

OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting
July 6, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.
Community Room

PRESENT: Bill Gregory
Allen Johnson
Charlie Costanza
Paul Panther
Tom Clouser

MINUTES:

Tom Clouser moved to approve the June 1, 2015 regular monthly meeting minutes as submitted. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

Bill Gregory made several announcements as follows: letter received from Indiana Dunes Tourism regarding the 2016 Bicentennial Torch nomination form for Porter County (will be available at Town Hall); letter from FEMA concerning Flood Plain Management; thanked Lions Club for beach clean-up and Women's Club for the sandcastle building contest; announced that Home Association will have the Cardboard Boat Race on July 11 and reminded residents that Dr. Weigel, Portage Township School Superintendent, will visit the Town on July 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Street Department – Tom Clouser stated that residents who put tree limbs out for chipping should not put grass clippings on top. Grass waste cannot be passed through the chipper.

Environmental Advisory – Susan Mihalo stated the Town normally has a 33% recycle rate; however, during the summer our rate goes down to 27%. She urged all residents to recycle more. Do not put your recycle in plastic bags. You will defeat the recycle process as bags of this nature are tossed in with the garbage. No plastic bags should be put in your recycle can. Please recycle the plastic bags at the grocery stores.

Police Department – Bill Gregory commended the Department for their work on the July 4th weekend.

Fire Department – Eric Kurtz stated that the annual Fireman Ball will be held on July 25, 2015. Please support our volunteer Fire Department and purchase tickets for this event at \$60 per family.

Historical Society – Ken Martin stated that the "Tour of Mid-Century Homes" would be held on September 19 and on September 26 will be "Walk in Diana's Footsteps". More information is available on the Town website.

Plan Commission – Mike Falk stated that one resident has a building violation which the Plan Commission will pass on to the Town Council.

Beach Nourishment – Bill Gregory stated that the National Park Service and the Army Corp of Engineers has invited several stakeholders to a meeting on August 5, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Port of Indiana Burns Harbor Offices to discuss all the issues surrounding shore erosion in and around Burns Waterway. We will be recommending several stakeholders that we feel should be in attendance at this meeting. Charlie Costanza stated that the National Park Service protested our permit and they must reply by the middle of July stating why they feel they own the land under the water. Charlie stated that the State of Indiana also feels that they own the land under the water. He stated that this is being heard by the DNR court and once it is resolved hopefully our permits will be valid.

CLAIMS

Allen Johnson moved that the June claims be approved as read by the Clerk-Treasurer. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion was held on the proposed Ski Hill tornado siren. Ken Martin gave a verbal presentation along with a large packet of information. Ken Martin's presentation stated why the siren should not be located on Ski Hill. He stated that not only is the Ski Hill area a historical site but the proximity to homes could potentially cause hearing loss. Several residents from Ski Hill (Kurt Winkle, Dan Manus and Jane Kelly) spoke against the location of the siren. Ken Martin's presentation included a suggestion to relocate the siren to the area which houses the current siren. Bill Gregory requested that Eric Kurtz enlist the help of an engineer to determine if the new siren can be located in the current area of the existing siren. Eric Kurtz informed the residents that should they hear an outdoor siren go off they should immediately seek shelter and seek information.

Bill Gregory stated that he had a discussion with Ken Martin about implementing an Ogden Dunes Life Safety Program (emergency plan). He requested that any interested residents who would like to participate in a committee of this type, please contact the Clerk-Treasurer or Bill Gregory. Ken Martin stated that only 250 residents of Ogden Dunes are currently signed up for NIXLE. NIXLE is an excellent source of emergency information. More NIXLE information is on the home page of the Town website.

NEW BUSINESS

The Ogden Dunes Book Club has received a grant from the Community Fund for a "Little Free Library" (take a book, leave a book). Ann Thompson will be coordinating this project and Duncan Hines will be building the two structures for the project. Each library will sit on a sturdy post: one will be the height for children and the other the height for adults. **Paul Panther made the motion to have the Little Free Library located near the mailbox rack in front of the Street Department and Police Garage off Hillcrest Road". Charlie Costanza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

RESIDENT REMARKS

Jane Kelly, 18 Ski Hill Road – She stated that it is her understanding that the siren will be triggered from the 911 center in Valparaiso.

Eric Kurtz stated that he was appointed to serve on the Portage Township Education Foundation with a term limit which is ending. He has solicited both Bethany Jensen and Tracy Wozniak for the Town Council's consideration. Any resident interested in this position should fill out an application available at Town Hall. Eric requested that the Council appoint his replacement at the August Town Council meeting.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Charlie Costanza stated that he very much enjoyed the Pierce family firework show, the Sandcastle contest and the Sever family DJ. He stated that the Street Department did a fine job of cleaning up the beach prior to July 4th. Charlie stated that the Gary Air Show has returned and will be held next weekend.

Allen Johnson urged homeowners to have a very visible house number on their homes to aid in emergency situations.

Paul Panther urged residents to sign up for NIXLE for emergency warnings.

No further business coming before the Council Tom Clouser moved to adjourn the meeting and Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Bill Gregory, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer