



TOWN OF
Ogden Dunes
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OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL- TOWN MEETING
March 4, 2024 – 7:00 P.M. in Community Room & Via ZOOM

PRESENT: Scott Kingan
Bernadette Slawinski
John Hannon
Dave Snyder—via Zoom
Karl Krizmanic—Not Present

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Approval of January 2024 meeting minutes

- John motioned to accept the minutes. Dave seconded.

Roll call: John Hannon- yes; Dave Snyder; Scott Kingan- yes; Bernadette Slawinski—yes. The motion passed.

Approval of Claims from February 2024

- Amy read the Claim numbers.
Bernadette motioned to approve claims, John seconded.

Roll call: Bernadette Slawinski—yes; John Hannon—yes; Scott Kingan—yes; Dave Snyder—yes. Motion passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- **Police Department-**
 - Vehicle mileage for the Dept: Truck 1—17,202, Truck 2—16,442 Truck 3—8,778.
 - Jeremy reported that for February, 7 tickets were written. 3 case reports were taken.
- **Building Department-**
 - To date, \$15,586.00 has been collected from issuing 30 building permits.
- **Street and Water Department-**
 - Matt noted that the mild Winter has given the Dept. an opportunity to make a lot of necessary repairs to the facilities and equipment.
 - Quite a few residents have gotten a head-start on cleaning and trimming their yards. But the warm weather has posed an issue for heavy brush pick-up, because the destination for Town brush is the Portage Compost site. This site doesn't reopen for the season until March 21st. Small amounts of brush can be placed in garbage containers.
 - Reminder that when pick-up resumes, branches can be no-longer than 5ft. Matt also asks that piles be placed parallel along the roadside and that leaves are kept separate from branches and vines.

- A date for Town Clean-up days hasn't been determined yet, but will with plenty of advance notice.
 - Many residents have commented on the delineator posts leaving Town. These are not intended to be permanent. A recent increase of drivers choosing the wrong side of Townhall to exit, warranted some quick action. Their placement is designed to **re-instill** proper direction route and to prevent an accident. After some more time, they'll be replaced with yellow lines painted on the pavement.
 - John said that he and Matt are planning the line striping configuration on paper first-- before implementing it. He thinks it would be beneficial for residents to see the design first and hopefully build a consensus.
- **Water-**
 - Matt reported on a small, new retaining wall built on the east side of the pump station building.
 - The north side of the building has been prepared for 2 future walkways and landscaping to be installed too. Things are looking very good there!
 - Scott wanted folks to know that a recent mailing regarding discontinued recycling pick-up-- does not apply to O.D. It was a mass mailing done by Portage and mistakenly included our Town. We contract pick-up with Republic, unlike the city. He has been told by Republic that O.D. has established a good model for recycling in NWI !

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Centennial Committee**
 - Bernadette says the committee has been very active in making plans for the kick-off event on Sept. 28th. The event will have an Oktoberfest theme with music, dancing, beer and a pig roast! It will begin at 4p.m. and last into the evening.
 - Cen. committee is also designing 2 commemorative posters—similar to the popular South Shore RR prints. The designer is hoping to have the 1st one ready to sell by Sept.
 - To help defray costs for the big kick-off, a small entry fee will be charged.
 - Other plans to begin in **2025** will include: a speakers series hosted by the OD Historical Society, the Lion's Club Easter egg hunt, a Memorial Day parade enhanced by floats and animals, a Summer Solstice event—Sat., June 21, partnering with IN Preservation Soc. to host an architecture tour & perhaps an evening wine tasting too. Rounding out the Summer of 2025 will be the popular 4th of July sand castle contest organized by the Women's Club, The end of July Fireman's Ball + other new events such as an ODHA trivia night and perhaps an art fair.
 - Many ambitious ideas are underway! The committee can always use help so please reach out and join them. Bernadette is thankful and thrilled with the committee's efforts so far!!
- **Community Fund Grants**
 - Bernadette shared that the committee received 6 requests for project grants. These will be determined and announced next meeting.
- **General Code Review**
 - Jim Slawinski, 33 Aspen, said an "Items on the beach" policy is being finalized. He wished to use this time to report as Chairman of the **Water Board**. He just received word from IN American Water, our Town's provider, that they received approval from the IURC to increase their rates. This became effective Feb. 14th. Jim has scheduled a meeting with American Water's executive to determine the impact on our resident's water bills. The Water Board is also meeting to determine next steps.

- **ODHA**

- President Andrew Gurschik, 22 Hillcrest, announced that online enrollment for Summer Camp has begun. It will be done exclusively online with fees being collected via credit or debit cards.
- ODHA annual membership has begun too. This can be done online—with same payment methods or can be done in person at Townhall --when obtaining parking permits. The in person option can also be paid with a check—in addition to credit card. The Association will no longer accept cash.
- The ODHA'S annual meeting is set to occur on March 20th at 6:30 in the Community Rm. Members are encouraged to attend and will be able to vote on agenda items.

- **Planning Commission**

- Scott reported that many topics are slated to be covered during next month's meeting. This will follow an upcoming meeting he's also having with the newly elected Mayor of Portage.
- Portage is in the process of updating their Master Plan too. It's possible that a combined hiring of the same consultant, can benefit both Town's efforts.

- **Beautification**

- Lois Braatz, 10 Valerie, said the committee is scheduled to meet the following day with designer Jasmine Nelson, who will present her plan for both the west side of Townhall project and the entranceway leading into Town. They're excited!

- **Historical Society**

- Ken Thompson, 66 Diana, spoke of the upcoming Hour Glass program about Shirley Heinz Land Trust. She was resident of O.D. who's love of nature inspired friends to donate an endowment – starting a conservation org. in her name.
- Scott asked Ken about the recent turnout for the Invasive Species presentation given by Laura Brennan? Ken said it was a full house! Some 57 guests heard a very informative and thorough discussion about the plant culprits and strategies to counter, local invasives.

- **Women's Club**

- Pat Maxwell, 11 Cedar Ct, reported via zoom on the status of phone directory sale and distribution. The new directories are available for purchase, to non-members for \$25.00 They are planning a Town e-mail blast to publicize.
- April 5th the Club is hosting an evening appetizer gathering. They're planning future activities hopefully for each month.

OLD BUSINESS

- **National Invasive Species Week in Town**

- Scott referenced the well-attended and well- received program conducted by Laura Brennan at the Hour Glass on Feb 25th.
- He noted that March 3rd—yesterday, was the last day for the official observance. He was sure residents would be more alert to the topic- as a result!

NEW BUSINESS

- **Proposal to build a safety cover for the old vehicle lift in the Street Dept. garage**

- Matt reported on the unsafe remnants or hole left where a former vehicle lift existed in the garage. The best solution would be to cover it up with a steel plate.
- John recommends that the hazard be addressed asap, in the manner Matt indicated. He made a motion to accept a quote of \$2,125 for a customized steel plate cover. Seconded by Bernadette.

Roll Call: John Hannon-yes, Bernadette Slawinski-yes, Scott Kingan-yes, Dave Snyder-yes.
Motion passed.

- **First reading of Ordinance 903 to amend Town Codes regarding fines for parking violations and fees paid by building contractors to register with the Town.**
 - Scott read aloud Ordinance 903. Section 70.99 of the Town code is to be amended. It will increase the fine for parking violations to \$200. If fine is unpaid after 30 days, it will increase to \$300.
 - Section 155.01 is also to be amended. This section deals with registration fees paid by contractors to work in Town. The annual fee will be increased to \$175 for new registrations and \$100 for renewals.
 - A second reading and vote by council will occur during April meeting.
- **Settlement agreement regarding litigation involving the BZA granting a variance to the Tarpos at 58 Shore Dr.**
 - Scott read aloud the legal settlement. It dismisses the action against the Town including its Boards and Committees. The resident parties agree to settle the matter between themselves.
 - John remarked that it was a shame this action was brought. It caused the Town to spend money on attorney fees that can't be recouped—only to end with the parties essentially saying “let's forget about it”.
 - Dave agreed with John's assessment. He made a motion to authorize Town President, Scott Kingan to enter into the agreement as it was read. Bernadette seconded. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, John Hannon—yes. The motion passed.

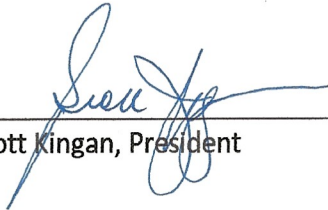
NO RESIDENT REMARKS

TOWN COUNCIL REMARKS

- John expressed his appreciation for the fine presentation that Laura Brennan made on Feb. 25th about Invasive Species. The Town should thank her --as she's a valuable resource!
- Bernadette reminded folks about the 24th annual St. Patrick's celebration at the Fire Station/Community Rm. on March 23rd There will be food, beer, music, Irish step dancers and a raffle. Should be a great event!
- Dave thanked the department heads. The Town is running smoothly and he appreciates that!
- Scott said he walked down to the beach yesterday and was pleased to see more of it than existed this time last year. He's really looking forward to the start of beach season!

Motion to Adjourn

- John motioned. Bernadette seconded. **Roll call:** John Hannon-yes, Bernadette Slawinski--yes, Scott Kingan-yes, Dave Snyder—yes. Meeting adjourned.



Scott Kingan, President