

DRAFT

OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MAY 28, 2013 – 6:00 P.M. OGDEN DUNES TOWN HALL

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

MINUTES

Charlie Costanza moved to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2013 Town Council meeting as submitted. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

Allen Johnson thanked the Police Department for watching the homes of those residents who leave Ogden Dunes in the winter for warmer climates. He also announced that residents should make sure they have a current watercraft decal on all watercraft stored at the beach. He indicated that some residents have already received violations for lack of a current decal.

OLD BUSINESS

Allen Johnson announced that Ordinance 780 dealing with retaining walls has been approved by the State. It has been published in the newspapers and is now in full force.

Allen Johnson also addressed the budget. He stated that Ordinance 783 deals with Section 34 of the Town Code and has been revised for clarification to some areas. He stated that full-time employees will now pay 3% of the PERF contribution as opposed to the Town absorbing this cost. State law mandates that the Town pay 9.25% into the fund for employees and the Town will continue to do so. Should the State increase the Town's contribution to PERF, the ordinance has been written to follow State guidelines. Paul Panther stated that the employees may contribute more than the 3% to PERF if they so desire.

Allen also discussed several other changes one of which is the decrease in hours the Town Hall window will remain open each day. Hours of operation will be determined. The Street Department will have a decrease in employee hours also. Charlie Costanza questioned if there were any other department cuts and Allen stated that virtually all departments were affected because of the 3% employee contribution to PERF. Allen stated that with the personnel cuts there will be savings of approximately \$20,000 to \$22,000 in the second half of 2013 and the savings will be greater in 2014. Tom Clouser stated that this Town Council spent \$240,000 on the various repairs in Town that will not occur again this year. Allen Johnson stated that it was inevitable that the Town would have to use a portion of the Rainy Day funds in 2013.

Allen Johnson discussed the IACT (Indiana Association of Cities and Towns) Medical Plan (through United Healthcare) which the Council has researched as an alternative health plan for full-time employees. This plan would enable the Town to be in a "group" setting rather than the current health plan which basically is on an individual basis. We are in the process of obtaining quotes from IACT. Tom Clouser questioned the HSA now in place for employees and was told that the Town pays \$2,500 for each full-time employee as a contribution to their HSA.

NEW BUSINESS

Paul Panther made the motion to have the first reading of Ordinance 783 by title only which reads as follows: Ordinance 783, An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Ogden Dunes, Indiana, Amending Sections of Chapter 34 of the Ogden Dunes Town Code. Bill Gregory seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Charlie Costanza questioned if the new police vehicle came. Paul Panther stated that the car is being made in Illinois and there was a high demand for that particular vehicle due to the favorable cost. Tom Clouser stated that the money for the vehicle came from CCD funds.

Paul Panther made the motion to have the first reading of Ordinance 776 by title only which reads as follows: Ordinance 776, An Ordinance of the Town of Ogden Dunes, Porter County, Indiana, Amending Ordinance 772, Fixing Salaries and Compensation Rates of Officials and Employees of the Town of Ogden Dunes Effective June 23, 2013. Bill Gregory seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

A discussion was held on the plumbing problems at the Firehall. Allen Johnson stated that the Fire Department was in the process of getting a second repair estimate. Bill Gregory indicated that the Town may have to pay a portion of the plumbing repair.

RESIDENT REMARKS

Jon Machuca discussed the budget cuts and attorney fees.

Bernadette Slawinski questioned the Waterworks Manager salary and exactly where the money comes from for his pay. She also asked for extra window hours at least one day per week.

Jim Slawinski asked that the new hours for Town Hall be posted on the Town Hall window. He also discussed the plumbing problem at the Firehall and feels that the lines can be routed out rather than digging up pipes. He is in favor of getting a second opinion on this problem. He also stated that he reserved the Firehall for an event in October, 2013 several months ago. Last week he went to Town Hall to check on his room reservation and was told that his name was taken off and replaced by the Fire Department. He was told by the Town Clerk that if the Fire Department wants the room, they have priority. He asked the Town Council who has ownership of the building. Tom Clouser said the Town has ownership and that the Town pays the Fire Department \$2,600 per year to maintain the Firehall and keep it clean. Paul Panther stated that it was his understanding that if anyone from the Fire Department wants the room, the Fire Department does have priority and they do not pay to use the room. Bill Gregory, liaison to the Fire Department, said he would talk with Eric Kurtz about the details of this agreement.

Sara Anderson stated that Wednesday, May 29, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall will be the first ADA meeting. They are hoping for input from Town residents who may have any disability issues. She also requested that the Town Council appoint a liaison to the ADA. Allen Johnson said he would look into this.

Margaret Coleman questioned whether the Waterworks Manager was a part-time position and whether or not it included benefits. Allen Johnson stated that the Water Board by State law determines the Waterworks Manager's salary and benefits. She also questioned the use of Town gas. Tom Clouser stated that he believes both Jim Matthys and Jim Kopp receive one tank per month for the use of their personal vehicles.

Jim Slawinski – Suggested revisiting the pros and cons of selling the waterworks. Allen Johnson said he is willing to explore the possibility. Tom Clouser stated that there are State controls regarding the selling of the waterworks.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Charlie Costanza suggested having the Town residents pay their sanitation bills individually instead of having the Town bill them with the water bill and potentially save \$100,000. Charlie stated that the Town could sell the waterworks and possibly get two million dollars for it. Tom Clouser stated that the money from the sale of the waterworks could possibly go to the residents rather than the General Fund depending on State laws. Tom Clouser also stated that if American Water were to buy our waterworks that the rates for our water would go up in order for American Water to recover the purchase price. Bill Gregory suggested revisiting the sale of the waterworks and getting current numbers.

Tom Clouser thanked the Lions Club for the Memorial Day festivities. He also thanked the Historical Society for the ice cream social and the program at the Church they sponsored. He stated that the ice cream social was a huge success and the program at the Church was excellent. Paul Panther stated that the Historical Society is being approached to hold the same presentation again in the future for those residents who missed the one on Memorial Day.

No further business coming before the Council, Tom Clouser moved to adjourn the meeting. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Allen Johnson, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer