

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND 2013 BUDGET ADOPTION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2012 – 7:00 P.M.
OGDEN DUNES TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: ALLEN JOHNSON, CHARLIE COSTANZA, BILL GREGORY, PAUL PANTHER, TOM CLOUSER

MINUTES

Charlie Costanza moved that the minutes of the October 7, 2012 meeting be approved as submitted. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Tom Clouser reported on the durapatch work that was done at Dunes Acres by Ogden Dunes Street Department. He reported that the work has been completed by the Street Department and we are waiting on signed papers from Dunes Acres. He indicated that the Town will receive approximately \$4,100 for one day of work performed. Expenses must be taken from this amount.

CORRESPONDENCE

Allen Johnson announced that on October 23, 2013 at Woodland Park a Beach Nourishment program will be held. This sand renourishment will include beach areas from Michigan City to Gary. Tom Clouser and Charlie Costanza will attend this meeting.

Correspondence was also received from resident Jon Machuca but not read.

NEW BUSINESS

Paul Panther moved that Ordinance 769 (2013 Budget) be approved by title only for the second reading. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. A discussion was held regarding the 2013 budget and Jim Kopp stated that the County would be short between 3 and 6 million dollars on the assessed values based on how the reassessments are coming in. He stated that many people on Shore Drive have had their assessed value reduced by several hundred thousand dollars and within the Town, there have been reductions in assessed values of 20 to 30 thousand dollars. Jim Kopp stated that at 2.9% which is roughly our budget, you could be anywhere from 90,000 to 150,000 dollars short in revenue for 2013. He stated that the State will come back with a budget that is substantially different than what we submitted for 2013. Jim Kopp also stated that most of Ogden Dunes is at their tax caps so the Town will not receive a lot of money.

Allen Johnson stated that the DNR will be here Wednesday morning to do a site inspection pertaining to the cull permit. The permit has not been approved yet.

The Council approved the reading of Ordinance 770, Redistricting for Election Districts, by title only as the first reading of this ordinance. The second reading and adoption will be at the November 5, 2012 meeting.

Paul Panther moved that the rules be waived and that Ordinance 771 be passed on the first reading by title only. Bill Gregory seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. Paul Panther moved to approve Ordinance 771, Dredge Fund Appropriation for purchase of Street Department truck and equipment, on the first reading by title only. Bill Gregory seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Paul Panther moved that Resolution 2012-05 be approved for the purchase of a new Street Department truck. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Paul Panther moved Resolution 2012-06 be approved for the purchase of a blade and sand box for the Street Department truck. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Charlie Costanza asked permission of the Council to have an access way from Ski Hill Place to a portion of his property. This access way would not be paved but would allow Charlie to drive his tractor to the back of his property. The access way is now a sand path. A discussion was held by the Council and Allen Johnson requested that Charlie Costanza bring additional information to the next Council meeting in November to enable the Council to make a final decision.

Charlie Costanza stated that the Building Code Review Committee reviewed the retaining wall policy (Code 152.012). Charlie stated that this is something that the Planning Commission has been talking about changing for many, many years. The Building Code Review discussed this and sent it on to the Planning Commission for approval. The Planning Commission entirely changed what the Building Code Review Committee submitted. The Building Code Review feels that their suggestions should be brought before the Council and not entirely thrown out and replaced by the Planning Commission's decisions. The Building Code Review would like the retaining walls to be easier for residents and not have engineering for walls 2 feet high or more as the Planning Commission has suggested. Charlie will supply the Council with the suggestions of the Building Code Review regarding the retaining walls. However, Allen Johnson stated that all the new codes would be presented to the Council for approval as a "package" rather than individual code changes. The Council would then review all the changes and the codes would be recodified.

RESIDENT REMARKS

There were no resident remarks.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Charlie Costanza addressed Jon Machuca's letter to the Council regarding the threats that were made against Charlie Costanza at a previous Town Council meeting. Charlie felt that the incident has not been sufficiently investigated. The Council suggested that Charlie file a complaint. Charlie responded that that he tried to file a complaint but the officer who came to his house stated that since the person did not specifically mention Charlie's name in the threat, the officer was unable to file a complaint. Charlie stated that he would like this matter resolved. He also stated that he would like to file a complaint with the State Police and Paul Panther stated the Charlie should do this if he so desires. Paul suggested that Charlie find out who has jurisdiction over his complaint and file with that agency. Bill Gregory offered to go to Marshal Reeder's office with Charlie to file a complaint. Charlie stated that he would prefer the Town Council to resolve this matter without a complaint being filed with the State Police. The Council did not offer any more suggestions other than what was already discussed.

Jim Kopp addressed the Council regarding the Sanitation Department. He stated that the Department was operating in the red and that the Council needs to consider an increase in charges of \$1.00 per month. This would also fund another part-time Street Department employee for the summer. An increase of \$1.00 per month would generate approximately \$7,200 in revenue per year. Jim Kopp also stated that the Water Department is also in the red. Jim Kopp is suggesting a 10-year ordinance with an automatic 2-3% increase in water charges per year. The Water Board is requesting a joint meeting with the Town Council. Jim Kopp said that before this ordinance can be done, the Town would have to get out of the IURC which would take about 90 days. By eliminating the IURC, we would lose our bonding powers but could still borrow against our assets per Jim Kopp. Jim Kopp suggested that this be done before Christmas or shortly thereafter. Allen Johnson suggested a special meeting be held with the Water Board and the Town Council and only address this one item during the meeting. Jim Kopp will advise the Town Council via email as to suggested dates for this meeting.

No further business coming before the Commission, Tom Clouser moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Gregory seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Allen Johnson, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer