00 p.m

1002 Dehner Drive, Ossian, IN

Commission Chairman, Andrew Wanner, Commissioners Bob Miller and Caleb Chichester met to look over and consider the property for possible purchase. Police Chief, Dave Rigney, Officers, Tucker and Alig and Clerk-Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey were also present.

Premises were vacated at 6:15 p.m.

## ***OSSIAN BOARD OF METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSIONERS***

Regular Meeting

May 3, 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. with Commissioners Caleb Chichester and Bob Miller in attendance. Police Chief, Dave Rigney,

Glen Werling of the Bluffton New-Banner and Clerk-Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey were also present.

Wanner moved to approve the minutes of the April meetings. Chichester seconded.  
Passed 3-0

Rigney reported that gasoline costs and payroll costs are still under budget for the year.

Chichester moved to approve the new complaint policy, which had been discussed at previous meetings and had been sent to Town Attorney, Mike Hartburg for approval. Wanner seconded. Passed 3-0

Miller stated that he had sent the disciplinary policy to Hartburg for approval. Hartburg made several changes, which Miller will forward to others. Further discussion will take place at the June meeting.

Wanner stated that he would have the uniform policy ready for the June meeting.

Rigney reported that former Wells County Officer, Russ Mounsey is interested in a part-time position with Ossian. He went on to say that Frantz will be on medical leave at least until July and with the resignation of Brooksher, Ossian has no part-time officers available at this time. He stated that council had approved to leave the part-time officers in place until the end of 2017. Wanner's position is that Ossian is now fully staffed with the addition of Police Sergeant, Victor Torres and is no longer in need of adding part-time officers, especially since Officer Frantz will return sometime this summer. Miller spoke in favor of adding another officer, stating that they can cover for vacations etc. saving the cost of overtime for the regular officers. He also pointed out that working part-time would allow Mounsey to stay qualified as an officer.

Wanner suggested looking into the option of paying reserve officers with Hartburg. Rigney stated that the only reserve officer we have at this time is Duane Klaus and he does not want to be paid.

Miller said he had received an email from Lexipol saying that prices were going up shortly from twenty seven hundred twenty three (\$2723) dollars to forty two hundred ten (\$4210) dollars. This is a difference of fourteen hundred eighty seven (\$1487) dollars or 65%. In light of this large increase, Miller thought it prudent to look into purchasing before the price increase. Wanner and Chichester questioned what exactly is included in that price. Rigney said he would look into that and report back at the June meeting.

Wanner asked Rigney if he could get a floor plan for the property at 1002 Dehner Drive along with the boundaries of the land included. Rigney agrees to do so.

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