

DRAFT

OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2013 – 7:00 P.M. OGDEN DUNES FIREHALL

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

MINUTES

Charlie Costanza moved to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2013 regular monthly meeting as submitted. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Charlie Costanza moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2013 Budget Hearing meeting as submitted. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

Lorelei Weimer, Executive Director, Indiana Dunes Tourism gave an excellent presentation regarding the efforts of the Tourism Bureau to attract visitors to northwest Indiana. More information can be found on various websites: www.artandearthtrail.com , www.northernindianagetaways.com, www.beyondthebeachdiscoverytrail.com.

The Beautification Committee will hold a program on October 15 at the Firehall 7:30 p.m. entitled "Gardening in Deer Country" by Master Gardener Maureen. Prior to this program, the Environmental Board will do a short 15-minute session on invasive plants that residents should avoid planting.

Congratulations to Jim Matthys, Street Department, and his crew (Ray Friday and Dave Newton) for their extra efforts during our Town Clean-Up Weekend.

Congratulations to all the winners of the recent Chili Cook-Off as follows:

Classic Division and Overall Winner – Jason and Dawna Hinman (will have their chili featured at Miller Bakery later this year)

Hot Division – Jeni Froman

White Division – Bernadette Slawinski

Vegetarian Division – Tammy Martin

Fan Favorite (was a white chili) – Michael Smith

Volunteers are needed for the Garden Club. If interested, please leave name and phone number at Town Hall.

Allen Johnson announced that Matt Rogatz donated money to the Town because of the Town's help with his summer wedding on the beach.

Allen Johnson mentioned a contest letter received from Indiana American Water . The contest is opened to any elected/appointed official. The letter will be available at Town Hall.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Street Department – Jim Matthys stated that leaf pick-up will begin and continue for approximately five weeks. Do not put branches in with your leaves – they will ruin the Street Department machinery. Brush pick-up has ended.

Plan Commission – Allen Johnson stated that he attended the Plan Commission meeting and two houses were up for review.

Sanitation Department – Allen Johnson stated that all money received is now being recorded separately between the Water and Sanitation accounts. Initially the money is deposited into the Water account and then transferred accordingly to the Sanitation account.

General Code Review – Jim Slawinski discussed the upcoming change in restricted parking which will end October 1 of each year instead of Labor Day. He also stated that the committee is working on a proposal for the Town Council to change the terms of the members to “staggered” terms to avoid elections where all “new” members are elected. He also stated that they are working with Marshal Reeder to have all money pertaining to speeding fines stay within the Town. The committee is working on a better definition of “junk” cars.

ADA Committee – Sara Anderson stated that the committee met on September 26 to discuss the ADA plan proposed by Allen Hammond of the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission. The information will be available on the Town website under “ADA”. She thanked Tom Clouser for attending their meeting. She stated that information has been given to Eric Kurtz, Fire Department, regarding ADA compliance. The Committee feels that since the Firehall will undergo construction for the plumbing problems, it would be a good time to install ADA compliant fixtures. She also mentioned that Tom Tittle will be working on the volume for Firehall meetings so that people in the back of the room will be able to hear the proceedings clearly. Tom Clouser confirmed that Tom Tittle has an apparatus which will amplify the sound in the Firehall. Tom Clouser also stated that a doorbell could be installed at Town Hall as the ADA requested. Paul Panther questioned Sara Anderson regarding the back door in the Firehall as to whether or not it would be designated as an “emergency exit only” since it is not ADA compliant. She stated that it would. Bill Gregory questioned the cost of the ADA compliant construction for the restrooms in the Firehall. Sara Anderson indicated that no cost figures have been obtained yet. Sara indicated that all the ADA changes were under no timeline nor were there any penalties involved for noncompliance. These are proposed plans to be budgeted when funds are available.

Environmental Advisory Board – Susan Mihalo stated that Randi Light has resigned from the Board after 12 years of service. Susan stated that Randi has been an outstanding participant in the Environmental Board and thanked her for her years of service. Unfortunately, Randi does not have the time to devote to the Board and she will be missed. The Environmental Board is recommending to the Council James Biancotti as a replacement for Randi Light. Everyone on the Board is extremely pleased to have James as a member. Susan stated that the Board will begin work on the 2014 beach grant and will submit the grant at the November Town Council meeting for their approval. She indicated that this may be the last beach grant due to lack of funding. She feels that the Town itself may not be able to sustain the funding for this program should no further grant money be received.

Ogden Dunes Community Fund – Bill Gregory stated that the ODCF received a thank you card from the students at Sandpiper preschool for the grant money which was used to purchase an educational rug for the school.

Historical Society – Dick Meister stated that they are four weeks from submitting the information for the Ogden Dunes book to the publisher, Arcadia Press. He also introduced Ian Roseen, an AmeriCorps member serving at the Hour Glass museum who will be conducting a year-long oral history project on the area with residents. The project will seek to preserve the multi-generational memory of Ogden Dunes by collecting stories of those with ties to the area. Anyone interested in sharing their stories, please contact Ian by email at ian.roseen@valpo.edu or rmeister@depaul.edu or by leaving their name and number at 708-446-1686. Dick Meister also announced that there will be a presentation by Lee Botts, co-developer of a documentary on the creation of State and National parks and the future of these parks at 4:00 p.m. on October 20 at the Hour Glass on Lupine Road.

Paul Panther stated that Tom Clouser and he attended a three-hour septic tank training session at Purdue University recently. Paul stated that residents need to know where their septic tanks are located and when they were last cleaned out. He stated that the County may be involved in gathering this information since they are responsible for septic tank approvals.

Paul Panther stated that Tom Clouser and he attended a railroad seminar which informed them of future high speed trains which would inevitably pass by Ogden Dunes and could increase the number of tracks to six and the

number of trains to well over 200 per day. Both Paul and Charlie Costanza stated that the Town may have to consider an alternate exit. Charlie reiterated the fact that the National Lakeshore has offered Boat Club Road which could be used for an emergency exit in exchange for a bike path going through the Town of Ogden Dunes. Tom Clouser stated that the high speed trains could be as far as 20 years into the future as the plan for these trains consists of four parts and only the first part is now being reviewed. The final stage is funding.

Paul Panther moved to accept regular claims 045259 to 045311 and payroll claims 04758 to 04796 as read by the Clerk-Treasurer. Bill Gregory seconded the motion. Charlie Costanza questioned the attorney claim and also the ecological study claim. He asked for a clarification on the charges marked "other issues" on the attorney invoice and Allen responded that this was concerning the current wall issue (car accident) in regards to part of the wall is on Town property. Charlie requested that the Building Code Review and the General Code Review have access to this study and Allen agreed to provide Charlie with the study. Charlie did not agree with spending more money for the ecological study from a negative deer management donation fund. Allen Johnson then requested that the residents donate to the fund for a possible upcoming deer cull. The vote of the Council for approval of the above claims was as follows: Bill Gregory, yes; Allen Johnson, yes; Paul Panther, yes; Tom Clouser, yes; Charlie Costanza, no. The motion was passed four to one.

Bill Gregory gave a short update of the Fire Department plumbing work. He stated that the work will be done soon and also he has met with the Fire Department twice to continue the draft for the fire protection service contract and the contract for the firehall maintenance. Bill stated that these contracts may be presented at the November Town Council meeting before sending them to the Town Attorney.

Charlie Costanza questioned whether or not there was a deer management update. Allen Johnson replied that he is working on the information to be submitted to the DNR. Charlie then read a permit requirement list provided by the DNR to the Town. This list consists of information that the Town must provide to the DNR regarding the vegetation damage by the deer in Ogden Dunes in order to be granted a deer cull permit. Charlie stated that he feels this letter from the DNR should be posted on the Town website and Allen Johnson agreed. Charlie stated that he understands from Allen that the cull will be held in the same area (by the Street Department) as last year and Charlie is opposed to that area.

Allen Johnson announced that CCD money will be used instead of Rainy Day money (which was proposed at the September Town Council meeting) to fund plumbing repairs at the Firehall as suggested by Tom Clouser. The fund has a sufficient balance to cover the repairs.

NEW BUSINESS

Charlie Costanza moved that James Biancotti be appointed to the Environmental Advisory Board to replace Randi Light. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Charlie Costanza moved that Brainstorm Computers be used to supply a new computer system for the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer at an approximate cost of \$968.22 which will be funded through CCI/Office Equipment. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Tom Clouser moved that authorization to contact the Town law firm for legal consulting and to request their services on matters of Town business be limited to those occupying the following positions:

Town Council President or Vice President

Town Clerk-Treasurer and Town Marshal

Jim Matthys, Street Department

and that these office holders may authorize other Town employees and various committee members to also contact the Town law firm. Bill Gregory seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Bill Gregory, yes; Allen Johnson, yes; Paul Panther, yes; Tom Clouser, yes; Charlie Costanza, no. The motion was passed four to

one. (Note from Clerk-Treasurer: This motion is intended for the duration of the current Town Council which expires January 1, 2015.)

A discussion was held on the current telephone service contract with NARC which expires in December, 2013. Allen Johnson has suggested that the service contract be cancelled in light of the fact that Town Hall needs a complete new telephone system in 2014. Charlie Costanza questioned what the contract covered. The Clerk-Treasurer was instructed to get this information. The subject of the telephone service contract was tabled till the November, 2013 meeting.

RESIDENT REMARKS

Joan Michael, 87 Shore Drive – Stated that property assessments were done in Ogden Dunes which lowered the assessments of the homes and the Town would receive less tax money next year. Stated that she was confused about the Town’s spending habits.

Bernadette Slawinski , 33 Aspen Road– Stated that the DNR will not accept lyme disease as a reason for holding a deer cull. Wanted the residents to be aware that even if a deer cull is held they could still be subject to lyme disease.

Jim Slawinski, 33 Aspen Road – Stated that all Town Council members should be included in all decision making processes. Questioned the status of the police car that was traded in and questioned where the new police car is located. It was determined that Marshal Reeder has the new car at home. Bill Gregory and Paul Panther stated that the old car was traded in and it was purchased by a resident in town. Jim also discussed the deer cull and the division of residents in the Town.

Maryann Schaefer, 43 Sunset – She questioned how many deer would be culled and where the sites would be. Allen Johnson replied that 80 deer would be culled and the sites may be the same as last year. Maryann stated that she did not feel there were 80 deer in Town.

Mark Coleman, 107 Diana Road – Stated that the Town Council has a problem with transparency to the public. Discussed the water rate increase and also read a letter from resident Nathan Gagliardi, 75 Ski Hill Road regarding Water Board issues. Letter is available at Town Hall.

Walter Sampson, 9 Ogden Road – Urge the residents to respect the members of the Town Council.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Charlie Costanza – Discussed the deer cull and stated that Federal law prohibits baiting from other areas for a deer cull. He feels the deer from the National Park will enter Ogden Dunes if baited.

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 meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Allen Johnson, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer