

VILLAGE OF SWANTON

Council Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2017 • 7:00 p.m.

Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Paul Dzyak Jeff Pilliod
 Tamara Haselman Michael Rochelle
 Dianne Westhoven Kathy Kreuz

Approval of the Minutes: *Motion to approve January 9, 2017 minutes was made by Councilman Dzyak, seconded by Councilwoman Kreuz. Motion passed 6-0.*

Committee reports: See Attached

Executive Session: *Councilman Dzyak made motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Employee Discipline. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rochelle. Motion passed 6-0.*

Mayor Roth called council back to order, Roll call 6-0.

Personnel Report:

Motion to accept resignation of Thomas Gulch was made by Councilman Rochelle, seconded by Councilwoman Kreuz. Motion passed 6-0.

Employee presentations are scheduled to review the revised employee handbook.

Motion to increase Anthony Bernal to \$9.25 an hour for passing Fire Fighter II Class was made by Councilman Pilliod, seconded by Councilwoman Westhoven. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion to increase Kyle Woods to \$9.54 an hour for passing Fire Fighter II Class was made by Councilman Pilliod, seconded by Councilwoman Westhoven. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion to hire full time Police Officer was made by Councilwoman Kreuz, seconded by Councilman Rochelle. Motion passed 6-0.

New Business:

1. Emergency Ordinance: Income Tax Increase

Motion to suspend the rules was made by Councilman Dzyak, seconded by Councilman Rochelle. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Rochelle, seconded by Councilman Pilliod. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Emergency Resolution: Income Tax Increase

Motion to suspend the rules was made by Councilman Rochelle, seconded by Councilwoman Westhoven. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Dzyak, seconded by Councilman Rochelle. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Emergency Ordinance: Medical Marijuana Ban

Motion to suspend the rules was made by Councilman Dzyak, seconded by Councilwoman Westhoven. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Dzyak, seconded by Councilwoman Haselman. Motion passed 6-0.

4. WWTP Rebranding

Motion to Rebrand the WWTP to Village of Swanton Water Resource Recovery Facility, was made by Councilman Dzyak, seconded by Councilwoman Kreuz. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor's Report

Met with EMS executive board on 1/10/17 in Wauseon. Two topics discussed were:

Providing psychological counseling services to all first responders by a firm called Work Place Resources. The board recommended to the Commissioners.

Board also recommended the purchase of new countywide EMS billing software.

Received a letter from the Ohio EPA, showing test results and verifying dates of sewer separation projects. Good report.

Administrator's report:

1. Planning and Zoning Update

Dennis has completed organizing the nuisance files and created a complete list of nuisance properties from 2004-present.

Safe Routes to School meeting was on January 17, 2017. Discussed goals and objectives, very good meeting.

Met with Maumee Valley Planning Organization. Discussed the Zoning and Nuisance sections of the Codified Ordinances and ways MVPO will be able to assist with updating those sections where needed. Also discussed next round of CBDG grant applications.

Met with owner of Mail Pouch Saloon (formerly Shuckers). Interested in doing some outside updates, he has all the information he needs, just would need to submit it.

One item on agenda for Planning Commission in February.

2. 2017 Clean Up Days

Dates are May 13 and September 9, at the Public Service Department. This will include oversized items, electronic waste, and document shredding. Mrs. Miller in the office has created a flyer with this information.

3. Swanton Cemetery

Swan creek Township representatives and Assistant Prosecutor Jon Whitmore will be invited to attend February 27 Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss maintenance on cemetery.

Departments' Reports:

Fiscal- Karla Sexton

Working on closing 2016 books and regular weekly duties
Attended tax seminar in Dublin, OH.

Fire- Report given by Administrator, Deputy Chief Roytek unable to attend.

Permanent part time schedule working well, over time is not an issue
Total stats for 2016: BLS-674 and ALS-757
Received \$1500 donation from the American Legion
Fire Association has deceased and will be making a donation to the fire department

Police- Chief Berg

Saturday is drug take back day
Received \$1500 donation from the American Legion
Received verbal resignation from Dennis Sattison

Public Service- Jim Reckner

Got recertified for mosquito spraying and vegetation control
Starting dura patching this week
Cleaning valve boxes for hydrants and water shut offs
Will do brush pick up tomorrow then new schedule will go into effect, brush pick up will run from April -November. Residents can take to public service department during the off months during business hours
Will have a place at public service department to drop of unwanted electronics

WWTP- Steve Geise

Sludge hauling- none has been done since August, have pumped six times, 150,000 gallons into bags, which is 25 semi loads, we have already recouped our cost by doing this.
Received a low level mercury violation, due to high flows
Rob Dick is working on the hot water lines for the sludge hauling

Water-Brian Hildebrand

Backflow prevention letters went out, have till end of year to complete
Jeff Harmon completed Core test today, will have results in a week

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Councilman Dzyak, seconded by Councilman Rochelle. Motion passed 6-0.



Ann Roth, Mayor

Attest: 
Karla Sexton, Fiscal Officer

Public Service Committee Meeting

January 23, 2017 • 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Tamara Haselman – Chairwoman

Kathy Kreuz

Jeff Pilliod

1. Water & Sewer Rates

RCAP has created new scenarios per the request of the Finance Committee, Councilman Rochelle thinks these are reasonable. Additional information was provided on transfers from the General Fund since 2012 to the Water and Sewer Operating Fund. Councilwoman Haselman thinks this should be tabled until after May. Committee also agrees.

2. Ohio Public Works Commission

Administrator received letter today from the Ohio Public Works Commission. Application for funding Project Church Street Phase 1, has been approved for a grant. This means the Village doesn't have to repay \$219,500.00

3. Additional Information

Councilwoman Haselman asked Jim Reckner about the Village liability on sink holes in Ashberry Farms. Jim said most of the sink holes are closer to the houses not in the street. Councilman Pilliod mentioned about whether a compaction study was ever done in that area.

Councilman Pilliod asked Jim Reckner about the pile of dirt in the lot next to the Village Office. Jim said they will be hauling it out to the shooting range.

Councilman Pilliod also said he received a call from Keil Farms, concerning the right of way to get into fields by the Water Plant. Administrator will check on this.

Councilwoman Kreuz would like Jim Reckner to check on the manhole cover on Centerville Rd by the cemetery, looks sunken in.

Public Safety Committee meeting

January 23, 2016 • 6:30 p.m.

Kathy Kreuz – Chairwoman

Mike Rochelle

Diane Westhoven

1. Long term parking- Industrial Zoned area

At last Council meeting, Councilman Pilliod requested information about parking restrictions in the industrial zoned area of the Village. Administrator provided the current schedule of streets with parking restrictions.

Councilwoman Westhoven asked if Semi Trucks can be parked in driveways. Administrator said the ordinance states as long as not blocking sidewalk.

Councilman Pilliod suggested that business owners be contacted and asked if the semi-trucks parked are waiting to deliver or are parked there and the owner is going home.

Councilwoman Kreuz asked if the signs in front of beauty shop on Church Street could have longer time for parking. Mayor thinks there are new signs there that allow parking from 8am-4pm.

2. Personnel Changes

Police Chief Berg discussed current staffing with the department. Currently there are eight full time officers and four part time officers and he would like to hire another full time officer. He feels the standards for police officers are higher than have ever been. Last year, \$36,500 was paid in part time hours and \$45,000 is what a full time officer would cost for a year. If hire another part time officer instead of full time officer, and we give them 32 hours a week, insurance has to be offered to them. The problem with part time officers is getting them to commit to work, we train them for two months and then they leave for a full time position and were starting it all over again. Hiring a full time officer will reduce the overtime currently being paid out. Part time officer Dennis Sattison has verbally given his resignation.

Councilwoman Westhoven asked if overtime for department is being covered by the part time officers. Chief Berg said yes by both part time and full time officers. He would still need two to three part time officers for special events.

Councilman Rochelle asked if there was any internal candidates. Chief Berg said yes, JD Rahman is interested.

Chief Berg feels it would be good for the department and they will be more consistent.

The Committee will recommend to council to hire a full time officer.

VILLAGE OF SWANTON

Committee of the Whole

January 23, 2017 • 7:45 p.m.

1. Staging Yard Update

Administrator is continually talking to our attorney, he is doing research on other avenues the Village is looking at.

Scott Cole, Conductor for 42 years with Norfolk Southern and SMART Union Officer, reached out to Village Administrator around the Holiday. He said he had some information he would like to provide to Village Council. Administrator gave him the format and procedures to talk to council. He is here tonight to speak.

Mr. Cole introduced himself and said his first role is to protect the CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement) of the people who work for Norfolk Southern. He said this coal train is not new business, it's been in existence and hauled by Norfolk Southern's predecessors. Now that Norfolk Southern has the coal business back, he was contacted with information about putting the staging yard in Swanton. This yard would have crews out of Toledo area and run north, this would be against the CBA and is why he is involved. Mr. Cole said he reached out to DTE Energy and started asking questions and the next day got fired from Norfolk Southern for doing so. He said coal is on a decline, there are three plants using it currently and two of those plants are diminishing. These tracks are the busiest rail routes between New York and Chicago. Chicago is the busiest hub in the nation. He said when you put a major staging yard like this it slows your velocity down. His main concern is the CBA. He went on to mention that he has his suspicions as to why they want to build this yard. Says the concern with coal dust is not the issue, he suggest to ask the railroad what they plan on doing. Mr. Cole stated that due to depositions being taken with the railroad, he can't say his suspicions in a public forum, but would be happy to in a private forum.

Councilwoman Westhoven asked if once the coal contract ends, will the staging yard become an intermodal site. She has been to an intermodal site and they are a hot mess. Mr. Cole said the idea has been floated, but it would be up to Norfolk Southern.

Councilman Rochelle asked if they would need to purchase more property than they have to make it an intermodal yard. Mr. Cole said no.

Councilwoman Westhoven asked what intermodal means. He said it is containers on rail cars.

Bret Chovan asked to intervene, said he has never spoken at council, but has spoken at Swanton Township Meetings and to Mr. Cole. He works for Norfolk Southern's competitor at the intermodal site in North Baltimore, OH. He said the intermodal site at North Baltimore is designed to change out trains. They get 400 trucks a day and are designed for trains only. Detroit area is getting 1200 trucks a day. The two yards he pulls out of in Chicago gets five, six, seven thousand trucks a day. Mr. Chovan said this area isn't going to be this, but 400 trucks a day wouldn't be a problem. He agreed with Mr. Cole, that they could operate a small intermodal yard on this site, and that coal is a dying breed. From Mr. Chovan's experience, he has seen this happen before, said North Baltimore hates them.

Councilman Rochelle asked how you can stop individuals from selling their property. Mr. Chovan said it is a Michigan Company funding money to another state. They're not creating jobs, people will exercise their seniority. He has been to these meetings regularly to stay on top of this.

Councilwoman Westhoven asked if they know of any other government agency talking to Norfolk Southern on property. Mr. Cole said no, but he is involved with depositions now, so can't say. He has been told to stick to facts and what you can prove. Administrator asked if he could tell council who is telling him to say that. Mr. Cole said my lawyer, our lawyers. He went on to say the railroad moves quickly, I represent their seniority zones, men and women that are going to work and where they come from. He doesn't want anyone to think he is on this vendetta, he represents the CBA, that work belongs to people out of Detroit, railroad says their moving it to here and were saying why. Says they deliver to this area all the time and currently, what's the difference, the difference is he was personally told they needed to show that there will be new jobs created in the Toledo area. Mr. Cole understands that the Village owns a piece of property that the railroad is interested in. He doesn't want to talk out of context, he's not a lawyer. Said that Eminent Domain does not go to the railroad, it goes to the government. Mr. Cole said someone, a government agency, would have to act on behalf of the railroad.

Councilman Rochelle asked if he knew of any talk about closing Scott Road. Mr. Cole said yes, there's been talk, but they're not sharing any information with him since he is actually barred from their property.

Councilman Rochelle asked if any current negotiations with entities involved to help get that closed. Mr. Cole said last he was told, there was a large price tag on getting that closed. Councilman Rochelle asked who proposed that price tag, Mr. Cole said the township did.

Mr. Cole stated that Eminent Domain has to be for the good of the public.

Councilwoman Westhoven stated that council listened to the people and put forth a resolution.

Mr. Cole said again he would love to talk to council in private, can't say much in a public forum.

Councilman Rochelle asked who the audience should be reaching out to. Mr. Cole said to follow the money, DTE.

Councilwoman Westhoven said it seems coal dust isn't our worry. Mr. Chovan said need to look ten years out.

Councilman Rochelle asked if there were any discussions on other places to put the staging yard. Mr. Cole said Monroe was looked at, he got wind of Swanton area in early summer.

Mr. Cole stated that his job is have Norfolk Southern live up to the CBA.

Village Administrator has had a couple conversations with Mr. Cole. The Village's legal counsel is aware. He had a prior engagement tonight and the audio from tonight's meeting will be forwarded to him. He is hoping to attend next meeting and give more information.

Councilman Pilliod stated that he had a conversation with Senator Hite, and he apologized for not being able to attend tonight. Administrator also reached out to Senator Hite and Senator Gardner. Audio from tonight will be forwarded to both of them.