

OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL – Town of Ossian, Indiana
December 9, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Ossian Town Hall – 507 North Jefferson

Council President, Josh Barkley called the meeting of the Ossian Town Council to order with Council members, Bill Dowty, Jeff Kemper, Brad Pursley and Renee Sweeney present.

Dowty moved to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Sweeney seconded.
Passed 5-0

Martin shared that API Construction was the lowest bid for the 2019 Street Improvement Project and Engineering Resources recommended to award API for the project. Pursley motioned to award API Construction with the 2019 Street Improvement Project, Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Pursley moved to approve Payment Application 7, final retention payment, to Wayne Asphalt for the Mill St. Project, at a cost of \$108,744.43. Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0

Pursley motioned for a 3% pay increase for 2020 across the board for town employees and the police department and held exception for elected officials, adopting Salary Ordinance 19-12-1. Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0

Barkley removed himself from the room for the next item on the agenda. Mike Lautzenheiser explained the rezoning request to change 0.87 acres NW/4 15-28N-12E, property location 306 Davis Rd, from a Residential-1 Zoned District to a Residential-2 Zoned District. The Ordinance came with a do-pass recommendation from Wells County Area Plan Commission. Pursley motioned to adopt ordinance 19-12-2 to rezone the mentioned parcel, Sweeney seconded. Passed 4-0. Barkley abstained.

Chad Kline introduced the Agreement for Performance of Economic Development Services. The only difference in the contract from years past is that it will reflect the actual dollar amount instead of a percentage to be more compliant with SBOA. Pursley motioned to accept agreement, Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0

Clerk-Treasurer, Erika Allison, and Martin explained the Agreement for TRECS Program. The Program offers a unique way to collect on delinquent collections water and sewer charges from a customer's state tax refund. Pursley motioned to participate in the TRECS program. Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Barkley again removed himself from the room for the next item of discussion. Martin explained that Ossian Healthcare needed an updated signage easement for their financial requirements. With the Grant of Signage Easement, the nursing home would be required, if necessary, to remove the sign if the Town needed access to the easement. Sweeney motioned to approve Grant Signage of Easement, Dowty seconded. Passed 4-0. Barkley abstained.

Martin announced that Dan Baumgartner is not interested in being the representative for the Area Plan Commission for next year. He mentioned he knows a person who might be interested. Council determined to set January 13th at noon for the deadline to submit a letter of interest for the following committees: Area Pan Commission, Park Board, Stormwater Board, and Police Commission.

Sweeney moved to approve time cards as presented. Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0

Dowty moved to approve claims of \$573,848.47 as presented. Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Council members and Clerk-Treasurer signed the annual Nepotism Certifications.

Barkley motioned to approve training for Athena for the Newly Elected Officials Boot Camp in Indianapolis January 21-23 for the registration cost of \$299 plus hotel and travel reimbursement, Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Allison asked for permission to pay necessary bills, if any, from the LOIT Public Safety Fund if the Police budget could not afford it for the end of 2019.

Kemper wanted to revisit the Sewer Expansion out North of Town. He expressed that he thinks it will hurt Ossian long term if the Town doesn't provide the WCRSD a better offer. The cost was quoted about \$81 per home while Allen County offered \$40. Barkley noted that we gave our rate to the Sewer District and they never responded to it. Kemper will look more into it. Barkley asked Chad Kline if he knew more about the project. Kline stated that they had a representative for the project which Kline could invite to the next meeting. Kemper would like to discuss the topic more at the January meeting.

Dowty moved to adjourn. Pursley seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL – Town of Ossian, Indiana
December 20, 2019 – 12:00 p.m.
Ossian Town Hall – 507 North Jefferson

Council President, Josh Barkley called the meeting of the Ossian Town Council to order with Council members, Jeff Kemper, Brad Pursley and Renee Sweeney present.

Kemper wanted opinions from the Department Heads in reference to purchasing a new building. He started with Police Chief, David Rigney, to ask about insufficiencies with the current Town Hall building. Rigney stated that more operating area is needed for an evidence room, special storage space, IT space, and a dedicated interview room. He has \$95,000 in the Police Court Cost Fund to give towards purchasing a building or for improvements to those insufficiencies.

Kemper stated that he was pretty confident the Town could get the building financed for \$1,400/month. The Town would also have \$1,250 brought in from rental income not including the lawyers. However, the lawyers have committed to staying for one year if desired. Kemper also stated that the current utilities are pretty high because the Hair Stylist has controlled her space.

Town Manager, Luann Martin, expressed her concerns that her utility departments would have to share in the cost of both buildings since the utility's equipment would stay at the current Town Hall. She also expressed concerns for shipments coming in, like salt and other equipment, and how that would work. Martin did check and a couple of the bays could be lifted if it was needed structurally for the Fire Dept. If another bay was added on to the end of the building, she wondered how that would impact her departments as far as getting in or out. She expressed that the communication is

easy right now and her workers are a little concerned about that for if there was a separate building. However, the shared expenses are the biggest concern.

Fire Chief, Ben Fenstermaker, stated the Fire Dept would benefit from showers, and an additional washer and dryer. Currently the Fire Dept has one washer for turn out gear. The Fire Dept also can't currently hold a state certified class here and therefore the department misses out on reimbursement for that training.

Sally Bracke, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, expressed concern financially, and asked if having a new building would help the Town better serve the citizens. She has fielded multiple concerns about storm, roads, sewer, park, ect., but never about the building.

Fenstermaker added that there's also a concern with staying in the current building and putting too much money into it.

Martin passed out a drawing created in 2009 intended to renovate the current building creating more space.

Allison asked Fenstermaker if the Council meeting room could be used for the training. Fenstermaker said yes, but it's not practical, as there may be another meeting at the same time.

Clerk-Treasurer, Erika Allison, explained concern for financial matters specifically with additional operating costs.

Rigney took the Council members through the Police Dept to show them what their current space looks like.

Gene Donaghy, Northern Wells School Board Member, offered the Superintendent's office as a place for Council to hold their meetings if desired.

Barkley stated that he would like to address the needs brought up. He doesn't think it's responsible to go into debt to the taxpayer for a building. He suggested to look at reallocating the current building and better utilizing the current space if Donaghy is serious about using the Superintendent's office space for Council meetings. Barkley also wanted to get a 10-year plan together to address future needs.

Sweeney asked about available grants; Martin said our medium income would probably be too high to qualify for any.

Rigney also stated that there could be cost savings with having a training room.

Fenstermaker asked if Department Heads could come up with a list of needs, wants, and what they could get by with, along with the numbers, and then meet and look at it again. This was the general consensus.

In other business Donaghy asked for Council to think about and consider a TIF district for downtown.

Sweeney made a motion for Council to sign the Supplementary Signatures for the 2019-2020 Community Crossing Agreement, Dowty seconded. Passed 5-0

Kemper moved to adjourn. Pursley seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 12:55p.m.

Ossian Park Board

December 2, 2019

Attendance: Tim Rohr, Dodie Filchak, Ashley Harmon, Janet Riley, and Joe Lewis

1. Read and approved minutes from 10-7-19 meeting.
2. Janet informed the board that she isn't going to renew her position on the Park Board for 2020.
3. Amphitheatre to be in bidding process along with dirt work within a month or two. More discussion on the timeframe to be at January meeting.
4. Next meeting on January 6, 2020
5. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm