

**OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 4, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.
COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

MINUTES:

Kathy Kniola moved to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2016 regular monthly meeting. Scott Lehmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

Tim Nelson announced the Save the Dunes presentation to be held on April 18, 2016 from 6-8 p.m. at the Community Room. All residents are welcomed.

Mike Noland and John Parsons from NICTD gave an in-depth presentation regarding various new improvements to the South Shore train which would affect commuters in northwest Indiana traveling to Chicago. Some major topics included a large capital project to fund high speed crossovers, free wifi now available on all trains, bikes allowed on trains began at the end of March at stations with high level platforms, plans for a high level platform to be built for Ogden Dunes, and positive train control within the next three years to be funded by bonds. These improvements come with a 2-1/2 percent fare increase each year for the next two years which will be used for capital improvements only. With the installation of double tracks, the commute time from Ogden Dunes to Chicago could be decreased to 46 minutes. It was also stated that some of the false activation of gates is caused by salt which acts the same as a train approaching. This presentation will be placed on the website.

Save the Dunes representative, Tom Conway, discussed the upcoming presentation to be held on Monday, April 18, 2016 at the Community Room from 6-8 p.m. for all residents. Staff members from Save the Dunes and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will discuss the unique ecosystem in Ogden Dunes. The organization will discuss various projects affecting the Town and how residents can help protect dunes natural resources.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Street Department – Jim Matthys stated that Town Clean-Up would be held on May 6, 7 and 8. An e-waste dumpster will be available at that time. He also stated that he has started chipping and that it will continue every Monday. Jim stated that he will be retiring at the end of May 2016. Members of the Council thanked Jim for all his years of service to our Town.

Waterworks – Chuck Litzkow stated that they had five freeze-ups and one water main break this past winter. He also stated that the Water Board is still working on resident insurance for the water line from your house to the road. He stated that a recent mass letter mailing was sent to residents for this type of insurance but stated that this is not the company that the Water Board is contracting with. He will update the residents with more information on this insurance when it is available.

ADA – Joan Machuca informed the Council of the ADA's 2016 goals as follows:

Fire Hall Improvements

Redo and finish ADA bathroom

Raise defibrillator

Replace mat at entrance

Evaluate how to make threshold at door compliant

It was determined that these improvements be covered by the ADA budget.

Long Lake Park

Investigate creating a path at Long Lake Park from the parking area to the playground area and picnic tables

ADA Parking

Move the ADA parking space at Kratz Field from the current location to the parking area leading to the playground. Goal is to have this completed by Memorial Day

Environmental Advisory Board – Susan Mihalo stated that the IDEM grant should be approved soon. She requested that the Council approve Tim Nelson signing all the grant forms outside of a Town Council meeting to facilitate the approval process. The Council members had no objections to this request.

CLAIMS

Mike Webber moved to approve the March 2016 claims as presented by the Clerk-Treasurer. Scott Lehmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Tim Nelson read Ordinance 815, Employee Travel Reimbursements, for the second reading by title only. Nate Ball moved to accept Ordinance 815 as submitted and Kathy Kniola seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously passed.

A discussion was held on Grandin Court regarding requests made by Mr. Tim Cahillane, 5 Boat Club Road. (Clerk-Treasurer note: Kathy Kniola, Town Council member, excused herself from this discussion as she also uses Grandin Court to access her property.) Tim Nelson recapped the requests that Mr. Cahillane has made over the years to Council members and Town personnel which included the removal of snow and leaf collection from Grandin Court. Grandin Court is used by Mr. Cahillane and Kathy Kniola as an access to their homes. Mr. Cahillane had stated that Bill Gregory of the previous Town Council had agreed to take over the snow removal of Grandin Court. The Council has reviewed all prior Council minutes, resolutions, motions and official actions of the prior Council and determined

that no official record of this agreement exists. Tim Nelson indicated that an existing 2006 Roadway Agreement (which has been recorded with the Porter County Recorder of Deeds) between the Town and the Kniolas states that the Kniolas are responsible for maintenance and snow removal of Grandin Court. In addition, Mr. Cahillane requested that the Town install an electric heating element at a cost of approximately \$20,000 under Grandin Court because snow plows are not able to access this area because of its incline and narrow passageway. Mr. Cahillane also suggested as an alternative to the heating element was to extend Grandin Court to Ogden Road at a cost of approximately \$100,000. Mr. Cahillane has expressed that it is his view that the Town is required to maintain Grandin Court; Tim Nelson stated that the 2006 Roadway Agreement delegates repair and maintenance of Grandin Court to the Kniolas until such time as Grandin Court meets all Town standards for roadways and is accepted by the Town as a road. At this time, no such acceptance has occurred to the Council's knowledge. **Scott Lehmann moved to reject Mr. Cahillane's proposal to install a heating element under Grandin Court at the Town's expense. Mike Webber seconded the motion. The vote of the Council was as follows: Tim Nelson, yes; Mike Webber, yes; Scott Lehmann, yes; Nate Ball, yes; Kathy Kniola, abstain. With a majority vote, this motion was passed.** Tim Nelson indicated that the Town has purchased a smaller plow for snow removal and a smaller salt spreader which could possibly be used on Grandin Court. Tim Nelson indicated that the Street Department will try to use this equipment on Grandin Court but there are no guarantees. Tim Nelson suggested to Mr. Cahillane that he try to develop some type of joint maintenance plan with the Kniolas to maintain Grandin Court. **Mike Webber moved to reject the Cahillane proposal for the Town to extend Grandin Court to Ogden Road. Nate seconded the motion. The vote of the Council was as follows: Tim Nelson, yes; Mike Webber, yes; Scott Lehmann, yes; Nate Ball, yes; Kathy Kniola, abstain. With a majority vote, the motion was passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Combs and Senator Tallian spoke regarding new developments on the beach erosion. Jim Combs discussed the permits pending and the various organizations who objected to the permits. The permits are basically requesting that any homeowner along Shore Drive will be allowed to take all necessary steps to protect their property. Jim Combs requested that the Council forward a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers which simply states the non-binding intention of the Town of Ogden Dunes to be the non-federal sponsor for the Feasibility Study for the Burns Waterway Shoreline Damage Mitigation Project. This is not a binding contractual agreement requiring the Town to incur costs or expenses, but rather a letter expressing the Town's willingness to consider participation in a cost sharing agreement. No monetary amounts will be committed or even mentioned in this letter of intent. **Scott Lehmann moved to proceed with the mailing of this letter and Kathy Kniola seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously passed.** (Clerk-Treasurer note: The letter was signed by Tim Nelson and sent overnight express to the Army Corps of Engineers on April 6, 2016 to arrive by noon on April 7, 2016 in Chicago.)

Nate Ball moved to eliminate 4 to 5 parking spots at the southeasterly portion of the parking lot in the area of Town Hall and the church due to the narrow roadway and landscaping problems when vehicles are parked in this area. Mike Webber seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Kathy Kniola moved to approve \$100 budget for Judith Stiles to use for promotional materials for the Town Clean-Up weekend in May, 2016. Scott Lehmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

RESIDENT REMARKS

Joan Machuca, President of the Women's Club, distributed flyers to the Council outlining the 2016 activities planned by the Women's Club. This list will be available at Town Hall and on the Town website calendar. Joan indicated that the Women's Club is supporting Caring Designs Outreach (working with women in need) and stated that this organization would like donations of gently used furniture and household items. To schedule a furniture pick-up, please call 219-850-1410.

Susan Mihalo thanked Carolyn Saxton and Jean Manna for their assistance with the IDEM grant preliminary requirements.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mike Webber thanked all the presenters at tonight's meeting and all the volunteers on the various committees in Town.

Scott Lehmann thanked the Plan Commission and stated that the building season is upon us and reminded residents to complete the building permit application.

Nate Ball advised residents that several burglaries occurred in Town where items were stolen from unlocked vehicles. Nate stated that he received a Nixle alert pertaining to the burglaries in Town and urged all residents to sign up for this free service at www.nixle.com. The service alerts residents to local public safety announcements.

Tim Nelson reminded residents of our new website address which is www.ogdendunes.in.gov.

No further business coming before the Council, Kathy Kniola moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Scott Lehmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Tim Nelson, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer