



TOWN OF
Ogden Dunes

115 HILLCREST ROAD
OGDEN DUNES, IN 46368
219.762.4125 OFFICE
219.762.3000 FAX

OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 5, 2024-- 7:00 P.M. at the Community Room

PRESENT: Scott Kingan
Bernadette Slawinski
Karl Krizmanic
Dave Snyder
John Hannon

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Meeting minutes from December 4, 2023 approved

- Dave motioned to approve. Bernadette seconded. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, John Hannon—yes, Karl Krizmanic—yes. Motion approved.

Meeting minutes from December 31st special meeting approved

- John motioned to approve. Karl seconded. **Roll Call:** John Hannon—yes, Karl Krizmanic—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Dave Snyder—abstained. Motion approved.

Claims for January 2024 were read by Amy

- Bernadette motioned to approve. Dave seconded. **Roll Call:** Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Dave Snyder—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, John Hannon—yes, Karl Krizmanic—yes. Motion approved.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Dept.

- Jeremy reported that 1 ticket has been written so far in Feb.; 3 case reports have been written too.
- Milage for Police trucks: #1) 16,486 #2) 15,869 #3) 8,389.
- Jeremy submitted to the council, proposed increases in the cost of seasonal parking penalties. Currently a violation costs \$100 which if not paid in 30 days, increases to \$200. Last summer approx. 68-70 tickets for this violation were written. These generated \$7,000 in fines. Because the majority of these tickets are issued to unpermitted, non-residents and also because beach parking has become more restricted in neighboring Nat. Park lots, the thought is that increasing the fines to \$200 and \$300 respectively, would better deter overflow cars from seeking parking in O.D.
- Bernadette asked if the Town should consider towing of violators? The reply was: this would be appropriate for repeat offenders.
- Jeremy also submitted the actual Event Days deemed busy enough, for 3 officers at approved special event pay rate. These would be: **Memorial Day Weekend** (3 days), **4th of July Weekend** (4 days) and **Labor Day Weekend** (3 days) Increased public safety would also be warranted on the **Centennial kick-off day** and **Halloween**. The total cost for staffing over these 12 designated special event days would not exceed \$6,725.00. A motion to approve the actual event days was made by Karl. Bernadette seconded. **Roll Call:** Karl Krizmanic—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Dave Snyder—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, John Hannon—yes. Motion approved.

- Regarding traffic issues at entrance to Town, Jeremy shared the adjusted speed limit on Rt 12--it's now 35 mph. This is the posted speed -1 half mile, both east and west of the entrance stop light.
- He has installed the traffic delineators, just north of Townhall because of a recent spate of drivers going the wrong way-- both in and out of Town.
- Scott asked if the conflicting speed signs on 12 have been removed? The answer was yes.

Building Dept.

- 14 permits have been issued so far in 2024. There was also a renewal of a project permit. The total revenue raised by these was \$3,017.00
- There have been approx. 186 contractor registration renewals so far.
- Jeremy submitted to the council, proposed changes in the cost of contractor licensing & registration fees. Some neighboring communities have amended their fees too.
- John asked when the amended fees would take effect? The reply was immediately—after council voted to approve an Ordinance.
- Karl asked if any other communities have a public evaluation or cust. satisfaction component to their contractor procedures? Jeremy didn't know—but added that as the building commissioner, he needs to remain impartial.
- Dave doesn't think the Town should weigh in on customer/contractor dealings. He also thinks changing the fees would be appropriate and "in line" with other communities. He further recommends that the Town Attorney draft an Ord. which amends the licensing fee to \$175.00 and a yearly renewal fee to \$100.00.

Street Department

- Matt reported on his and John's efforts to get the necessary application docs. together and submitted to INDOT for the 2024-#1 round of Community Crossing Grants. He's hopeful the Town will be awarded again so that additional streets can be repaved. The projects included in the application would cost upwards of \$500,000.
- The last round of CC Grants, the Town was awarded (2023-#2), required a closing out process. This entails a breakdown verification regarding all repaving materials delivered and all expenditures made. This was completed and submitted to INDOT last month.
- Upgrades to the lighting in the Street Dept garages and tuning up of power equipment has been done.
- Matt is getting quotes on repairing holes in the salt barn.

Water

- Interior painting and patch work has occurred in the Water Pump Station.
- Plans are set to replace external rail-tie retaining wall with cinder blocks.
- The crew is running a watering line, on- a- timer, out to the holiday evergreen tree.
- Reminder that Water Bills are due by Feb. 12th.
- John complemented Matt on all his efforts regarding the new CC Grant application! A necessary 1st step is creating an Asset Management Plan for the Town before applying. Matt put this together.
- Dave thanked John and his Great Lakes Engineering firm for all the technical consulting they have provided. This has saved the Town a bundle of money that would have otherwise been paid to firm, Abon Marche.

BZA

- Jeremy shared a couple of projects that will soon come before the committee. One is at 114 Diana Rd. and another is at 70 Shore Dr.

Centennial Committee

- Bernadette shared updates. The kick-off event is scheduled for September 28th. It's going to include lots of fun activities, music and lots of delicious things to eat and drink.
- Members of the Police, Fire and Lion's Club will be working together to throw a terrific event!
- Bernadette is very enthused about the involvement of many talented people on the committee!

Environmental Adv. Board

- Karl shared details regarding an upcoming program at the Hour Glass on Feb. 25th. It will be Laura Brennan presenting a talk on identifying invasive species and how to prevent their spread when landscaping.

General Code Review

- Chairman Jim Slawinski, 33 Aspen, reported on the 2 new members of the committee-- who got a running start on finalizing rules regarding items left on the beach. They also discussed seasonal parking issues. This included support for increasing the cost of fines for violations.

ODHA

- President Andrew Gurschik, 22 Hillcrest, reported on the upcoming start of summer camp enrollment which will begin March 1st. He also advised that membership renewal can be done online and that cash payments will no longer be accepted for dues. Checks and Credit Cards will be accepted.

Beautification

- President Lois Braatz, 10 Valerie, reported on a designer, the committee has engaged to help with the look of the west side of Townhall project and for the arrangement of planting around the soon to be completed message board.
- Dave brought up the areas around the train tracks, where building is set for completion in May. He asked Lois and committee to prepare planting ideas that are desirable but low maintenance. He'd like the Town's input/influence on these areas so that NICTD won't merely choose serviceable, low-cost alternatives.

Women's Club

- Treasurer Pat Maxwell, 11 Cedar Ct, shared that the new phone directories are back from the printer and are ready for distribution and sale. They'll cost \$25.00 to non-member residents and are free or included w/club dues, for members. They're available at the front window of Townhall.
- The WC has achieved 501.3c status and will be reaching out to corporate sponsors.
- The 1st Club event for 2024 will be on April 5th!

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Appointments

- The Animal Committee will include: **Cynthia Hicks**, 7 Locust Rd; **Carol Damiano**, 26 Woodland Tr.; **Karen Morris**, 1 Pine Tr. and **Karen Berrier**, 42 Sunset Tr.
- Karl motioned to accept the appointments. Bernadette seconded. **Roll Call:** Karl Krizmanic—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Dave Snyder—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, John Hannon—yes. The motion passed.

2024 Community Crossings Grant application—Town match amount

- One of the requirements for eligibility of CC grants is that the Town needs to commit to providing 25% of the costs for the repaving project. The application proposed a total project cost of \$515,000. INDOT would fund \$386,000 and Ogden Dunes would fund 25% or \$128,000. There are 12 more streets hopefully slated for repaving—and in the case of Shore Dr., some drainage work at Hillcrest.

- John motioned to approve the Town match of \$128,000. Karl seconded. **Roll Call:** John Hannon—yes, Karl Krizmanic—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Dave Snyder—yes. The motion is approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Contract renewal with Civic Plus for the Town Website

- Scott said that the 1st three years of Civic Plus service was very reasonably priced! He thinks the website has been serviced well. As with most other things, renewing the contract will cost more. This year, 2024 will be \$2,300. Next year will increase to \$2,800.
- Dave motioned to approve the renewal. Bernadette seconded. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, John Hannon—yes, Karl Krizmanic—yes. The motion is approved.

RESIDENT REMARKS

- Pat Maxwell, 11 Cedar Ct, asked about the flares that sometimes appear on the ground, at night, between the train tracks? Jeremy explained that this is a cautionary signaling method used by the South Shore when they allow other trains-- other than their own, on their tracks. When these very slow-moving trains pass through a crossing such as O.D., it doesn't trigger the gates or flashing lights. A SS rail attendant follows the train and lights a flare to physically alert drivers of its slow movement through. After the train has passed, the attendant leaves the flare behind to extinguish itself.
- Andrew Gurschik, 22 Hillcrest, commented on his observation of some Town roads widening. He wants to know how this affects the easement width? He referred to questions around Kratz field on Hillcrest.
- John explained that property or lot lines all have 'Public-rights- of-way' between it and the roads. Because O.D. is not universally flat, the measurement of road+ both sides of edge way, is approx. 60ft throughout Town. It doesn't change with improvements or modifications to the edges. Telephone pole placement typically marks the end of a private property line.
- The council needs to look at the issue of public-right-of-way, particularly on Shore drive where parking is in short supply.

TOWN COUNCIL REMARKS

- It was determined that maps showing prohibited parking areas during the summer, need to be absolutely consistent with signage.
- Dave said he thinks the Water pump building looks fabulous! He appreciates everyone's efforts.
- Karl reminded residents that Feb. 26th through March 3rd is National Invasive Species Week. EAB has hung a banner to alert everyone-- as they enter and leave Town via Hillcrest.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- Bernadette made the motion. Karl seconded. Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Karl Krizmanic—yes, John Hannon—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, Dave Snyder—yes. Meeting adjourned.

Scott Kingan, President