

Administrator History – Village of Oak Harbor

Henry Brooks ----- January, 1982 to July, 1985
Frederick Windisch -----September, 1985 to June, 1988
Robert Spicer ----- June, 1988 to October, 1988
Donald Diosi ----- October, 1988 to January, 1995
Timothy Wilkins ----- February, 1995 to June, 2005
John Liske ----- July, 2005 to March, 2009
Robert Pauley ----- March, 2009 to

The Oak Harbor Board of Public Affairs, formed in July, 1911 to administer the installation and operation of the Village’s public water system, went out of existence in 1981. Long time appointed, volunteer, non-paid board members had expressed a desire to resign. The Village was unable to find replacements. According to the Ohio Revised Code, an incorporated village must have either a Board of Public Affairs or a Village Administrator for its utility management.

Henry “Hank” Brooks (Village resident, retired construction company owner) was the first Oak Harbor Village Administrator. He started January 1, 1982. Salary was \$18,000 for a 5 day work week. In 1983, he went down to \$16,000 for a 4 day work week. A letter of resignation was presented to Village Council on May 6, 1985. Mr. Brook’s last day of work was July 31, 1985.

There was some concern by Village Council as to whether the Village actually needed a full-time Village Administrator. With that in mind, Village Councilmen, Frederick “Fred” Windish was appointed at the September 3, 1985 council meeting to take the position and report to council his view of the job. He started the next day, September 4, 1985. Mr. Windish found the job to all that it was said to be and more and would recommend that there be a full-time Village Administrator. Mr. Windish tendered his resignation on April 4, 1988, effective June, 15, 1988.

The Village retained Temporary Professional Services of Norwalk, Ohio to provide an Interim Administrator whose duties were to operate the Village while searching for a new, permanent, qualified administrator. Mr. Robert “Bob” Spicer began his work on June 15, 1988. The Village received over 130 applications with Mr. Spicer told to pick out 6-10 for further review. During August, 1988 a committee was appointed to choose a new administrator. It consisted of Mayor Jeanne Blausey, Clerk Sandra “Sandy” Baumgartner, Solicitor Jerry Robertson, Councilman William “Bill” Preisman (T&P Reality), Councilman James “Jim” Hickey (Oak Harbor Hotel), William “Bill” Briggs (Formetal, Inc.), James “Jim” Smith (Northern Manufacturing). The committee interviewed 3 candidates on September 7, 1988. (Candidates were from Portsmouth, Crestline, and Milan, Ohio)

Village Council, by resolution passed on September 19, 1988, hired Don Diosi of Crestline, Ohio. He started October 17, 1988 at a \$30,000 salary. His salary increased to \$35,000 around January, 1990. It increased again in September, 1990 to \$39,000. A new 2 year contract was given to Mr. Diosi October, 1, 1992 at the same salary and benefits. This after a vote of

confidence was taken in August, 1992. Mr. Diosi submitted a letter at Village Council on August 15, 1994 asking that his contract be extended to January 31, 1995 at which he was going to retire. His salary, at that time, was \$40,950. After some discussion and voting at two subsequent council meetings, Mr. Diosi's request was granted.

The Village opened the administrator position to applications from its employees. Two employee applications were received. These were added to the 40 other applications that were received from newspaper notices. The review committee for the new administrator was Solicitor Jerry Robertson, Councilman William Priesman, Councilman Thomas Leaser, Clerk Sandra Baumgartner, Administrator Don Diosi, Mayor Peter Macko. The top three candidates were from Brewster, Canton, and Oak Harbor, Ohio.

Mr. Timothy Wilkins (Oak Harbor Village Employee) was hired at a meeting on January 24, 1995 with a starting date of February 1, 1995. Salary for his two year contract was \$38,500 with an increase to \$39,000 after a 6 month probationary period. Salary increased in \$42,500 on March 1, 1996. Increasing again on December 16, 1996 to \$44,200 with a new 2 year contract. Ensuing raises though his employment brought his final salary in 2005 to \$66,000. Mr. Wilkins "retired" June 30, 2005 to move to the Northwest Water & Sewer District in Wood County.

Village Employee, John Liske, was appointed Interim Village Administrator, starting July 5, 2005 and was to serve until Mayor Thomas Leaser would appoint a new administrator.

Council opened up applications to the Village and in the papers, receiving 132 resumes. The Mayor picked 6 applicants for Village Council interviews (one would later withdraw). Interviewees' were from Cleveland, Stockport, Sandusky, Elmore, and Oak Harbor. Some difficulty was encountered in appointing a new administrator, but it was finally given to John Liske (Interim Administrator & Village Employee).

The new administrator, John Liske, was given a one year contract, retroactive to July 2, 2005. Beginning salary, to start on October 2, 2005, was \$53,500. A new 3 year contract was entered into on July 2, 2006 with salary to remain at \$53,500, due to Village financial difficulties. Salary, at the end of Village employment was \$58,094.40. Mr. Liske gave notice of his pending retirement in December, 2008 with final date of employment being April 30, 2009.

After an exhaustive search of qualified applicants and Village Council interviews, Mr. Robert A. Pauley of Mentor, Ohio was hired at the March 2, 2009 Council Meeting. He was given a 2 year contract, to start on March 16, 2009, for a salary of \$72,150. Mr. Pauley was appointed Village Administrator on March 22, 2009. Mr. Pauley's received a new 3 year contract in 2011.

(Above information was gathered from local newspaper articles and public records. Additional, in-depth, information can be found in Village Council Meeting Minutes. – John Liske - 2011)