

**OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**APRIL 7, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**OGDEN DUNES FIREHALL**

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

**MINUTES:**

Allen Johnson moved that the minutes of the March 10, 2014 Town Council meeting be approved as submitted. Charlie Costanza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS**

Bill Gregory introduced Megan Cleary, the newly hired Window/Police Clerk at Town Hall. Megan has an excellent background including various positions for the Town of Beverly Shores. We all welcome her to our Town.

Bill Gregory stated that a resignation letter was received from Dr. Ken Thompson from the Building Code Review.

Ken Martin, Historical Society, discussed several ongoing events being sponsored. He discussed the Ogden Dunes book which should be available by May 26 and encouraged residents to purchase it directly from the Historical Society rather than Amazon. He also indicated that the "Ogden Dunes Stories Project" headed by Ian Roseen continues in order to preserve the memories of those who have lived in our Town. He has interviewed 38 people to date and has 4 additional interviews scheduled. The outcome of these interviews will become a permanent exhibit at the Hour Glass Museum and also a temporary six-month exhibit at the PoCo Muse at the Porter County Museum in Valparaiso. Ken also stated that the first floor of the Hour Glass will be renovated but will keep the historical look of the building. To help fund this, the Historical Society received a \$2,000 grant from the Indiana Humanities Council. In addition to this grant, they will need an additional \$2,000 for this project and is soliciting donations from the Town residents. "Life in the Hour Glass" opens on June 22, 2014 at the PoCo Muse in Valparaiso. John Hodson will be at the Hour Glass on April 13 at 4 p.m. with a presentation entitled "Everglades of the North".

**COMMITTEE REPORTS; DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Street Department – Jim Matthys stated that he will begin picking up leaves next week and after that chipping will begin. Town Clean-Up will be May 2, 3 and 4, 2014. Jim Matthys stated that he will be taking vacation and requested that the Council approve a part-time summer position to help in his absence. The Council agreed to his request.

Police Department – Bill Gregory stated that all residents should lock their doors and their cars.

Beautification Committee and Ogden Dunes Community Fund – Dorothy Kurtz spoke for both these committees. She stated that the first meeting of the Beautification Committee would be on April 15 at

9:00 a.m. at Town Hall. Frenda Levin has painted a mural on the door inside the Community Room. **The Ogden Dunes Community Fund will fund \$127.00 for the cost of the paint and Frenda has volunteered her time for this project which is greatly appreciated. Dorothy Kurtz asked the Council to approve this grant. Paul Panther moved to approve the \$127.00 grant for the cost of paint. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.** Dorothy stated that grant request forms are available in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office for any Town organization wishing to apply for grant money. The next meeting of the Ogden Dunes Community Fund will be on April 29, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at Town Hall. Dorothy also stated that the tile project is done but requires warmer weather for install. Bill Gregory stated that a Town event should be held to celebrate the completion of the tile project.

General Code – Mike Schaeffer spoke for this committee and stated that they were working on the staggered terms for elected officials. Senator Karen Tallian also spoke regarding this subject and stated that many towns are considering this change. She believes this would be a good change for our Town. Staggered terms would insure that all members of the Town Council are not “newly” elected with no prior Town Council experience. She also stated that the staggered terms can be reversed in 12 years per State law should the Town wish to revert to their current election practices. Staggered terms would also save the Town the cost of holding elections on off County years which could save the Town \$5,000 to \$7,000 per election. An ordinance for staggered terms would need to be in place this year.

ADA Committee – Sara Anderson spoke and stated that she participated in an ADA webinar with Paul Panther, Joan Machuca and Jean Manna sponsored by IACT. She stated that plans have been made to make the bathrooms temporarily ADA compliant in the Community Room until new construction accomplishes a permanent arrangement. The ADA timeline plan will be revised and ready for Town Council approval in May, 2014. Paul Panther stated that a buzzer has been installed at Town Hall (north entrance) which allows those not able to use the Town Hall front door entrance to simply press the back door buzzer which will be answered by a Town Hall employee. Plans are being made to have two parking areas by Town Hall's north door—one of which will be a handicapped space.

Environmental Board – Susan Mihalo stated that members of the Board will be working on the Town's MS4 exemption (storm water handling). Susan stated that there may be several invasive plants in Town and pictures and information regarding these will be put on the website.

## **CLAIMS**

Allen Johnson moved that the April, 2014 claims be approved as submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer. Paul Panther seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Paul Panther gave a review of the deer cull and stated that 32 deer were culled. He stated that the National Lakeshore had two culling days on the west end of Town and culled 20 deer.

Bill Gregory discussed the new agreement form for renting the Community Room. He indicated that adjustments may be made to it in the future; however, he would like the Council to approve the form as is for immediate use. **Allen Johnson moved that new Community Room Rental Agreement form (Revised March 2014) be approved as submitted. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimous passed.** Bill Gregory urged residents to stop at Town Hall and pick up a copy of this agreement should they be considering rental of the Community Room in the future.

Bill Gregory stated that the Joint Operating/Teaming Agreement between the Town of Ogden Dunes and the ODVFD will not be discussed tonight as the ODVFD attorney is still reviewing the agreement.

**Bill Gregory read Ordinance 798 (Homeowner/Tenant Utilities-Sanitation) for the second reading. Paul Panther moved that Ordinance 798 be approved as read. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously passed.**

Bill Gregory read Ordinance 797 for the first reading. Mike Teeling, Water Works, gave a presentation concerning the reasons for the increase in late fees and NSF fees set forth in the ordinance. He stated that approximately 100 households have delinquent water bills and the increase in late fees is necessary to give them an incentive to pay. The increase in the NSF fee to \$27.50 is a State guideline.

Bill Gregory read Ordinance 799 and stated that the information in this ordinance was already approved at a December 2013 Town Council meeting and is now being put into ordinance form. **Paul Panther moved to approve Ordinance 799 as read and Allen Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.** Charlie Costanza questioned the additional \$20.00 per quarter that homeowners were being charged for sanitation. Bill Gregory stated that Ordinance 799 spells out all the additional costs and services that are included in this extra charge which amounts to approximately \$6.50 per month per household which he and Allen Johnson feel is a reasonable amount for all the services residents receive.

Bill Gregory stated that Dr. Ken Thompson has resigned from the Building Code Committee and a posting will be on the website for volunteers to replace him.

A discussion was held on the "Shared Ethics Advisory Commission". Paul Panther supplied all Town Council members and the Clerk-Treasurer with a packet to review regarding this organization. Paul stated that several steps are needed before the Town can join this organization and urged the Town Council members to review all the materials before the May Town Council meeting. **A motion was made by Allen Johnson to proceed with an examination of the pros and cons of membership in the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Bill Gregory discussed the proposal for staggered terms presented by the General Code Review Committee. Bill stated that if staggered terms were implemented, the potential for previous Town Council experience is greater. As it stands now, all Town Council members and the Clerk-Treasurer are elected at the same time and that creates the potential that all members could be new with no experience. Bill stated that the staggered terms information will be available on the Town website for resident comments.

Bill Gregory discussed the request from the Water Works to purchase a new server computer and an update to Windows 8. Windows XP which now exists on the Town Hall computers will no longer be supported by Microsoft. The total cost of the server and software is estimated at \$2168.37 by Brainstorm Computers, the Town's current computer repair service. **Paul Panther moved to allocate \$2,500 for this project of which the Town would pay one-half and the Water Works would pay one-half. Allen Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Street Department submitted a request for a new chipper at a cost of \$32,959.00 as the old chipper is in need of major repairs. The new chipper would be purchased on a three year lease-to-buy contract with a down payment of \$11,296.00. The old chipper will be advertised for sale. **Paul Panther moved to purchase the new chipper from Brown Equipment, Inc. in Fort Wayne, Indiana at a total equipment cost of \$32,959.00 plus interest on the lease. Charlie Costanza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Bill Gregory discussed the pending upgrade of the Town Hall phone system. He requested that the Clerk-Treasurer and Marshal Reeder review the phone proposals received from NACR and Frontier and report at the May meeting.

**Bill Gregory stated a letter was received from Judith Stiles regarding funds needed for the Town Clean-Up Weekend in the amount of \$100.00. This money will be used for promotional flyers . Allen Johnson moved that the Town fund \$100 for promotional flyers for Town Clean-Up Weekend. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

#### **RESIDENT REMARKS**

Mike Schaefer spoke and thanked Dorothy Kurtz for all her volunteer work for the Town. He also encouraged all residents to recycle.

Mark Coleman stated that he would like access to our Town by way of the mill bridge instead of waiting for trains. He also questioned the extra sanitation charge to all residents.

#### **COUNCIL REMARKS**

Charlie Costanza spoke on the deer cull and accepting the bike trail in exchange for an exit on Boat Club Road.

Allen Johnson stated that residents do not want a bike trail through the Town.

Paul Panther stated the Town will continue working with the new Superintendent at the National Lakeshore concerning the use of Boat Club Road.

Tom Clouser stated that the Street Department has requested that no rocks be placed with branches for pick-up as the rocks will damage/break the blades of the equipment. Residents should separate branches from leaves – two separate piles.

No further business coming before the Council, Paul Panther moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Clouser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Bill Gregory, President

ATTEST:

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Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer