

Ogden Dunes Town Council Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
Ogden Dunes Firehall

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

MINUTES

Charlie Costanza moved that the minutes of the April 15, 2013 meeting be approved as submitted. Bill Gregory seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

Allen Johnson wrote a grant request letter to the Ogden Dunes Community Fund requesting funds for the redesigning of the Town website to be done by Jenny Brown, the Town's web administrator. The amount of the request was \$1,150.00.

Dorothy Kurtz spoke for the Ogden Dunes Beautification Committee and stated that they were currently working on the gardens within Town.

Allen Johnson read an email from Marshal Reeder stating that on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, Marshal Reeder will be attending the Prime Timers meeting held at the Ogden Dunes Church along with George Gonzalez from the Porter County Sheriff Department. The program will consist of information regarding home safety and a presentation on Project Lifesaver which is a program to track elderly persons and others who are prone to wandering. Contact Anne Muntean for more information.

Allen also addressed a letter received from Chicago-Detroit/Pontiac Passenger Rail Corridor Program (greatlakesrail.org) who is hosting a self-guided presentation that summarizes the preliminary route alternatives analysis being conducted between Chicago Union Station and Porter, Indiana. Letter will be available to the public at Town Hall.

A letter was received from FEMA to attend a resilience meeting for Porter County on May 14, 2013. Letter will be available to the public at Town Hall.

Charlie Costanza addressed a letter sent by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management stating that the Core of Engineers is going to dredge the mouth of the Port of Indiana and will deposit the sand at the US Steel east end and the Ogden Dunes beach. This letter was sent to all residents on Shore Drive and Charlie stated that he believes this will happen at the end of the summer.

Allen Johnson thanked all the volunteers who helped clean up the Town this past weekend. He also thanked the Street Department for all their work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Street Department

Jim Matthys spoke for the Street Department. He thanked Ray Friday and Dave Newton for all their hard work during the Town clean-up. Jim stated that the Street Department collected the most items this year and he cautions residents to make sure all items are coming from homes within Town and not outside residents or relatives of Town residents. There will be no brush pick-up this week because of leaf pick-up. You must have all leaves out by Wednesday, May 8 at noon. He discussed the new truck and the bids for the old truck. The Street Department will be collecting old paint cans until May 18, 2013 and e-waste will be collected all summer which goes to the Portage e-waste recycle. Charlie Costanza asked about the bidding process for the truck. Jim Matthys stated that the Town is accepting bids for the truck and a used rowboat until 7:00 p.m. on June 3, 2013 which is the date of the next Town Council meeting. At that time, the bids will be opened at the public meeting. Tom Clouser questioned why the bids were being taken until 7:00 p.m. and felt they should cut the ending bidding time to noon on June 3. Jim Matthys replied that some people like to hand their bid directly to the Town Council.

Park Board

Judith Stiles spoke for the Park Board and announced that Jennifer Fraga has resigned from the Park Board due to her moving. Judith thanked her for her services and said she would be missed on the Park Board. The vacancy was announced on the Town web page. The new member will have to meet the Indiana Code regarding political affiliation whereas no two members on the Park Board can be of the same political party. Judith indicated that due to budget cuts, the Park Board has been drastically affected. They now have a donation fund called "Friends of the Park" and have had a very generous donation from an Ogden Dunes resident which is very much appreciated. The Memorial Day Race will be Monday, May 27 with registration at the soccer field and the race will start at 8:30 a.m. Judith thanked all the people who came to help clean-up the Town. Judith also announced that Jennifer Krizmanic-Wilson has started a page on our Town website where you can volunteer to help the community using your own skill sets. Please go to the Ogden Dunes Town website and click on Ogden Dunes Volunteer Task Sheet. Once you have picked a task you can perform, you then send an email to odvolunteer.com and tell them which task you would like. This list can also be used by elderly people who may need a simple task done for them.

Charlie Costanza questioned Judith Stiles and stated that he believed that the law requiring division of political affiliation on the Park Board had been waived for small towns. Judith stated that was correct but it must be approved by a majority of the Town Council to be effective.

Bill Gregory also thanked all the volunteers that Judith named for their hard work during the Town clean-up.

Fire Department

Allen Johnson thanked Luke Brennan for repairing the men's bathroom at the Firehall which he fixed prior to any functions that were being held this past weekend.

Environmental Advisory Board

Susan Mihalo announced that the Board will be meeting this Wednesday at Town Hall. She stated that the contract with the Gary Sanitary District for water quality testing (which is the same as last year) needs to be approved by the Town Council. Monitoring of the beach water starts on May 24, 2013 and

goes through Labor Day. Susan also spoke about the recent notice that was inserted with our quarterly water bills that discussed the water quality in Ogden Dunes. A discussion was held on this between Susan and some of the residents present at this meeting. Susan indicated that she would contact Jim Kopp with several questions that the residents were asking. Susan stated that this is the only violation Ogden Dunes has ever had according to officials at IDEM. Susan stated that the violation concerned a “rule” not a “water standard violation” as indicated on the notice with our water bills. Allen Johnson stated that Ogden Dunes failed to do a test and this was the violation of a rule. Allen suggested that interested residents attend the next Water Board meeting for more detailed information on this subject.

CLAIMS

Tom Clouser moved to approve the April regular claims 045005 through 045044 and payroll claims 04523 through 04561. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Allen Johnson stated that Ordinance 780 pertaining to the retaining walls in Ogden Dunes has been sent to the Department of Homeland Security in Indianapolis to be approved. They will hold their next meeting on May 8 at which time a decision on our Ordinance 780 will be made. Allen stated a letter has been sent in regards to our ordinance to the Homeland Security. He advised that he will make this letter available to all Council members.

Ordinance 781 was then discussed. Allen Johnson stated that this ordinance was not popular with the residents as it included an increase in fees for watercraft decals. The increased amount would have been directed to the Park Board fund. Paul Panther suggested that the ordinance be tabled for the present and possibly in the future the Council would consider raising the fee on the first watercraft to \$25.00 and additional stickers would remain at \$10.00. **Paul Panther made the motion to table Ordinance 781 for the present time and possibly discuss it again at a later date. Charlie Costanza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously passed.** Charlie Costanza stated that he would like to see some of the revenue generated by the parking stickers to go to the Park Board. He would like the money split between the ODHA and Park Board. Allen Johnson stated that this could be discussed at a later date. Bill Gregory stated that the only way the Park could get some of the ODHA sticker money is by having the Town charge the ODHA a fee (to be determined) and using the money to help fund the Park Department.

Allen Johnson stated that he spoke with a National Park representative today and he stated that they are still studying the data for the west unit to determine if a cull can be supported.

The sale of the old Street Department truck was discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer provided all Council members with an ad which would appear in The Times two times announcing the sale of the truck and also a used rowboat. All Council members approved the wording of the ad and the Clerk-Treasurer will proceed with the advertising.

Allen Johnson asked the Council members to read the April 1, 2013 letter from Greg DePorter, Plan Commission, regarding the new proposed language to be added to the Town Code which would allow for the suspension and/or revocation of contractor registrations in certain circumstances. **In order to give the Council sufficient time to review this letter, Paul Panther moved that this letter be tabled and discussed at the June meeting. Charlie Costanza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Kostasie, 97 Hillcrest Road, has requested that the Council approve his new septic system be placed on Town easement in the same location as it is now pending the approval of the State Board of Health. **Paul Panther made the motion to approve Mr. Kostasie's request and Charlie Costanza seconded the motion.** The Clerk-Treasurer will follow through with a letter to the State Board of Health to be given to Mr. Kostasie. (Note: This letter was written and signed by Allen Johnson on May 7, 2013 and given to Mr. Kostasie).

Due to the resignation of Jennifer Fraga from the Park Board, Allen Johnson has suggested the appointment of Emile Cardoso-Seerup who has submitted an application as a result of the announcement on the Town website. Charlie Costanza would like to have Steve Lombardo appointed in order to have two members in favor of the cull and two members against the cull. **Paul Panther moved to accept Emilie Seerup to the Park Board. Bill Gregory seconded the motion. The vote of the Council was as follows: Charlie Costanza, no vote; Bill Gregory, yes, Allen Johnson, yes; Paul Panther, yes; Tom Clouser, yes. The motion was passed four to one.**

Allen Johnson read Resolution 2013-01 authorizing the filing of an application for excess tax levy appeal. Charlie Costanza moved to accept Resolution 2013-01. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Charlie Costanza moved to accept the 2013 Beach Water Quality Testing agreement between the Town of Ogden Dunes and the Gary Sanitary District. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously passed. Town Council members were instructed by Susan Mihalo that this contract will be signed by the Council after the IDEM contracts are approved.

Bill Gregory announced a reminder to residents that beginning May 1, 2013 no dogs are allowed on the beach.

Paul Panther said that there was a problem with some of the temporary parking permits were given out to non-residents who came to Town Hall and stated that an Ogden Dunes resident said they could have a temporary pass. A resident who needs a temporary pass for a guest must come to Town Hall in person to get that temporary pass.

RESIDENT REMARKS

Ed Rooks, 86 Shore Drive – Has concerns about the budget deficit.

Sara Anderson, 4 Skyline Drive – Sara is Co-Chairman of the ADA Committee for Ogden Dunes. She stated that they will be holding a meeting later this month to address any residents concerns and will report back to the Council in June. She also indicated that the Firehall was not properly cleaned by the last group who used it; therefore, when Sara came to set up for her group, they had to clean the Firehall before they could set up.

Scott Lehmann, 110 Hillcrest – Stated that he has over 200 resident signatures stating that they support the Town Council members. He thanked all the people who signed.

Bernadette Slawinski, 33 Aspen – Stated that she has several friends that will support the "Friends of the Park" donation fund. She stated that the Firehall was dirty as Sara Anderson pointed out and that her husband came in and swept the Firehall.

Maryann Schaefer , 43 Sunset –Asked the Council what the procedure was for informing all Town Council members of current happenings. She feels that at times some members are unaware of various topics that appear on the Town Council agenda.

Walter Sampson, 9 Ogden Court – Has the same concerns as Ed Rooks concerning the budget. Also, he discussed the water notice and stated when he received it, he was extremely concerned. He feels the notice should not have been sent or should have been worded differently since it was only a technical violation.

Mark Coleman, 107 Diana Road – Stated that he attended three recent Town events and there was no division among the residents as to opinions of Town happenings. He felt all the residents intermingled and work together with no problems. However, later he saw the signs that were posted by the Cinco de Mayo sign near the Firehouse. He indicated that the signs made disparaging remarks against SODD.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Charlie Costanza discussed the retaining wall ordinance and disagrees with the engineering rule. He feels that previous retaining wall ordinances may not have been sent to the State for approval. Therefore, these ordinances cannot be enforced. He feels that we should use the State laws instead of the ordinances that are being passed by the Town Council. He stated that many residents need work on retaining walls but cannot get approval because the ordinances are being held for approval.

Tom Clouser thanked all the committees, resident volunteers, and the Street Department for all their work during the Town clean-up.

No further business coming before the Council, Paul Panther moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Gregory seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously passed.

Allen Johnson, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk Treasurer