

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

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

**MINUTES**

Charlie Costanza moved that the minutes of the May 5, 2014 Town Council meeting be approved as submitted. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS**

Bill Gregory announced that the tile project has been completed and is viewable on the north side of the Firehouse building. There will be a viewing for all residents on June 7, 2014. Bill Gregory thanked the Women's Club, Community Fund and Deborah Landry, local artist. The celebration of these tiles will be on June 7, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. for all residents to view.

The Ogden Dunes Historical Society book "Images of the America Ogden Dunes" is now available for purchase at a cost of \$22.00. The book can be purchased at Town Hall or through Dick Meister or Ken Martin of the Historical Society.

The Ogden Dunes phone books are now available at Town Hall for purchase at a cost of \$15.00 each.

As a reminder, restricted beach parking is now in effect. Town Hall will be opened Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon for the summer.

Bill Gregory thanked the Lions Club for the excellent Memorial Day activities and the Historical Society for the ice cream social. Paul Panther stated that many people stated this was the best Memorial Day ever. Paul believes that one of the reasons for this was the fact that residents were paying attention to the speakers and there was no background chatter as there has been in previous years. Paul also thanked the Portage High School band. He stated that the Street Department did an excellent job setting up and cleaning up after the festivities.

A presentation followed by Cathy Martin, Parks Program Coordinator for Save the Dunes. Cathy talked about the projects that Save the Dunes is working on and how they would like to partner with members of the surrounding communities to reduce and prevent invasive species through educational events.

Bill Gregory stated that the following correspondence was received:

- 1 Department of Interior letter stating that a meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Portage, Indiana to discuss the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment for the "East Branch of the Little Calumet River Use Management Plan for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Tom Clouser will attend this meeting.
- 2 Letter from Pete Visclosky to Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation regarding the crude oil pipeline trains which Susan Mihalo discussed at previous Town Council meetings.
- 3 Dan Ialleggio letter regarding the placement of mailboxes on Indian Camp. Allen Johnson stated that he had phone conversation with Mr. Ialleggio concerning the mailboxes. Allen stated that the mailboxes were placed in what was determined to be the best area. He stated that the residents who live on Indian Camp can express their opinion as to whether or not they want the mailboxes left where they are now located. Residents should write a note to the Town Council expressing their opinions and leave it at Town Hall.
- 4 Porter County Community Foundation letter regarding a breakfast and presentation by the Porter County Coalition for Affordable Housing to be held on Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Harre Union, Valparaiso University.

#### **COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Department – Marshal Reeder stated his officers dealt with several fires on the beach this past weekend. Also, a group of people (non-residents) had a large fire on the beach and large amounts of trash. He stated that Officer Clapp when patrolling noticed the trash and the non-residents were still there at which time he made them clean up their trash. Marshal Reeder asked that residents be aware of these type of groups and contact an officer so he can deal with the situation. He warned the residents that the water is very cold and could lead to hypothermia. Marshal Reeder thanked Mary Gasser, who requested a "shopping list" from the Police Department and fulfilled that list with a very generous donation. Marshal Reeder had a plaque which will be given to Mrs. Gasser for her substantial donation. Marshal Reeder stated that Mrs. Gasser's donation will be partially used for a radar speed trailer which will tell drivers how fast they are going and also it can customize messages to the residents.

Tom Clouser also thanked Mary Gasser for her contribution. Tom also stated that a generous donation was received from Nathan Gagliardi to the Street Department and will be used toward the purchase of the new service truck. Tom read the plaque which will be given to Nathan for his contribution.

Street Department – Jim Matthys thanked the Town Council for the new service truck. He also stated that leaf pick-up is over and residents still have leaves out. If they are put into trash bags, the Street Department will pick them up. He also stated that the Street Department will start filling in potholes. Roads will be closed in different areas and signs will be up. Do not go around the signs as you could incur tar on your car tires and the Town will not be responsible.

Park Department – Emilie Seerup discussed the Memorial Day run and the clean-up of Long Lake Park. She also stated that the Park Department is working with Jean Barger for a possible memorial for Walter Barger which may be a sculpture.

Fire Department – Paul Panther stated that the Fire Department is in the process of getting bids for the septic system. The agreement with them is that it must be finished by October 31, 2014.

General Code Review – Jim Slawinski spoke for the General Code and stated that the staggered terms ordinance is on the Town Council agenda for this evening. He also stated that Jim Matthys has been invited to attend a General Code meeting in order that they may get his input regarding snow removal in conjunction with vehicle parking. Jim stated that the committee is also working on open house signs (with regards to what realtors can and cannot do) and hopes to present a recommendation to the Town Council at the next meeting.

ADA – Paul Panther spoke for this committee and stated that Dr. Ken Thompson will be the new ADA Coordinator. He also discussed the ADA compliant facilities which will be added to the restrooms in the Community Room. He also stated that a handicapped parking space will be added to the back of Town Hall. A buzzer on the back door of Town Hall has already been installed for ADA use.

Building Code Review – Charlie Costanza stated that the group did meet for the first time this year. Only a general discussion occurred.

Ogden Dunes Community Fund – Nancy Johnson spoke for this group and is requesting the Town Council's approval for three grants as follows:

1. \$117.00 grant to the Beautification and Garden for replacement of sprinkler controller in the Town Hall garden.
2. \$2,900 grant to Park and Rec for improvements to Long Lake Park and Tennis Courts
3. \$2,900 grant to ODHA for the creation of an ODHA Community Garden and replace the damaged "Park Rules" sign.

The total of the three grants would be \$5,917.00. Paul Panther moved that the above three grants be approved by the Town Council. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Historical Society – Tom Clouser requested donations for the Historical Society to complete the refurbishing of the Hour Glass. They are in need of \$2,000 to complete the project. Tom also stated that they have sold 200 books and ordered 300. The Historical Society did an excellent job of putting together this book which is available at Town Hall for purchase.

Bridge & Railroad – Bernadette Slawinski stated that a meeting was held last week. We discussed the train whistles. She stated that Marina Shores may be willing to join in the funding for a "quiet zone". She also discussed that the oil trains were required by law to go 30 miles per hour when passing Ogden Dunes which will entail longer waits for residents. She also stated that any train blocking the entrance for more than 10 minutes entails a violation. Bridge & Railroad will meet again in June.

Marshal Reeder stated that all residents should sign up for Nixle notifications. Sign up information can be found on the Police Department page of the Town website. Nixle provides community information of interest to all. He also stated that residents should sign up for "Smart 911" which is very useful if you have an elderly parent living alone. You can enter useful information into Smart 911 which will be available to police, fire and EMS personnel. See the Police Department page on the Town website for Smart 911 sign-up information.

## CLAIMS

Allen Johnson moved that the May 2014 claims be approved as submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

## OLD BUSINESS

Bill Gregory read Ordinance 796 for the second reading. **Paul Panther moved that Ordinance 796 be approved as read. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. The vote of the Council was as follows: Charlie Costanza, no; Allen Johnson, yes; Bill Gregory, yes; Paul Panther, yes; Tom Clouser, yes. The motion was passed four to one.**

A final quote was presented to the Council for the new phone system at Town Hall. **Allen Johnson moved that the Council approve Frontier's equipment lease quote of \$217.16 per month plus \$30.00 for the Street Department for a total of 60 months for the new equipment. The Town will purchase the equipment at the end of the lease for \$1.00. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.** The Clerk-Treasurer has been instructed to proceed with the lease with Frontier.

Discussion was held on the preliminaries that need to be accomplished prior to joining the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission. A private citizen needs to be appointed to the Commission to represent the Town of Ogden Dunes and Paul Panther stated that he has a resident who is considering this position. Charlie Costanza stated that Bernadette Slawinski would like to be appointed as the Town representative. Paul Panther will take Resolution 2014-07 to the Porter County Recorder as required by the Ethics Advisory Commission.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Allen Johnson moved that the Ogden Dunes Street Department's 2001 Bandit Portable wood/brush chipper (Model: Brush 250 with 4200 usage hours, Serial Number 016494) be declared surplus equipment and shall be advertised for sale as is. Charlie Costanza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

A discussion was held on Ordinance 800 – Staggered Terms. Bill Gregory read Ordinance 800 in its entirety. Bill Gregory stated that this reading of Ordinance 800 did not constitute a first reading but was read merely as a preview of its contents for the benefit of Town residents. Allen Johnson discussed changing the ward representatives to possibly three or five at-large members within the Town and stated that this change should be included in Ordinance 800. Charlie Costanza agreed with Allen Johnson. Bill Gregory stated that he would personally contact the Town Attorney to determine if the staggered terms and the at-large changes can be made at the same time. Ordinance 800 will be discussed again at the July meeting.

## RESIDENT REMARKS

Jim Slawinski – Discussed Ordinance 800 – Staggered Terms. He stated that this ordinance would save the Town a considerable amount of money since our elections would fall within a general election year; therefore, the County would pay for our election expenses.

## **COUNCIL REMARKS**

Charlie Costanza asked residents to watch for boaters or swimmers who may need help.

Paul Panther stated that the Food Pantry will have a Tag Day on Saturday, June 7, 2014 between 8:00 a.m. and 12 noon at the Town front entrance at which time monetary or food donations will be accepted for the Food Pantry.

Tom Clouser thanked the generosity of the Town residents who donated to the Street and Police Department.

Bill Gregory asked all residents to please look after their neighbors who may need assistance.

No further business coming before the Council, Paul Panther moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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Bill Gregory, President

Attest:

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Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer