

**OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COMMUNITY ROOM
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Tim Nelson, President
Mike Webber
Kathy Kniola
Scott Lehmann
Nate Ball

MINUTES

Kathy Kniola moved to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2016 regular monthly meeting. Scott Lehmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATUATIONS

Kathy Kniola announced the Shared Ethics upcoming annual Board and Commission training meeting to be held on September 29 at Sand Creek Country Club. Kathy urged all members of the Town Council to advise their respective Town committees to participate in this meeting. Those wishing to attend may register at reservations@sharedethics.com or contact a member of the Ogden Dunes Town Council.

Kevin Pazour, Executive Director, Porter County Museum, attended this meeting for the purpose of introducing himself to our community. Kevin is the recently appointed Porter County Historian. He has been working with members of the Ogden Dunes Historical Society. The Porter County Museum (POCO) is located at 153 S. Franklin Street, Valparaiso with a new additional location in progress at 16 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso. Kevin will be speaking at the Hour Glass, Ogden Dunes, on October 23, 2016.

Susan Rhodes reported that no final plans have as yet been submitted to the City of Portage for the proposed Sports Resort.

Tim Nelson stated that \$600 will be donated to the Beautification Committee by Marie Englehart from leftover money collected for the recent garage sale in Town. Marie thanked all the volunteers who helped with this project.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Street Department – Jim Matthys reported that 40 tons of hazardous waste was picked up by the Street Department. He stated that they will begin cleaning out drywells this week. Jim provided the Council with pictures showing excessive debris that residents are placing in front of their homes for pick-up. He suggested that the Council consider an extra charge for excessive amounts of debris. Luke Brennan stated that an ordinance to charge residents for this is currently in place.

Park and Rec – Eric Jensen stated that they are currently working on a maintenance program for the tennis courts and determining the cost of such plan. He also stated that people are leaving garbage on the side of the trash containers at the tennis courts at Long Lake Park. He stated that no garbage should be left outside the container as it attracts animals.

Fire Department – Luke Brennan stated that the Fireman’s Ball was very successful.

Plan Commission – Mike Falk stated that the Building Codes are still awaiting State approval. Mike stated that the codes which were sent down State were not new codes but an addendum to the existing codes. Our existing codes are still in place and enforceable regardless of the rumors that the Town has no building codes. Should any resident have any questions regarding these codes, please contact the Building Commissioner or a member of the Plan Commission. He also reported that the owners of the property at 25 Hillcrest are nonresponsive to the first nuisance property code violation fine. Mike Falk stated that fines can be levied every 90 days. The second fine process for this property has been started. We have been advised by the attorney that various actions can be taken such as boarding up the house or foreclosure. The Plan Commission is open to working with residents in Town who have purchased and rehabbed these types of properties.

BZA – Clyde Compton, Chairman, reviewed the first six months of 2016 of activities for the BZA. The committee met to elect officers and has granted three variances this year for residents. Clyde also explained the purpose of the BZA.

Beach Nourishment – Jim Combs urged residents to write a letter to the DNR against NIPSCO’s pending permit. Letters should state that NIPSCO should receive their permit but we want them to be required to put the sand on the beach rather than off shore in water that could have a depth of 12 feet or more. Information regarding the letter to be written will be on the Town website.

Beautification – Lois Braatz, Chairman, asked for volunteers to help with the painting and care of plants in Town. She stated that the Beautification committee meets every Tuesday, at 8:30 a.m. by Town Hall. All volunteers are welcome.

Waterworks – Chuck Litzkow stated that 628 homes were billed for water. He also stated that the last quarterly water bill sent out was higher than the same period for 2015. Greg Casimer gave an update to the residential leak and line insurance. The cost will be \$2.00 per month for leak coverage (undiscovered leak accompanied by a high water bill) which includes coverage up to \$2,500 and \$5.00 per month for line coverage (if the water line breaks) which includes coverage up to \$10,000. All residents will be enrolled in this program; however, those wishing not to participate will be given the opportunity to opt out. Opt out info will be on the Town website. Information regarding this new insurance will be provided as an insert with the next water bill.

General Code Review – Gerry Scheff reported that the Committee has been working on a sign ordinance and hopes to have a draft done by the end of August to submit to the Town Council for their consideration.

ADA – Sara Anderson reported that plans are being made to remodel the bathrooms in the Community Room.

Environmental Advisory – Susan Mihalo reported that our overall Town recycling rate has increased to 33% which is a very good number. She also reported that there have been no beach closures this summer. She requested that the Council appoint three members to the “Dark Skies Task Force”. Mike Webber volunteered to be the Town Council liaison to the Dark Skies Task Force.

ODHA – Mike Webber stated that the ODHA will have their Family Night on August 20 at Tamarack Beach. The movie will be “Star Wars”.

CLAIMS

Mike Webber moved to approve the July claims as stated by the Clerk-Treasurer. Scott Lehmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Tim Nelson recommended that the proposed skateboarding ordinance should be referred to General Code for their recommendations. No Council member opposed this suggestion; therefore, Tim stated he would advise the General Code of this decision.

Tim Nelson recommended that the proposed amendment to the current dog ordinance (prohibiting dogs on beach from May 1 to Oct 1) be referred to the General Code for their recommendations. No Council member opposed this suggestion; therefore, Tim stated he would advise the General Code of this decision.

NEW BUSINESS

Tim Nelson urged residents to write a letter to the DNR regarding NIPSCO dredging permit. Information is on the Town website along with a template letter that residents may freely use to compose their own letter.

Tim Nelson stated that the Council would like to reinvigorate the “Life Safety Program Committee” which was established by the previous Town Council. The initial start of this Committee was hindered by the absence of Ken Martin, Chairman, who moved from Ogden Dunes shortly after the committee was formed. Tim suggested that a new resident be appointed to take Ken Martin’s place and that the Town Council appoint this person at the next regular meeting.

Scott Lehmann moved to approve the appointments of Gerald Scheff, Vicky Albritton and Barbara Schultz to the “Dark Skies Task Force”. Nate Ball seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

RESIDENT REMARKS

Joan Machuca, President, Ogden Dunes Women’s Club, announced the Kratz Blues Bash Fest fundraiser to be held on August 13 from 6 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person till August 6 and \$50 per person after August 6. Food and entertainment will be provided. The Women’s Club is seeking more volunteers to help with this event.

Mike Teeling – He stated that should a resident see excessive debris in front of a home in Town, please call the Police Department so we can take further action. Mike also stated that the Water Department currently has 200 unpaid invoices from Town residents. Mike also stated that he was against any new ordinance allowing dogs on the beach during the summer months.

Doug and Meredith Adams, 148 Shore Drive, spoke regarding the proposed building of a deck by the ODHA in front of their newly purchased home. Doug urged the Town Council not to approve the ODHA request. They supplied the Town Council with pictures showing the proposed placement and how it differs from the original plan set forth by the ODHA.

Walter Sampson, 9 Ogden Court, spoke against the ODHA construction near 148 Shore Drive.

Dan Manas, 4 Pine Trail, stated that he has been invaded by raccoons. He also talked about the condition of our beach in regards to debris. He is in favor of the Dark Skies Task Force and volunteered to join this group.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Nate Ball stated that a committee to update the Master Plan will be formed. This Committee, in turn, will present their recommendations to the Plan Commission who will then hold a public hearing before presenting their recommendations to the Town Council. Should any resident have ideas for goals for our Town, please send your suggestions to Nate Ball.

No further business coming before the Council, Scott Lehmann moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Webber seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Tim Nelson, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer