

**OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.
OGDEN DUNES COMMUNITY ROOM**

PRESENT Bill Gregory
Charlie Costanza
Allen Johnson
Paul Panther
Tom Clouser

MINUTES

Paul Panther moved to accept the September 2, 2014 Town Council meeting minutes. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. Allen Johnson moved to accept the September 23, 2014 Town Council meeting minutes. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

Mike Teeling, Ogden Dunes Police Department, introduced Sheriff David Lain, Porter County Sheriff's Department, who gave a presentation on "Smartwater", a forensic coding system. Sheriff Lain explained that the liquid can be used to identify personal property. He encouraged all residents to use this product and he stated that decreases in crime have occurred in areas that have utilized this product. For more information, please go to www.portercountysheriff.com and click on "Smartwater" icon located on the left side of the home page.

Bill Gregory announced the winners of the recent Chili Cook-Off as follows: Bethany Jensen, Overall and Vegetarian Division; Bernadette Slawinski, Runner-up Overall and White Division; Dennis Black, Classic Division and Best Decorated Area; Phil Janikura, Hot Division; Katelyn Dixon, Youth Division; Maha Shahwan, Fan Favorite.

Bill Gregory thanked the Environmental Board for their follow-up letter dated September 29, 2014 sent to the Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, regarding hazardous trains passing near Ogden Dunes. This letter appears on the Town website.

Bill Gregory stated that the recent garage sale organized by Marie Englehart was held this past weekend. As a result, a donation of \$500 was made to the Street Department which will be placed in a donation fund for the Street Department's use.

Bill Gregory reviewed various correspondence received. Letter from Porter County Health Department stating that a meeting would be held on October 7, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Administration Center in Valparaiso. This will be a strategic planning presentation conducted by the staff of the Porter County Health Department as part of their goal to establish their organization as an accredited agency. Letter received from Superintendent Paul Labovitz, National Park Service, regarding shoreline restoration and management plan. This document is on a CD and also in print form. Both are available at Town Hall for review. Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations survey was sent to each Town Council member for their completion.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Street Department – Tom Clouser stated that brush pick-up has ended and residents are not to put brush out as it will sit there all winter. He also stated that Ben Newton, Street Department employee for 8 years, has accepted a full-time position with INDOT.

Park Department – Emilie Seerup stated that 40 yards of sand will be added to the Long Lake playground and plans are being made to have the tennis courts at Long Lake resealed. She also stated that the memorial sculpture for Walter Bargeron has been placed in the gardens at the corner of Hillcrest Road.

BZA – Charlie Costanza stated that a variance was given to Scott Cherry to build a new home at 13 Chrismar. Charlie stated that he did not understand why Scott Cherry had to come before the BZA. Ed Hewitt replied that there were two variances to address – height and side yard. Ed stated that they were both technical issues had to be resolved.

General Code Review – Ed Hewitt stated that they are reviewing the following ongoing issues: outside advertising ads on mail racks, street parking during snow storms, noise ordinance for building crews and potential funds for problem properties.

Building Code Review – Ed Hewitt stated that this committee will no longer meet each month. Meetings will be scheduled only for new business.

Ogden Dunes Home Association – Rob Schlyer, President, stated that Beach Accessway 3 at the end of Ogden Road will be completely replaced. It will also be made larger for wheel chair access and include a railing donated by the Bargeron family. Work will begin this week or early next week. Also, Nelson Reck Park will be prepped for the community gardens. Lots will be available for sale in the spring of 2015. Additional clean-up will be done on Accessway 11 and possible cut down of some trees. Clean-up is planned for the Solar Trail.

Waterworks – Mike Teeling stated that water meter readings would be done this week and bills should go out within 10 days after readings. He stated that if the winter is as bad as last year, please let your water trickle.

ADA – Paul Panther announced the next meeting of the ADA will be on October 30, 2014. ADA compliant toilet and new toilet paper dispenser have been installed in the Community Room. A door lock has been installed on the wheel chair accessible bathroom stall in the women's room. Should a man need to use the wheelchair accessible facility they will be able to lock the door. Two new additional handicap parking areas have been assigned located on the north and west side of Town Hall.

Environmental Board – Judy Mollway spoke and stated that only 7 people showed up for the Beach Clean-Up. She urged more people to volunteer next year as this small group was unable to do all the clean-up necessary. She discussed the hazardous trains. The Board is in the process of writing the beach grant for 2015. Town Clean-Up will be Oct 10, 11 and 12 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and no hazardous waste will be accepted. E-waste will be accepted included CD and floppy disks. No TV's will be accepted by the Town or Goodwill. There will be a space for "Habitat" items at the Town clean-up area. Dumpsters are for household waste only – not for commercial waste.

Bridge & Railroad – Bernadette Slawinski spoke and stated that the committee was still working on the quiet zone. Next meeting is October 20th. She stated that there are approximately 127 trains passing by

Ogden Dunes each day which translates into one train every 10 minutes. She also stated that a meeting is scheduled for October 16 to include City of Portage, National Park Service and representatives from Ogden Dunes. Charlie Costanza questioned the ownership of sand tracks east and reiterated that he felt a title company should do this search instead of the Town Attorney. Charlie stated that the attorney has been notified a month ago to search the property ownership but the Town has had no feedback from the Town Attorney. He feels a title company would be faster. Charlie Costanza questioned the south side emergency exit road and stated that the gate has been opened for some time. He asked if residents could freely use it. Paul Panther stated that it will remain open but should not be used on a continuous basis but rather only when the situation calls for a quicker exit.

Fire Department – Paul Panther stated that the Fire Department is giving Susan Mihalo \$1,000 from Fire Department funds to plant flowers near the Fire Department area.

CLAIMS

Allen Johnson moved to accept the September claims as presented by the Clerk-Treasurer. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 781 – Watercraft was reviewed. No action was taken.

Purchase of a new Town Hall generator was discussed. An additional bid was received from All Services Electric; however, this bid was higher than the Crown/Wheelee bid. Bill Gregory stated that funds were not available for this purchase and it would be reviewed again in 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2014-06 (Interlocal Agreement with Dune Acres for leaf pick-up) was rejected by the Dune Acres Town Council due to lack of funds.

Ordinance 804 – Zoning Codes amendment was read by title only by Bill Gregory. **Paul Panther moved to accept this as the first reading of Ordinance 804. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. The vote of the Council was as follows: Charlie Costanza, no; Allen Johnson, yes; Bill Gregory, yes; Paul Panther, yes; Tom Clouser, yes. The motion was approved four to one.** The second reading of this ordinance will be at the November 3, 2014 Town Council meeting.

Ordinance 805 – Building Codes amendment was read by title only by Bill Gregory. **Allen Johnson moved to accept this as the first reading of Ordinance 805. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. The vote of the Council was as follows: Charlie Costanza, no; Allen Johnson, yes; Bill Gregory, yes; Paul Panther, yes, Tom Clouser, yes. The motion was passed four to one.** The second reading of this ordinance will be at the November 3, 2014 Town Council meeting.

Discussion was held on the pending 2% wage increase for all full-time and part-time employees for 2015 budget year. Approval was given by the Council President for the Clerk-Treasurer to proceed with the preparation of a new salary ordinance to be presented at the November 3, 2014 Town Council meeting.

Discussion was held on the web administrator's current compensation. **Tom Clouser moved to increase the web administrator compensation from \$375.00 per quarter to \$425.00 per quarter effective**

January 1, 2015. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion was held regarding a request to compensate full-time employees who voluntarily opt out of the Town's health insurance plan. **Charlie Costanza moved to compensate uninsured full-time employees in the amount of \$1,200.00 per year which is subject to normal payroll deductions and this amount will not be subject to employee wage increases. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

RESIDENT REMARKS

Walter Sampson – Disagrees with the approval of \$1200 per uninsured employee. Feels that they could have taken the Town insurance if they so desired; therefore, the Town should not compensate them for opting out. He also questioned whether or not the second gate for the emergency exit road would be opened when the first gate nearest Hillcrest is opened. Mike Teeling, Ogden Dunes Police Department, responded that when the first gate is opened, the second one is always opened.

Rob Schyler – Announced that a meeting would be held on October 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Firehall for a meet and greet with all GOP candidates on the November ballot. All are welcome.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Charlie Costanza discussed an article in the Post Tribune regarding the controversy in our Town as a result of the deer culls. He feels the Town Council should listen to the people of the Town just as the National Park Service has changed some of their recent plans because of citizen objection.

Tom Clouser – Street Department will begin picking up leaves on October 28. He thanked Marie Englehart for the \$500.00 Rummage Sale donation to the Street Department.

Bill Gregory announced that the November 11 Town Council meeting has been changed to November 3. A budget adoption meeting along with several other agenda items will be held on October 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

No further business coming before the Council, Tom Clouser moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Bill Gregory, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer

