

Happy New Year to all and I am looking forward to a productive year as your mayor. Regular council meetings are held the second and fourth Monday evenings at 7:00 PM, and citizen attendance is welcomed and wanted. Agendas of upcoming meetings and minutes of previous council meetings are posted at village hall on the council chamber door. Also, pertinent village information can be accessed by visiting www.villageofswantonohio.us. Please check it out!

I commend the Swanton Public Works Dept. for their tireless and successful effort in clearing our village streets so efficiently during the recent storm and cold spell. Under the direction of supervisor, Jim Reckner, the village crews started plowing streets at 10:00 PM Sunday evening . I called Police Chief Bill Talbott at 7:00 AM Monday morning while the storm was still raging to inquire of the condition of the village streets. He assured me the streets were cleared and passable.

However, Fulton County was declared by the Sheriff to be under a level three snow emergency. A level three snow emergency specifically declares that only emergency and essential personnel should be traveling. Please understand that under a level three snow emergency, if you are stranded or stopped by law enforcement, you are subjecting yourself to a citation or arrest. Please inform your employer of the situation and do not place yourself at unnecessary risk. If you have any questions, call your local police department or the Fulton County Sheriff's office for guidance.

Remaining on the subject of emergency services, Police Chief Bill Talbott, Sergeant Adam Berg, and myself just completed another weekend in NIMS training. National Incident Management System trainings are FEMA written and certified instruction of the nationally recognized structure for handling emergencies of all magnitudes, whether single incidents or a multitude of incidents, and incidents or events that cross multiple jurisdictions. It is specific and extraordinarily detailed in the establishment of the proper roles of all whose responsibility it is to respond, protect, and preserve life and property of the citizens of our country. It was sponsored by the Fulton County EMA, taught by a FEMA certified retired Fire Batalion chief from Toledo and a FEMA certified retired police officer from the Toledo Police Dept. Fire Chief Chad Smith has previously completed these courses as well.

We all hope we will never have to put this training into action, but we feel equipped to do so if necessary. Proper planning and understanding procedures ensures that actions will be properly executed if we find ourselves in any type of emergency.