

Mayors Annual Report

2017

Prepared by Deborah Blewitt

Mayor and Council Member Changes in 2017:

Mayor Blewitt, after serving a 18 month term after Mayor Donham resigned in 2016, was elected by the voters to continue to serve as Mayor for the next 2 years, completing the term. Scott Garrett , Cheryl Taylor and Cheryl Belknap were re-elected as Council Members while Sheila Moore was elected as Council Member; all serving a four-year term.

After serving the residents of the Village of Windham for more than 20 years, Phil Snyder retired, and did not seek re-election. We all thank Phil for his many years of service.

Office and Administration:

The Village Office staff, for the most part remained in place with Cheree Taylor continuing as Fiscal Officer and Lori Lee remaining as the Income Tax Administrator until she resigned in October of 2017. Marie Evitts remains as our Part-Time Utility Billing Clerk.

Our Service staff saw no significant changes during 2017, with Ryan Wagner remaining as both Village Administrator and Water Superintendent, Bill Pennington continued as Sewer Superintendent, and Dove Fall remained utility/service worker. Andrew McCabe remained as our Water Technician in training.

Water, Waste Water, Streets, Infrastructure and Parks:

Water Grant – Phase 1: We received this grant in 2017, and work not only began, but is 90% complete, as of the end of 2017.

Water Grant – Phase 2: We applied for, and were awarded this grant, which will include the replacement of 30 fire hydrants throughout the Village, and a water main on E. Center St.

Elevated Storage Tank Grant: Awarded a grant for the re-painting, both inside and out, of the E. Center St. and Horn Rd. water towers.

Sewer Grant – Phase 1: This grant was awarded, and all work was completed at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Streets: The salt truck/ plow was paid off, and we purchased a new street plow truck. A Kubota mini excavator was purchased in 2017

Received a Grant funded ODOT project (installed a 36" storm trunk on N. Main St. from Maple Grove Rd. to Park Ave. Replaced existing storm trunk running parallel from with the Turnpike on the North side, along with new catch basins in the intersection of North Main St. and Maple Grove Rd. (1 catch basin on the North side and one on the South side of the Hideaway Bar property along with 3 new catch basins on the North side of the Turnpike to Park Ave. (1 on the West side of the road and 2 on the East side of the road).

Parks: A community clean up was held in May, servicing the entire park with volunteers from the Village, the Jr. and Sr. High School students and faculty.

October saw our second annual Oktoberfest, held on N. Main St. The Oktoberfest provided many games and activities for all of our residents, as well as a Chili-Cook Off, and Wine Tasting event.

December brought us our 4th Annual Parade of Lights, again filled with activities for residents of all ages, as well as the Polar Express train rides, giving riders a view of many decorated houses within the Village. Thanks to donations received, each child received a gift as they sat with Santa.

Community Center – The Community Center renovations continue, with the completion of the roofing project, and the ADA compliant deck and entrances as well as applicable handicapped parking, to prove its value to our residents and neighbors alike. Along with most of the Village events being held there, we saw an increase in Hall rentals, giving both our residents and neighbors affordable alternatives to hall rentals for their private events.

Police Department:

The Police Department continues to operate with 4 Full-Time Officers, 6 Part-Time Officers, and 2-Auxiliary Officers.

In August, the Police Department hosted their 4th Annual National Night Out, with activities and prizes for all in attendance. The parade and activities continue to grow each year, as does the attendance. For the second straight year, we estimate the attendance to be between 700-1000 people.

In December, the Police Department conducted their 4th Annual Fill-A-Cruiser, accepting donations to help those less fortunate during the Holiday Season. Once again, our residents and friends did not disappoint, as this years donations far surpassed any of their hopes and expectations. Four full truck loads were needed to haul away this years donations, along with cash donations that allowed us to purchase coats, and other clothing items for those in need.

The police vehicles purchased 3 years ago, were paid off, proving to be a valuable asset, as once again our Police Department has been able to keep the maintenance/repair costs at all time lows. Our Police Department provided security for all of our Village events, with extra manpower and staffing for the Oktoberfest, the Parade of Lights and their own National Night Out. During these times, the department provided this staffing at no cost to the event coordinators helping to make the events affordable. Continuing to provide you with 24 hour police protection, 7 days per week, the additional staffing for events the Police Department was once again able to end the year under budget for the 3rd consecutive year.

We purchased a new computerized evidence software program, making our Property Room a updated modern facility.

All Officers received a pay raise for the first time in over 7 years.

In conjunction with Akron Children's Hospital, we began a books for kids program. All cruisers have a box of book in the trunks, which our Officers hand out to kids throughout the community, year round.

Each and every Officer received a minimum of 20 hours of Continued Professional Training, enhancing their skills, and keeping their certifications up to date.

Fire District:

Cheryl Taylor is the Village Representative assigned to the Fire District.

The Fire Department is now providing EMS/Ambulance service to both Village and Township residents with a crew that is staffed, on station 24/7.

Housing, Planning and Zoning:

We are currently under contract with Portage County Regional Planning, who is in the process of creating a land use map for the Village.

Four more dilapidated buildings were torn down in the Maple Grove area, opening up more land, and making this area more attractive to potential builders. Village Officials met with multiple interested developers, and will continue in 2018 to work towards new development and growth.

Demolition of a partially burned down house on Spring Dr. was completed. The partially burned down house on Green Dr. is undergoing remodeling, which is continuing into 2018.

The Windham Administration Building:

The long awaited Administration Building was finally completed in July, at which time we moved Village operations into the new building, which houses our Police Department, Administrative Offices, and Council Chambers.

With the new building, new signs were posted outside of the Administrative Building, which is illuminated after dark; and a new Village Park sign was installed.

Community Message Board:

A Community Message Board was installed between the Fire Department and the Post Office. This message board is designed to keep community members informed of current events and functions, as well as school information and updates. This project results of cooperation between Windham Village, Windham Township, the Windham School District and the Windham Joint Fire District, as all four entities are sharing in the cost and upkeep, to keep all of our residents informed.

State of the Village:

Many new and exciting events took place within the Village of Windham in the past year. We are seeing more interest in growth and development within the Village, and it appears as 2018 will be an exciting year.

Financially, we are stronger now than we were even just a year ago, as our carryover balance of \$403,556.46 is a \$6,376.00 increase over the carryover from the previous year.