

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.
COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

MINUTES

Tom Clouser moved that the minutes of the August 4, 2014 Town Council meeting be approved as submitted. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

Bill Gregory made the following announcements: Saturday, September 20, 2014 “Adopt-a-Beach” sponsored by the Alliance for the Great Lakes will be held at the Ogden Dunes Beach from 9:00 a.m. to noon; open house was held at the Historical Society this past weekend; and a thank you letter was written to the Superintendent of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park and the Mayor of the City of Portage thanking them for their cooperation in providing an alternative route for our residents during the repairs of the railroad tracks.

Paul Panther announced that Marie Englehart will again coordinate the Town wide rummage sale to be held on October 4 (October 5 Rain Date) from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost to participate is \$15.00 which is used for advertising flyers and the remainder is donated to a Town organization. Forms to participate can be picked up at Town Hall.

Allen Johnson stated that golf carts are not stopping at stop signs in our Town. He also said that underage drivers of golf carts have been seen. Both are a violation of Town Codes and pose a danger to both the driver of the golf cart and the residents.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Street Department – Jim Matthys reported that the Town will purchase salt for the winter; however, the cost will be \$25 more per ton than last year. Town Clean-Up will be held on October 10, 11 and 12; however, this year residents cannot leave hazardous waste except for latex paint (no oil based paints). Someone will man the area to prevent drop off of hazardous waste and a gate will be locked at a “to be determined time” to prevent residents from dropping off hazardous waste. Residents will be able to drop off e-waste (i.e., computers, electronics, etc.). October 22 is the expected date for the last day of chipping.

Allen Johnson stated that Dunes Acres has requested that our Street Department pick up the leaves in their Town. Allen requested that the Council approve the concept of picking up leaves in Dune Acres pending the details being worked out between our Street Department and Dune Acres. Allen said that the President of the Dune Acres Town Council stated that they have approximately 150 homes;

however, approximately 50 are non-residents leaving approximately 100 homes where leaves would need to be picked up. Jim Matthys said that Dunes Acres must have their own site to dump their leaves as it would not be feasible to bring them back to Ogden Dunes as our Town is short on space for leaf dumping. **Paul Panther made the motion to approve the concept of working with Dune Acres for their leaf pick-up if the Street Department and Dune Acres come to a viable agreement. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Fire Department – Bill Gregory stated that the septic system has been started.

Plan Commission, Building Code Review, General Code Review - Ed Hewitt reported for these committees. Plan Commission has three new homes under construction and a fourth home for BZA consideration. The Commission is reviewing unsafe structures and nuisance properties. They are following up with legal remedies for these properties. Charlie Costanza questioned the Building and Zoning Codes. Allen Johnson explained that the Building and Zoning Codes are with the Town Attorney and should be completed soon. Portions will need a public hearing and portions will need Homeland Security approval. The Town Council and Plan Commission must also approve these codes.

Ed Hewitt stated that the Building Code Review Committee reviewed the current licenses and registrations for electrical and plumbing repairs done by homeowners and agreed to leave the codes as is. Homeowners will continue to be allowed to do their own repairs in these areas; however, they will still need a permit to perform the work and inspections upon completion.

Ed Hewitt stated that the General Code Review Committee discussed the parking problems during snow storms, staggered terms, realtor open house signs, outside advertising on mail boxes, watercraft on the beach and nuisance properties.

Home Association – Bill Gregory stated that the Home Association at the request of Marshal Reeder and Eric Kurtz has put up new signs on the beach access ways with the access number pointing towards the beach. This was done to speed up notification to emergency vehicles if they are needed at the beach.

ADA – Paul Panther stated that additional handicap parking spaces have been designated on the north side of Town Hall and the west side of Town Hall. Due to a medical emergency, the bathrooms at the Community Center have not been completed as yet but will be done as soon as possible.

Grant Committee – Carolyn Saxton stated that the ADA Committee has requested that they be notified of any public meetings held by the Grant Committee. Carolyn stated that the Grant Committee does not meet unless there is a grant that is available for our community. However, most grants are geared toward economically disadvantaged communities. ADA is a nonfunded mandate by the government and grants are very difficult to find for ADA purposes. Carolyn also reported on the Community Fund and thanked the Krizmanics who were married on the beach this summer and named the Community Fund for gifts for their wedding. As a result, the Fund received a number of gifts. Carolyn also thanked all the residents in Ogden Dunes who have supported the Community Fund enabling them to sponsor projects in our Town.

Sanitation Department – Allen Johnson thanked Tom Clouser, Jim Matthys and NIPSCO for cutting down several dead trees which could have fallen on power lines.

Bridge and Railroad Committee – Bernadette Slawinski spoke and stated that a meeting was held with NPS at which time the Park Superintendent stated that Boat Club Road could be used only by emergency vehicles. The Committee is still working on a quiet zone. The Committee discussed the possibility of having the sand tracks on the east end of Town ending at Precoat used as an emergency exit. Currently, there is no real determination as to the ownership of this land. **Allen Johnson moved to approve a title search for the Old Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad right of way from our Town border on the east side to the property owned by either Precoat, US Steel or Portage to be conducted by the Town Attorney. Charlie Costanza felt that the Council should go directly to a title search company and bypass the Town Attorney. Paul Panther seconded the motion made by Allen Johnson. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

CLAIMS

Paul Panther moved that the claims from July and August 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

Charlie Costanza questioned why deer management was not on the agenda under Old Business. Allen answered that as of now, the Council has nothing new to report. Charlie questioned the latest deer cull information posted on the website and stated that he disagreed with the information as a lot of it is based on personal opinions.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Gregory read a list of openings for applicants to the various Boards and Committees of Ogden Dunes. These openings become available on January 1, 2015 and he has requested that residents consider applying for the following volunteer positions:

1 Position	Waterworks Board
3 Positions	Building Code Review
1 Position	Park Board
1 Position	Environmental Advisory Board
5 Positions	Beach Nourishment and Preservation
1 Position	Town Beautification
3 Positions	Animal Control
1 Position	Grant Committee
1 Position	Community Foundation
2 Positions	Cable Advisory
1 Position	Bridge and RR Committee
7 Positions	General Code Review
3 Positions	Ogden Dunes Recognition Committee

Bill Gregory stated that the Ogden Dunes Recognition Committee would need to be reestablished since it has been defunct for many years. This committee serves to give recognition to residents in our Town who have given outstanding service. Any residents wishing to reestablish this committee should contact a member of the Town Council or the Clerk-Treasurer.

Applications were received for membership on the Bridge and Railroad Committee and Animal Control. **Allen Johnson moved that Larry Schell be appointed to the Bridge and Railroad Committee. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. Paul Panther moved that Margaret Coleman be appointed to the Animal Control Committee. Charlie Costanza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Discussion was held on the bid received from Crown/Wheelee for a new Town Hall generator. Herb Craig discussed the bid and stated that Crown/Wheelee needs to submit a new bid with more detailed information. Three companies were contacted for bids (Crown/Wheelee, Continental Electric and Circle R Electric). Crown/Wheelee was the lowest, Continental Electric was the highest and Circle R did not respond. Bill Gregory asked that this matter be tabled until another bid is obtained.

Bill Gregory read the entire Ordinance 800, Staggered Terms for the first reading. **Paul Panther moved to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 800 on the first reading. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. Tom Clouser moved to pass Ordinance 800. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Bill Gregory read the entire Ordinance 801, Handicap Parking for the first reading. **Paul Panther moved to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 801 on the first reading. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. Tom Clouser moved to pass Ordinance 801. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Bill Gregory read the entire Ordinance 802, Signs for the first reading. **Charlie Costanza moved to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 802 on the first reading. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. Charlie Costanza moved to adopt Ordinance 802. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.** (Clerk-Treasurer note: Although Ordinance 802 was approved, it was later determined that this ordinance shall become a part of the Zoning Codes and will not be effective until such time as the Zoning Codes are finalized).

Bill Gregory stated that the codification bid from American Legal will be put on hold until the Building and Zoning ordinances are finalized.

RESIDENT REMARKS

Walter Sampson discussed the train stoppage problem. He suggested that someone keep track of how often this occurs. He also suggested that the emergency exit be kept opened by the Police Department at least one to two hours after the train has passed.

Jim Slawinski agrees with Ordinance 800, Staggered Terms and feels it will be beneficial to the Town. He also discussed the current deer cull information on the Town website in regards to deer birthing increasing the deer population. He produced articles for the Town Council which state that consecutive harsh winters such as the ones we have can reduce the deer population by 90% (most fawns do not survive).

Mark Coleman questioned if the Town Council approved spraying one of the trails in Ogden Dunes. They responded that no authorization was given by the Town Council and they have no idea who it was or what was sprayed.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Charlie Costanza discussed the deer cull information on the website and also a recent article in The Times newspaper stating that the deer cull was dividing the Town of Ogden Dunes.

Paul Panther reiterated the information about the Town wide Garage Sale to be held on October 4 with a rain date of October 5. He also stated that changes may be made to the gate located on the south side of Town used for our emergency exit. Marshal Reeder would like to move the gate in order that it could be opened quicker.

No further business coming before the Council, Allen Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Bill Gregory, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer