

OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

October 9, 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 Brad Pursley, Bill Dowty, Jeff Kemper and Renee Sweeney present.

Fund reports were given to council members, including investments and appropriation balances.

Dowty moved to approve the minutes of the September meetings as presented. Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0

Police Commissioner, Caleb Chichester, submitted a bid for a new police car from Hiday Motors of twenty seven thousand five hundred one (\$27,501) dollars and a bid from Mike Anderson Chevrolet of twenty seven thousand nine hundred ninety two (\$27,992) dollars. Dowty moved to accept the bid from Mike Anderson Chevrolet with a second from Pursley. Passed 5-0

There were no questions regarding the monthly report previously emailed to the council.

Officer McClish had sent Police Chief Rigney a request to take his Memorial Day holiday after the expired time stated in the employee handbook. Rigney had forwarded it to Commissioner Chichester. Since the Police Commission had already met, Chichester presented this request to the council. Barkley stated that he thinks we should stick with what the handbook says, but the council sent the request back to the commissioners.

Barkley announced that the public hearing concerning the 2018 budget had been held on September 25, 2017 at the town hall but, again, asked for questions or comments. There being no questions, Pursley moved to accept the 2018 budget as presented in Ordinance #17-10-2 Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Rose Barrick, reporting for the Storm Water Board, stated that there is now a new project near the Sandalwood Addition which could take precedence over the Hickory Street Project. Town Engineer, Jim Breckler was on hand to explain that there are exposed corroded steel pipes in the area between the Industrial Park and the Sandalwood addition that are leaking. The Town of Ossian does not own the retention pond in the area and Mike Hartburg, Town Attorney, is looking into whose responsibility this is. Breckler recommended a survey of the area be done at a cost of forty eight hundred (\$4800) dollars, which could be split with Wells County Economic Development. Sweeney moved to authorize payment of half the study. Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Barrick reported that the Storm Water Board is in favor of going ahead with the Rose Ann Heights Railroad Drainage Swale Project, but that it could not be started until the spring of 2018 because of the weather. She asked the council for input. Kemper said the residents he had talked with were mostly in favor of it. Barrick stated that she would talk to the owners of the Clark and the Springer farms again just to be sure they are still on board with it. Barkley said he is fine with the project, stating that this has been going on for years and the problem with the Eight Mile Ditch and the railroad may never be solved. He went on to say that the Storm Water Board has always been fiscally responsible and frugal with their projects. Dowty and Pursley had no concerns with the project as it stands. Dowty moved to approve the Rose Ann Heights Railroad Drainage Swale Project. Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0

Town Manager, Luann Martin reported that she had signs ready for the alley on the south side of the post office, so the direction change of the traffic in the alley and the moving of the mail collection box can be done anytime. Sweeney moved to approve Ordinance #17-10-1 which changes the direction of the alley. Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Police Officer, Stephanie Tucker reporting on the proposed animal ordinance stated that she had done some research and had found out that the catch, neuter and release program had been the most

effective in neighboring communities. She explained that, as the ordinance is currently written, anyone who has a cat outdoors is in violation every day. Tucker said that Fort Wayne started by re-writing their ordinance to stipulate that anyone who has an outdoor cat must have the cat collared or chipped and the cat's ear be "tipped" to indicate that it had been spayed or neutered. To explain the catch, neuter and release program Tucker said the cats would be trapped overnight in a live trap. Then a mobile spay/neuter unit would be employed and the cats would be released. She reported that this would help reduce the cat population and also the spread of diseases such as feline leukemia by reducing the number of cat fights. She also stated that this is not an overnight fix. It takes some time to implement but, that it is a long-term reduction of the feral cat population to near zero. Tucker will look into grants to fund the project. Tucker also explained that they have tried euthanizing in the past and it is only a short term fix because, once there are no cats in the area, new colonies move in to fill the vacuum

Officer Tucker requested the opinions of the council regarding the Ossian Police Department and the Town of Ossian creating a Facebook page. She stated that her plan for the Police Department page would be that they could post notices to the town residents and that the residents could also post comments. She assured the council that the comments posted by the public could be hidden. She said Town Attorney Hartburg had informed her that they could not, according to Indiana State Law, be deleted, but that they could be hidden if they were unsavory in nature. Martin stated that she did not want to allow comments on the Town Facebook page, but that it would be used to post notices, such as boil water notices, leaf pick-up, etc.

Martin presented a request by Ideal Realty, Inc. to vacate an easement on Lots 213 and 214 in Sandalwood Addition. These easements go through the center of the lots and prevent anyone from building on them. The council was on board with this and scheduled a public hearing on October 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ossian Town Hall to hear any objections.

Martin reported that she had already notified CINTAS, Ossian's uniform supplier, that we are not renewing our contract for 2018. She presented quotes per week as follows:

CINTAS	- \$103.97 (Our current provider)
Mat Matters	- \$121.25
Uni-first	- \$ 59.50
Wildman	- \$118.81

Martin stated that they usually require a five (5) year contract. Pursley asked if they might accept a one (1) year contract and if we are happy with them then sign a five (5) year contract. Sweeney moved to accept the Uni-first bid of \$59.50 per month. Kemper seconded Passed 5-0

Martin presented a price of five hundred forty seven dollars and ninety eight (\$547.98) cents for new microphones at the town hall conference table from Stylus Technologies. Kemper moved to accept the price of \$547.98 from Stylus and Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0

Martin presented bids for health insurance for 2018. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Sally Bracke explained that, after having analyzed all the factors of the policies and their costs, she recommends Physicians Health Plan because she feels that it will best serve the needs of our employees. She reported that the current plan with United Healthcare, while serving ours needs well in the past, has now become more expensive and the coverage has changed to a lower level. Sweeney moved to accept the bid from Physicians Health Plan with a second from Dowty. Passed 5-0 The implementation of the change will start immediately.

Martin presented some preliminary information to council regarding the proposed barrier around the back parking lot where stone and other supplies and vehicles are stored. Barkley stated that chain link would not be installed and that something more permanent and more attractive should be used.

After some discussion Barkley asked Martin to get more information and report back at the next meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey presented information on re-districting in Ossian. She stated that our voting precincts have more than the ten (10) percent difference recommended by the state. She went on to say that she had received a letter from Wells County Clerk, Yvette Runkle, stating that we need to re-certify our precincts before December 31, 2017 or all council seats would revert to at-large seats. Barkley said we should just leave them as they are and instructed Dickey to have an ordinance drawn up to reflect current precincts. No vote was taken.

Sweeney moved to approve time cards with the exception of one (1) of Jim Battin's time cards. Martin was asked to present a corrected time card at the next meeting. Dowty seconded the motion. Passed 5-0

Pursley moved to pay claims of \$86,075.71 as presented. Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Dowty moved to adjourn. Kemper seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

October 23, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

Ossian Town Hall – 507 North Jefferson

Council President, Josh Barkley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with Council members Brad Pursley, Bill Dowty, Jeff Kemper and Renee Sweeney present. Fund reports were given to council members including investments and appropriation balances.

Barkley opened a Public Hearing to hear comments on Ordinance #2017-10-3 and Ordinance #2017-10-4 ordinances to vacate the easement running through the center of lots 213 and 214 in the Sandalwood Addition. Herman Hans expressed concern over an exposed sewer pipe and erosion on his property. Town Manager, Luann Martin, informed him that the sewer problem did not pertain to the proposed easement, but reassured him that the matter of the exposed sewer line was in the process of being taken care of. Martin invited Hans to attend the Storm Water meeting on Wednesday, October 25 at 6:00 pm. There were no other comments and Barkley closed the hearing at 7:15 pm.

Pursley moved to pass Ordinance #2017-10-3 and Ordinance #2017-10-4. Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0 Martin will record the ordinance with the Wells County Recorder.

Police Officer Stephanie Tucker reported that she had been asked at the last meeting to have the animal ordinance written to include the community cat program. But, then she had gotten a call from Barkley stating that they were not going to implement the community cat program. He said instead they were going to capture the cats and distribute them among area animal shelters. Tucker said she had checked with shelters in Bluffton, Huntington and Adams County and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in Fort Wayne but none of them would accept the cats. She also checked

with the Fort Wayne Animal Shelter and found out that they would take them but that they would not be eligible for their community cat program because due to the territorial nature of cats they would not be accepted so they would be put down. Barkley said that he, also, had checked into taking the cats to surrounding shelters with the same results. He then informed Tucker that, from now on, he would take care of the animal ordinance. Tucker informed council that capture and kill does not work because other cats move from adjoining areas to replace them. Barkley said that community cat programs don't work either because cats are still roaming. He didn't think cats should be free to roam if dogs are allowed to roam. Tucker pointed out that the current ordinance already says that any animal must be contained and cannot roam freely within the town limits and we still have a problem. He stated that Ossian is not going to implement a community cat program because it would not eliminate the problem of the cat feces everywhere. He stated that the problem arises from residents not being responsible for their pets. Tucker reminded him that the cats were feral cats, not pets. Barkley stated that he has contacted a person out of state who will take care of the cat problem. He said he doesn't care if it is not popular. He is committed to taking care of the problem even if it costs seventy-five (\$75) or a hundred (\$100) dollars per cat to do it. Barkley stated that the company he is interested in hiring does not mess with pounds, he euthanizes them. Tucker said that after receiving the call from Barkley, she thought it best to take the matter before the entire council and asked the other council members for their opinions before wasting the attorney's time writing an ordinance. Barkley stated the need for an update to the animal ordinance but stated the need for more input before actually drafting an ordinance. Pursley said he was on board with limiting the number of animals per household as long as existing pets are grandfathered in. Sweeney thought that euthanizing the cats now would bring an immediate solution and then a community cat program could be implemented to keep the animals in check. No action was taken regarding the animal ordinance.

Martin presented the Rural Water Emergency Plan. Pursley moved to approve the plan as presented. Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Ossian resident, Les Wyss, expressed his concern that the streets were not being swept enough. Martin said they sweep streets monthly at this time, but that the streets can only be swept in warm weather. She also pointed out that they can only sweep streets with curbs. This was tabled until more information can be obtained.

Fire Chief, Ben Fenstermaker asked for authorization to purchase 34 pairs of gloves. He found gloves at Donnelley's Fire for seventy nine (\$79) dollars per pair. Dowty moved to approve twenty six hundred eighty six (\$2686) dollars to purchase the gloves. Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0

Martin presented information about the proposed enclosure of the area in back of the town hall. Barkley stated the need to do something permanent and wants to get more information before moving forward. Martin said she would get some more information from Berne Ready Mix. This will be discussed at later meetings. Barkley stated that he would rather people call him than post on social media. He said phone numbers for all council members are posted on the town's website and he appreciates all calls. Pursley concurred.

Martin told the council that she was considering repaving Ingle and Maplewood Streets in 2018 and keeping most of the 2018 street revenue for the Mill Street Project which won't be done until 2019, since Ossian did not get the Community Crossing Grant that is necessary for the completion of the Mill Street Project.

Pursley moved to pay claims of \$84,026.70 as presented. Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Clerk-Treasurer, Jeannette Dickey presented a proposed additional appropriation for council information. She said the request would need to be advertised. Then a public hearing will be held at the

November 13, 2017 council meeting. Council can approve it at that meeting and the request will be sent on the Department of Local Government Financing. Upon council's request Dickey provided a brief explanation of why the additional appropriation is needed.

Barkley asked if the time card issue from the last meeting had been corrected. Martin assured him that it had.

Pursley moved to adjourn. Dowty seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

OSSIAN BOARD OF METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

November 1, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

Ossian Town Hall - 507 North Jefferson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner, Caleb Chichester. Commissioner, Bob Miller and council liaison, Bill Dowty were present along with Police Chief, Dave Rigney, Glen Werling of the Bluffton New-Banner and Officer Stephanie Tucker.

Miller moved to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Chichester seconded.
Passed 2-0

Police Chief, Dave Rigney presented the monthly report stating that the mileage has been pretty consistent and they are still within their budget for the year. He went to say that the overtime is up a little because of Ossian Days, but they are still within the budget for the year. He said the only problem may come in December when the comp. time is paid out for the year. Miller asked Dowty when the council sets the budget and Dowty replied that it has already been set for 2018 and the police department budget had been increased.

Rigney reported that he had ordered the new police car from Mike Anderson Chevrolet but has not heard anything from them yet.

Rigney thanked the commissioners for allowing him to attend the IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police) Conference last week. He stated that he got a lot of useful information and training by attending. He reported that the conference is in Chicago next year.

Chichester presented a request from Officer McClish that he be allowed to take the Memorial Day holiday even though the time had passed for him to take it per the Ossian Employee Handbook. Chichester stated his desire not to go against the handbook. Miller said the problem had never came up before and was not expected to come up again and he thought the employee should come first, but upon learning that McClish had had four (4) months to take it, he agreed that an exception should not be made. Both commissioners present agreed to deny the request.

Chichester reported that he had sent out the Rules and Regulations portion of the policy. Rigney was concerned that a portion of the policy prohibiting officers from commenting to the press or on social media would prohibit Officer Tucker, who is president of the Ossian Days Committee, from promoting

the annual Ossian Days Festival. Chichester suggested adding “without supervisor authorization.” All parties present were OK with that addition.

Officer Tucker asked if they had read the Media Policy that she had presented at the last meeting. Chichester said he had read it and was OK with it, but, that Andrew Wanner, president of the Commission wanted to make some additions to it. Due to work responsibilities Wanner was not able to attend the November meeting. Tucker pointed out that the portion that she had written had been sent to the town attorney and the other portion had been taken from Lexipol.

Miller and Chichester agreed to postpone all policy discussions until the December meeting.

Chichester requested that all officers be informed that in the future requests should be made before the Commissioners meet so that they don't get sent back to the Commission by the council. This causes delays for the requests. Dowty pointed out that the council does not want to undermine what the commission does by ruling on a request that has not been presented to the commission.

Miller moved to adjourn. Wanner seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Ossian Park Board
October 2, 2017

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

1. Read and approved minutes from meeting on 9-13-17
2. John Murawski here for Ossian Minor League. They have 300 players this year and would like to start the season in mid-April next year. Possibly April 17, 2018. Questioned player fees and if a set fee for the season could be an option.
3. Dan Avery and Matt Peters from Northeastern Indiana Trail Group. Brought maps showing existing and future trail system in Wells County and throughout Indiana.
4. Discussed budget. All board members questioned why so many accounts have negative balances.
5. Next meeting November 6, 2017
6. Meeting adjourned at 9:14pm