

**Ossian Town Council Minutes**  
**January 9, 2023**

**Public Meeting** – Barkley opened the public hearing at 7:00pm. First up was the voluntary annexation, by Kevan Biggs, of the property behind the old Ossian Furniture. There being no public comment, Pursley motioned to close the meeting and Tucker seconded it.

**Ossian Town Council Meeting** – Council initiated the next step in the annexation of the property behind the old Ossian Furniture and adopted Resolution 22-12-1. House made the motion to adopt the Resolution and Pursley seconded it. Passed 5-0. Council then introduced ordinance 22-12-2 which annexes the property. The ordinance will be formally adopted at the next regular council meeting.

**Town Council Meeting** – Present were council members Brad Pursley, Jason House, Dennis Ealing, Stephanie Tucker and President Josh Barkley.

**Election of Officers** – Tucker nominated Ealing for president, which Ealing declined. Pursley nominated Josh Barkley for president, House seconded it. The vote was 3-1-1, with Tucker voting against and Barkley abstaining. Barkley nominated Pursley as vice president, House seconded it. Vote was 4-0-1 with Pursley abstaining.

**Time and place for Council Meetings** – Regular meetings will be the second Monday of the month and special meetings will be the fourth Monday as needed. The location will be at Collier's 215 N Jefferson. Barkley motioned to approve and Pursley seconded it. Passed 5-0.

**Approval of Minutes** – Tucker motioned to approve the minutes and House seconded it. All in favor 5-0.

**Dept. Committee Reports –**

**Fire Dept. – Recognized** Capt. Jeff Miller for 30 years with the dept.

Fire Chief Ben Fenstermaker reported that the department is in need of turn out gear. Over the last couple of years the member number had been down, therefore, no new gear was needed. The department is back fully staffed with 31 members and in need of new gear. After receiving 3 quotes, Fenstermaker chose to go with MES Tec Gen with a quote of \$10,507.32. In addition, the dept. needs three sets of boots and three more helmets, with a cost of \$2,211.63. Grand total Fenstermaker is asking for is \$12,718.95. Tucker made a motion to approve and Pursley seconded it. Passed 5-0. Fenstermaker also ask for approval to purchase six wall mounted lockers for \$2,008.00. Tucker made a motion to approve and Barkley seconded it. Passed 5-0. Fenstermaker also asked for an ordinance allowing him to move unappropriated funds from the 2022 budget to the 2023 budget. That appropriation will be considered at the next council meeting.



Brad Pursley  
Dennis Ealing

Office space of current fire, police and town was also brought up by Fenstermaker. This was determined to be handled internally by each office involved as well as Ealing and Tucker.

**Park Board** – Martin had presented an agreement from Engineering Resource, to create conceptual plans for the ball diamonds. She is asking for approval of the plans for \$7,500.00. A motion was made by Pursley to approve the conceptual plans, not to exceed \$7,500.00 and House seconded it. Passed 5-0.

**Police Commission** - Police Commissioner, Chichester, informed the council that Scott Adam and Desmond Carter had been hired as part time police officers. Chichester also asked for approval to employ the services of the Wells Co. Sheriff's Department to provide deputies to fill in the gaps in the personnel scheduling of the Ossian Police Department. It was emphasized that this would be a temporary solution until officers were found to fill the four open vacancies. The sheriff's department will invoice the town for the services monthly, at a rate of \$45.00 an hour. This will cover the use of county patrol vehicles as well as fuel and mileage. Pursley made the motion to approve and Ealing seconded it. Passed 5-0.

Council member, Tucker, asked council to allow her to continue the towns health insurance that was offered to her when she was the town sergeant. Tucker would pay the entire plan herself with no additional cost to the town. Tucker also asked if it could also be offered to any part time employee. The town did not approve this proposal.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Council accepted the resignations of Park Board members Jenni Milholland and Meagan Luce. Tucker motioned to accept their resignations and Pursley seconded. All in favor 5-0. Jay Esparza and Benjamin Jones were appointed to the Park Board. The council also approved Gary Guenin's request to remain on the park board. Tucker made the motion to approve and Barkley seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Jay Esparza was also appointed to the Police Commission. House motioned to approve and Ealing seconded it.

Brad Pursley was made the alternate representative for the town on the Wells County Area Plan Commission in the event that current member Melissa Woodworth is unable to attend a meeting. Barkley motioned to approve and House seconded it. Passed 5-0.

**Utility Adjustments** – Council approved a utility adjustment of \$161.06. Tucker made a motion to approve and House seconded it. Passed 5-0.

Tucker had asked that the matrix be attached to the salary ordinance and that a duplicate sentence be removed from it. The revised salary ordinance will be presented at the next board meeting.

**New Business** –

Council heard a dispute between Chelsey Tyner and the Ossian United Methodist Church. Tyner explained that the parking for the daycare on Norwalt Street makes it almost impossible





for her to back their vehicles out onto the street and she sought help from the town council. She wants the town to prevent the daycare from permitting parents to park their vehicles on that side of the church during drop off and pick up. Church members stated they were planning to remove a sidewalk and shrubs to give the parents more room in the drop off area. After listening to both sides, it was realized that no solution could be met. Barkley ended the discussion and suggested that both sides, along with a council person, sit down together, and work it out.

**Tax Abatement** – Greg Roembke, is asking for a tax abatement for Roembke Turnkey Solutions, which is an expansion of Roembke Manufacturing. The plans are to purchase the towns spec building for this new business. Roembke Turnkey hopes to hire 40 new employees over the next four years. The council members approved the proposed tax abatement for five years at 100 percent and year six at 60 percent. Pursley motioned to approve the Resolution 23-1-1 and Ealing seconded it. Passed 5-0.

The council agreed to continue its contract with Wells County Economic Development to provide economic services to the town, for 2023, at a cost of \$11,431.30. Motion to approve was made by Pursley and seconded by Tucker.

Council approved the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Fire Department Compensation for \$10,172.00. Pursley made the motion to approve and Ealing seconded it. Passed 5-0.

**Other Business –**

**Water Project** – Town manager Martin stated that the water project has started on Hickory and Shady.

**Approval of time cards** – Ealing made the motion to approve and House seconded it. Passed 5-0.

**Approval of Claims** – Council approved claims in the amount of \$226,897.21. Ealing motioned to approve and Pursley seconded it. Passed 5-0.

**Citizens Questions** – John, who lives on Davis Rd., had a question about work done being done on the road. Town manager advised they were pot holing.

Pursley made the motion to adjourn, at 8:48pm, Ealing seconded it.



Annie Ealing

start time: 2:00

2-1-23

MAM

Ami Egan

2-1-23

Bus Pway

2-1-23

end time:

2:40 pm



Ami Egan

## Ossian Town Council Minutes

December 23, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Josh Barkley at 10:45am. In attendance was Brad Pursley, Jason Houses, Jeff Kemper and Dennis Ealing.

### **Old Business:**

Barkley ask the council to adopt two ordinances on one reading only. The first ordinance to be adopted was the salary ordinance, #12-12-1, approving an 8 percent increase in pay for town employees. Pursley made the motion to adopt and House second it. Was passed 5-0.

The second ordinance 22-12-2 was presented to amend the employee handbook on how vacation time is compensated for employees who are either terminated, retiring or resigning. The waiving of a rule for an ordinance adoption would need a unanimous vote to pass. Role call was made, did not pass 4-1.

**Adjournment** – Pursley motion and House second, meeting adjourned at 11:55am. After the adjournment, the council members thanked Jeff Kemper for his six years of service to the town.



Metropolitan Board of Police Commissioners

Executive Session

215 North Jefferson, Ossian, IN

An executive session was called to order at 5:30PM  
Time

on January 10, 2023

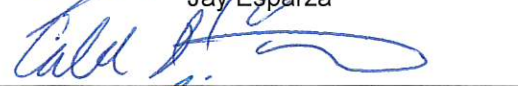
To receive information about and interview prospective employees.


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 18:48  
Time

Commissioners Present:

  
Jay Esparza

  
Caleb Chichester

  
Bob Miller

Guests Present:






  
Ben T. McLeod

ATTEST:

  
Police Commissioner President





Metropolitan Board of Police Commissioners

Executive Session

215 North Jefferson, Ossian, IN

An executive session was called to order at 1:00pm  
Time

on January 28, 2023

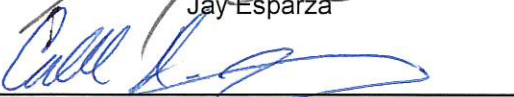
To receive information about and interview prospective employees.


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 3:51 pm  
Time


Commissioners Present:


  
Jay Esparza

  
Caleb Chichester

  
Bob Miller

Guests Present:

  
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\_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

  
Police Commissioner President

  
Angie Earle



Ossian Town Council

Executive Session

215 North Jefferson, Ossian, IN

An executive session was called to order at 1:00pm  
Time

on January 28, 2023

To receive information about and interview prospective employees.

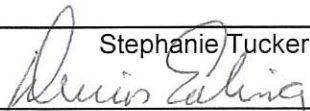
We, the undersigned, certify that no final action was taken on this matter,  
no other subjects were discussed and that all proceedings will remain  
confidential.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm  
Time

Commissioners Present:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Josh Barkley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason House

Stephanie Tucker  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Ealing

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Pursley

Guests Present:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
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**ATTEST:**

Town Council President:

Josh Barkley  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
Angie Eal





**BOARD OF METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
507 NORTH JEFFERSON ST  
OSSIAN, IN 46777

**12-6-2022 Minutes for the Ossian Board Of Metropolitan Police Commissioners**  
**Minutes taken by Caleb Chichester**

**Attendance**

Caleb Chichester  
Bob Miller  
Stan Reed  
Chief Rigney  
Seargent Tucker  
Officer McClish  
Officer Mouncey  
Glenn Whirling

**Meeting called to order at 18:30.**

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval moved pushed to next meeting

**Monthly Report**

Month ending Nov. 15

Drove 3558 miles, fuel expense \$1255.87, over budget by \$317.88. No additional appropriation needed.

2022 added to fuel report. 2012 is up for auction.

Comp time/overtime Oct 30 - Nov. 26

41 hours of overtime

Overtime expense YTD - \$10,385.95

Just over \$22,000 under budget for the year

**Old Business**

Full time hiring process

One individual that passed everything, but had not completed his application. Applicant stated to Seargent Tucker that he had emailed his application, but he had sent it to the wrong email address. Application was located and Tucker is starting the background check on him.

New open process

Department has received 11 pre-applications. A couple of them have applied with us before. May need to discuss a some of them and see if we want to invite them to testing.

Part Time Update

Just trained last week on new background check software.

Tucker would like to have an exec. session to discuss background on part time. Exec. session scheduled for Dec. 18 at 17:00.

Chief Position

Chichester has left messages with Sheriff's department, nothing heard back yet. Hopefully will hear back from Sheriff in the next week.

New vehicle update

Hope to pick up next week.

Update on cameras

On Tuesday, December 13 Tucker is to meet with Stylus and Motorola to make sure everything IT wise is ready for the upgrade.

Retirement/resignation letters

Received and accepted retirement of Chief David Rigney effective December 31, 2022.

Motion by Chichester, seconded by Miller. Motion passed 3-0.

Received resignation letter from Seargent Tucker effective at 11:59 AM, January 1, 2023

Motion by Miller, seconded by Reed. Motion passed 3-0.

Tucker also asked to purchase a few items such as her vest, duty belt, shoes, etc. Items that are very worn or can't be used by other officers. Commission will ask council if we can just gift the items to Tucker, also extend the same to Rigney.

#### **New Business**

Request from department to purchase additional 4 watchguard camera system for the remaining vehicles. Would also like to purchase new desktop computers for the department. Use estimated \$50,000 remaining balance from 2022 budget. Quotes will be received and given to council prior to the Monday Council Meeting.

Bob Miller presented Chief Rigney with a retirement badge and plaque for his up and coming retirement.

Motion to adjourn made by Chichester, seconded by Miller. Passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 18:52.



**BOARD OF METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**507 NORTH JEFFERSON ST**  
OSSIAN, IN 46777

**12-18-2022 Minutes for the Ossian Board Of Metropolitan Police Commissioners**  
**Minutes taken by Caleb Chichester**

#### **Attendance**

Caleb Chichester  
Bob Miller  
Chief Rigney  
Seargent Tucker  
Officer McClish

**Meeting called to order at 18:08.**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Bob Miller to accept the minutes from the November 9 meeting, seconded by Caleb Chichester. Motion approved 2-0

Seargent Tucker mentioned that Brooksher's name may be spelled incorrectly in the minutes. Corrections will be made before sending minutes to Clerk.

#### **Part Time Officer Hiring Update**

Received background on Scott Adam.

Motion made by Bob Miller to hire Scott Adam as part time, seconded by Caleb Chichester. Motion approved 2-0.

#### **Full Time Hiring Update**

Schedule interview for January 3, 2023 at 18:30.

#### **Appointment of Interim Chief**

Motion made by Bob Miller to appoint officer Brian McClish as Interim Chief to begin on January 1, 2023. Seconded by Caleb Chichester. Motion approved 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 18:11. Motion made by Caleb Chichester, seconded by Bob Miller. Approved 2-0.

Ossian Park Board

January 4, 2023

Attendance: Tim Rohr, Megan Luce, Gary Guenin, Jared Kurtz

1. Read and approved minutes from meeting on October 3, 2022
2. Jenni Milholland turned in letter of resignation. Gary motioned to accept. Jared seconded. Passed 4-0
3. Election of Officers, Megan Luce-President, Gary Guenin- Vice President, Tim Rohr-Secretary. Jared motioned to accept. Tim seconded. Passed 4-0.
4. Gary motioned to have meetings on first Monday of the month at 7pm at 215 N Jefferson Street
5. Three people sent letters of intent to be Park Board Members. Gary Guenin presented letter to remain a member of the board. Ben Jones, and Jay Esparza sent letter of intent, and both were present. Jared motioned to accept Gary Guenin as Vice President. Ben Jones and Jay Esparza were accepted by the board to be Park Board members. Tim seconded. Passed 4-0
6. Engineering Resources submitted a proposal of \$7,500 to provide preliminary engineering and site plan services to reconstruct existing ball diamonds in Ossian. Discussed sending letter to area businesses to try and get donations to help with the \$7,500 cost. Gary motioned to accept the proposal and submit to Town Council. Jared seconded. Passed 4-0.
7. Discussed baseball fees. Currently at \$17.50 per player. Decided to lower fee for this year to \$10 per player. Jared motioned to change. Gary seconded. Passed 4-0.
8. Stephanie Tucker would like to have another fundraiser for the Dog Park.
9. Megan Luce presented a letter of resignation as a member of the Park Board. Gary motioned to accept. Jared seconded. Passed 4-0
10. Next meeting February 6, 2023
11. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Guenin", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.