

*OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL* – Town of Ossian, Indiana

April 13, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Conducted Remotely

The April regular meeting was conducted remotely over Webex due to COVID-19. Residents could join the meeting over the phone by following instructions posted on the Town's window and website. Council President, Josh Barkley called the meeting of the Ossian Town Council to order and took roll call. Council members, Athena Brickley, Jeff Kemper, Brad Pursley and Renee Sweeney were present.

Pursley moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Chad Kline spoke for Roembke's requested abatement. Roembke has a seven -year investment plan for various equipment including CNC machines, laser cutting, grinding, optical measuring and mold press equipment, and various IT equipment, at an estimated cost of \$5 million. Roembke's investment of the new equipment is expected to add 7 new jobs while retaining their current workforce of 54 employees. After more discussion, Brickley moved to grant Roembke Mfg. a 9-year tax abatement, Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Kline also asked for a general consensus to change the Town's tax abatement compliance procedure. Instead of a representative from the business coming to the Council's meeting, Kline, the Town Manager, and a Council member or two, would visit the company. This way, the Town could inspect the equipment and evaluate if employment levels are consistent with their application. The first and second year of the abatement, a meeting would be scheduled with the company. Years three through five, the Town will randomly select an industry to visit. Years six through 10, the Economic Development Director would report any concerns, if any, to the Town Council for any companies that are not in compliance. The Statement of Benefits and Compliance Form would still be presented and discussed at a Council meeting. After more discussion, there was a general consensus to move forward with this procedure.

Sweeny moved to approve purchasing equipment and the price for installment for the new Police Durango from Passive Security Solutions with quote 367 for a total of \$7,699.73. Brickley seconded. Passed 5-0

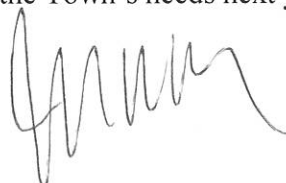
Caleb Chichester also asked Council permission to purchase another AEP for the Police Dept. Sergeant Tucker stated with a second AEP, on overlapping shifts, each officer can have an AEP in their car. Kemper motioned to approve the purchase for \$807.42 from the Court Cost Fund, Brickley seconded. Passed 5-0

Council choose not to take action on an Ordinance for a Public Health Emergency Response.

Council delayed taking action on the Internal Control Policy. Barkley stated that Council should look it over and contact him or Allison if there's any questions or comments. It will be listed on next month's agenda to adopt.

Amstutz Insurance prepared an insurance renewal, effective May 1<sup>st</sup>. The price was fairly the same as last year with the exception of workman's compensation, due to an employee accident last year. Barkley stated he would like to have a third-party review and assess the Town's needs next year. He

*Erika Allison*



would also like the Town to seek quotes for the policy next year. Pursley moved to approve the insurance renewal at a cost of \$54,923.00, Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Martin stated she has two hires for seasonal mowing that Council needs to approve. Tom Brown a new hire, at a starting wage of \$10.03, and Corey Privett, a returning seasonal hire at a wage of \$11.16, both wages reflect the current salary ordinance. Sweeney motioned to approve both hires, Brickley seconded. Passed 5-0

With no other business pertaining to the Town and no public comment, Sweeney moved to approve time cards with the exception of Bracke's last time card needing to be totaled and signed. Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0

Kemper moved to approve claims of \$164,829.08 as presented. Sweeney seconded. Passed 5-0

Kemper moved to adjourn. Pursley seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m.