

Ogden Dunes General Code Review Committee Meeting

May 7th, 2013, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM - Fire Station

Minutes

Members

Jim Slawinski, Chair (Present)
Ken Thompson, Secretary (Absent)
Bill Gregory, TC Member (Present)
Ed Hewitt (Present)
Lynn Toomey (Present)

Mike Schaefer, Co-Chairperson (Absent)
Charles Costanza, TC Member (Present)
Connie Collins (Present)
Judith Stiles (Absent)

- **Meeting began** 7:03 p.m.
- **April 10th 2013 Committee Minutes** – approval of April 10, 2013 minutes deferred until next meeting.
- **New template to be used to pass on recommendations to TC** – Submittal form used for recommendations to Town Council will have a watermark on form indicating “Draft”. When a final copy of the submittal form is sent to Town Council, the “Draft” watermark will be removed. Motion to approve official submittal form was made by Charlie Costanza, seconded by Ed Hewitt. Approved by unanimous vote.
- **Continued discussion on future staggered terms for Town Council** – Jim talked with State Senator Karen Tallian regarding staggered terms and had arranged for Karen to attend next General Code Review Meeting to discuss with members. Jim suggested that GCR members think of questions to ask of Karen. Charlie recalled an email he received from Clerk Treasurer Jean Manna regarding procedures for staggered terms. Bill recalled from previous meeting that Judith volunteered to do further research on this subject.
- **Review and recommendation of changes (if any) to Title III, Section 31,32,33 and 33.01**
 - The question raised in a previous meeting regarding the dollar limit that an officer of the town can spend was discussed further. Ken had drafted wording on the GCR’s submittal form concerning this matter. The wording was as follows: *“The General Code Review Committee recommends that there should be language in the ordinance that would prohibit any town official from encumbering the Town with amounts in excess of \$500 unless amounts in excess of that amount has already been approved by vote of the Town council through direct allocation or through budget authorization. In emergency situations, written approval of a majority of Town Council members will suffice as long as the action is brought before the next Town Council meeting for discussion and recording of action.”* The rationale for the proposed change was worded as follows: *“There have been a number of reported situations where a town official, such as the Town Council President, has entered into agreements that, in effect, expended town funds without discussion or notification of the town board. This is not in the spirit of a transparent representative form of government that allows discussion of alternative ways and means to meet the goals of the town.”* Prior to the GCR meeting, Jim had edited the draft by “striking out” the wording for the rationale and suggested we reword the rationale. Jim made a motion to table this matter until the end of the year and pay close attention to the claims presented at the beginning of each Town Council meeting, then reconsider this matter. Discussion followed. Bill thought we should not proceed with this matter. Ed thought we should not table until the end of the year. Ed emphasized the importance of transparency. Charlie brought up claims regarding town attorney billing. Further discussion centered on the public’s right to request to see claims as part of the Public Information Act. Connie felt this matter was too important to not table to the end of the year. Result of discussion – Jim withdrew his motion. Jim designated Connie to reword the draft proposed language and rationale.
- **Clarification of speeding and/or sign violation fines to be collected by town** – Jim did not have chance to speak with Town Marshal Jim Reeder. Jim plans to invite Marshal Reeder to the next GRC meeting.
- **Based on Town Council Recommendation and Town Marshal Meeting review and possible updating of current fines listed in the Violation Bureau Information Sheet** – Jim will invite Marshal Reeder to the next GRC meeting to talk on this subject.

- **Possible combination of existing ordinances involving fines per request-** Bill suggested combining all the fines in one place, in the code book, and perhaps, create an appendix referencing all the fines and violations. Lynn will talk to Marshal Reeder to get further clarification on parking violations.
- **Formal E-Mail addresses for Town Council Members** – discussion centered on that fact that Town Council members use their own personal email addresses in their communications. Question was raised on whether or not there were legal or liability issues concerning Council members using their personal email addresses.
- **Next Meeting Date June 12th, 2013, 7:00p.m.**
- **Residents' Remarks** – Nate Gagliardi suggested posting the bills or claims the town pays on a wall at the town hall so that residents can review.
- **Committee Member Remarks** – none
- **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 8:17p.m.

Minutes submitted by – Connie Collins, General Code Review member