

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 7, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.
OGDEN DUNES COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

MINUTES:

Allen Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2014 Town Council meeting. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

Bill Gregory introduced Paul Labovitz, the new Superintendent for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Paul Labovitz has been with the Park for two months and has 26 years of experience with the Park Service. Superintendent Labovitz stated that he plans tours of the local towns to discuss issues of concern. He hopes that the National Park Service and the Town of Ogden Dunes can work together productively and collaboratively. Bill Gregory thanked Superintendent Labovitz for speaking at our meeting and stated that he was pleased to hear four words stated during Superintendent Labovitz's presentation –co-exist, listen, partners and collaboration. Bill Gregory stated that the Town of Ogden Dunes is looking to do exactly that with the National Park Service.

Bill Gregory thanked the Sever family for another outstanding fireworks display, the Odgen Dunes Womens' Club for the sandcastle building contest, ODHA for the cardboard boat race and to all who pitched in to clean up the beach. Allen Johnson thanked Jennifer Soffin and John and Lauren Defauw for holding the water safety program.

Bill Gregory discussed a letter received from Eric Kurtz, Fire Chief, regarding the City of Portage construction on the west side of Burns Waterway. This project is to begin on July 14, 2014 to October, 2014. The City of Portage will give the Town access to which is now our alternative egress and ingress route during the project.

Bill Gregory stated that several pieces of correspondence were received from Dan Ialeggio regarding the mailbox placement on Indiana Camp. Bill reviewed all the correspondence and the surveys which were done with the residents on Indian Camp which determined that the majority of residents were satisfied with the placement of the mailbox rack.

Correspondence received from Alliance of the Great Lakes announcing that "Adopt a Beach" will be on Saturday, September 20, 2014, 9 a.m. to noon. Correspondence also received regarding the number of crude oil trains passing by Ogden Dunes. All correspondence is available through the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

Correspondence received from Kim Bedella who would like to do dog grooming from her home on 13 Deer Trail. She has stated that no advertisement signs will be placed in her yard nor will she have more than one person coming to her house at a time. **Paul Panther moved to approve her request on the**

basis that no problems arise as a result of her home business. Charlie Costanza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Bill Gregory announced that the new summer hours at Town Hall are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday through the end of summer.

Paul Panther thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their excellent handling of the traffic issues on the Fourth of July. Paul stated that the ADA fixtures have been delayed as Luke and Laura Brennan have a new baby girl!

COMMITTEES/BOARDS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Marshal Reeder thanked Jim Matthys for the excellent clean up of the beach after the Fourth of July. Marshal Reeder warned residents about con men and swindlers which are more prevalent in the summer months. Ogden Dunes does not allow solicitors. If you have someone come to your door that you are unsure of, please call the Ogden Dunes Police. Also, he indicated that some surrounding towns have had burglaries with people posing as NIPSCO workers.

GENERAL CODE

Jim Slawinski discussed several items that the General Code is currently reviewing, i.e., real estate signs, traffic violations, staggered terms, street parking in regards to snow plowing and advertisements placed on mailbox racks.

ADA

Sara Anderson thanked the Council for appointing Ken Thompson as the new ADA Coordinator for the Town.

BUILDING CODE

Allen Johnson stated that the Town Attorney is separating the Building and Zoning codes for the Town and is near completion. Upon completion, the Council will need an ordinance to approve the splitting of the Building and Zoning codes.

ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Susan Mihalo stated that the yellow sign for the beach has been up for a few days indicating caution. Red sign means stay out of the water. She stated that Jennifer Krizmanic will be initiating a program to get vines off the trees along the Sand Tracks because they are killing the trees. Also if you have Asian bittersweet in your yard, July is a good time to keep cutting it back. Do not cut back American bittersweet.

BRIDGE AND RAILROAD

Bernadette Slawinski stated that the committee met in June and elected officers. She stated that they currently have two openings for volunteers on this committee. Bernadette then reviewed what was discussed at the June meeting including that the new owners of Marina Shores are willing to help fund the silencing of the train whistles which could cost approximately \$100,000.

CLAIMS

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

OLD BUSINESS

Paul Panther stated that all applications and processes for membership in the Shared Ethics Committee have been finalized. He stated that there would be two motions tonight to fill the positions of public official and private citizen. Therefore, **Paul Panther moved that Bill Gregory be designated as the Town of Ogden Dunes public official to serve on the Shared Ethics Committee. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. Paul Panther moved that Dr. Stephen Grandfield be appointed as the Town of Ogden Dunes private citizen to serve on the Shared Ethics Committee. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Paul Panther gave an update to the Squire land donation. He stated that a plaque is being ordered for the Squires for their generous donation of land to the Town. The Squires will attend the August Town Council meeting at which time the plaque will be presented to them.

Bill Gregory discussed the mailbox rack controversy on Indian Camp Trail. He reviewed all letters received from Dan Ialeggio and also all surveys taken. A recent survey was taken by Jayne Mann, resident at 10 Indiana Camp Trail, which resulted in 14 out of 21 residents favoring the existing placement of the mailbox rack. **A motion was made by Tom Clouser to keep the mailbox rack on Indian Camp Trail where it is located now. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

Paul Panther moved that John Morris be approved as a fill-in for the position of Beach Water Quality Sampling Technician II per the IDEM Grant requirements. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Clerk-Treasurer has sent 33 ordinances (less the Building and Zoning ordinances) to American Legal for a codification quote. Allen Johnson stated that the Town Council has requested the Town Attorney to separate the existing Building and Zoning codes. Upon completion, these codes will be forwarded to American Legal for a codification quote.

A discussion was held on Ordinance 800 – Staggered Terms and Bill Gregory stated that there is a glitch in the current law which he feels prevents us from going forward. He stated that our Town Attorney has advised against Ordinance 800 as it could be challenged in its current state. Bill Gregory stated that if

the State legislators fix the glitch in a timely manner, Ordinance 800 could still be passed before year end.

RESIDENT REMARKS

Walter Sampson – Suggested a prayer before each Town Council meeting and also a five minute intermission since the meetings were lengthy.

Jim Slawinski – Stated that the water safety program was very good. Also indicated that he would donate a cylinder type life preserver to the Town to which Marshal Reeder requested that Jim give it to him and he will put it on the Police Department ATV.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Charlie Costanza stated that according to a brochure from the Marquette Greenway, they have changed the plans for the tri-state bike path and it will now run on the south side of Route 12 passing Ogden Dunes rather than through the middle of Town. Charlie is for this plan and it would result in Ogden Dunes being responsible for one-half mile trail on the south side of Highway 12 at an estimated cost of \$150,000 and the Town would be responsible for 25% of this amount.

Allen Johnson stated that the water safety program was well attended. He said that should you see a person in trouble in the water, please look around for some floating item to assist them.

No further business coming before the Council, Allen Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Charlie Costanza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Bill Gregory, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer