

**OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 2, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Scott Lehmann
Mike Webber
Carolyn Saxton
Tim Nelson

ABSENT: Nate Ball

MINUTES

Tim Nelson moved to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2018 regular monthly meeting. Carolyn Saxton seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the motion passed. Mike Webber moved to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2018 special meeting. Carolyn Saxton seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the motion passed.

Scott Lehmann made the following announcements: Town Hall will be opened Saturdays for the summer beginning April 21 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon; Animal Committee is holding a presentation on coyotes, speaker Nicole Harmon from Moraine Valley Wildlife Refuge, on Sunday, April 29 at 4 p.m. at the Firehall; Town Clean-Up will be held on April 14 and 15.

Scott Lehmann opened the sealed rebids for the Community Crossing road grant. Walsh & Kelly and Reith-Riley were the two bids received. Bids were given to Roger Rhodes and Chuck Litzkow for their review and recommendation to the Council.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Street Department – Chuck Litzkow reported that the Street Department is picking up branches but only one truck is in use at this time. The second truck still has the snow plow attached as more snow is being predicted. He also reported on the Water Department and stated that they are reading meters at this time.

Police Department – Scott Lehmann read a memo from Marshal Reeder stating that the Portage Postmaster has stated that Ogden Dunes residents may no longer use the mailboxes for any items that do not have US postage stamps affixed since it is a violation of USPS code for anyone to place anything in or on a mailbox.

Home Association – Mike Webber reported that the committee is in the process of selecting programs and dates for the summer programs.

General Code – Dick Meister reported that the committee is currently working on the Town Code regarding garbage can enclosures and garbage cans visible from the street.

ADA – Joan Machuca stated that both committee members attended the “Accessibility Guideline Workshop for Parks and Outdoor Recreation Areas of Northwest Indiana” in March 2018. Joan stated that they gleaned many ideas from this workshop which will be discussed at their meetings. Joan requested a new Town Council liaison since their previous liaison Kathy Kniola has resigned from the Council. Scott Lehmann has accepted the position of liaison for this committee.

Women’s Club – Joan Machuca reported that the Women’s Club will be holding their annual event at Kratz Field on August 25, 2018.

Animal Committee – Karen Berrier reported that the Committee will be having a presentation on April 29, 2018 at 4 p.m. at the Community Room. Nicole Harmon, Moraine Valley Wildlife Refuge will speak on coyotes and wild turkeys. Dog tags will be available for purchase.

Environment Advisory – Susan Mihalo gave updates on the NICTD double-tracking project and the pending consent decree involving USS Midwest. She also requested that Scott Lehmann electronically sign the 2018 IDEM beach grant.

Community Fund – Carolyn Saxton stated that grant applications will be accepted until the beginning of May. Applications are available on the Town’s website or at Town Hall.

Historical Society – Dick Meister reported that the Historical Society had received a challenge grant from the Porter County Community Foundation and had eighteen months to raise \$10,000 for the Historical Society’s endowment. The Historical Society raised \$26,200 and the Porter County Community Foundation will match this amount which will bring the balance of the endowment close to \$60,000. Beginning Genealogy program will be held at the Hour Glass on April 15 at 4 p.m. and on Sunday, May 20 at 2 p.m. will be the Wildflower Hike in the Dunes. Please meet at the west tennis courts.

CLAIMS

Carolyn Saxton moved to accept the March 2018 claims as read by the Clerk-Treasurer. Tim Nelson seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Scott Lehmann read Ordinance 836, Parking of Recreational Vehicles, by title only for the second reading. Mike Webber moved to approve Ordinance 836. Tim Nelson seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the motion passed.

Tim Nelson stated that a mediation is scheduled in the matter of Steven A. Coombs, Town of Ogden Dunes, et al., vs. Department of Natural Resources and Arcelor Mittal for April 16, 2018 in Indianapolis. This mediation relates to the pending objections and appeal to the sand dredging permit issued by DNR to Arcelor Mittal. The issued permit does not require Arcelor to deposit the dredged sand on the shore. The Town and other petitioners filed an administrative appeal to require that the sand be deposited on the shore. Tim Nelson stated that Rodger Howell, Beach Nourishment Committee Chairman, Steven Coombs, Senator Tallian and himself would be attending. Mike Webber made a motion to authorize Tim Nelson and Rodger Howell to attend this April 16th DNR-Arcelor Mittal Mediation on behalf of the Town of Ogden Dunes. Carolyn Saxton seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

After reviewing the rebids for the Community Crossings road grant, Roger Rhodes recommended that Walsh & Kelly be awarded this project. Tim Nelson moved to accept Walsh & Kelly as the accepted bid for road paving and to authorize Scott Lehmann to sign the contract documents. Mike Webber seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the motion passed.

The Council discussed the replacement thermostat needed for the Community Room. A quote was reviewed from Thorne Total Comfort for a wifi-controlled thermostat in the amount of \$1,236.00 or replacement of current sensor-controlled thermostat for \$725.00. Carolyn Saxton moved to accept the wifi thermostat for \$1,236.00. Tim Nelson seconded the motion. The vote of the Council was as follows: Carolyn Saxton, yes; Scott Lehmann, yes; Tim Nelson, yes; Mike Webber, no. The motion passed by a majority. (Note from Clerk-Treasurer – purchase of this thermostat was placed on hold until further discussion at the May meeting.)

The Council discussed the code change recommended by the General Code Committee regarding Section 94.22 of the Town Code related to garbage/refuse left on Town property, parks or the beach. The Council instructed the Clerk-Treasurer to put this recommendation into ordinance form for the May Town Council meeting.

Tim Nelson stated that US Army Corp of Engineers is once again requesting a letter of intent from the Town of Ogden Dunes for a feasibility study of the Burns Waterway Harbor area of Lake Michigan in Porter County. The letter will serve as an expression of non-Federal intent to participate in the feasibility study and is not a contractual obligation. Scott Lehmann moved to send the letter of intent to the US Army Corps of Engineers under his signature. Carolyn Saxton seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the motion passed.

RESIDENT REMARKS

Alberta Hill, 18 Sunset Trail, discussed garbage cans being left out for days and sometimes weeks by residents. She indicated that 50% of the residents leave cans out. Since we are unable to enforce the current code, she has suggested that neighbors help those residents who are physically unable to move their cans out of sight.

Jerry Savel, 2 Skyline Drive, stated that his kayak was stolen and requested that the Council approve the placement of a sign at an access way in the hopes of retrieving his kayak. The Council suggested that he place a sign on the bulletin near the Fire Department instead.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mike Webber thanked all the committee volunteer members and urged residents to clean up after their dogs. He also asked residents to clean up any debris along the streets that has accumulated during the winter months and dispose of any unwanted items in their yards since the Town Clean-Up weekend is approaching.

Tim Nelson stated that Ward 1 and Ward 5 will be opened for candidates for the November election. All interested residents should complete the necessary candidate election forms available online.

No further business coming before the Council, Mike Webber moved to adjourn the meeting. Tim Nelson seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Scott Lehmann, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer