

**OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 28, 2016 – 9:30 A.M.
TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Tim Nelson
Kathy Kniola
Scott Lehmann
Nate Ball
Michael Webber

Kathy Kniola discussed the selection process for the Street Department position. She stated that Ben Newton is recommended for the position of Senior Maintenance with Jim Matthys continuing as Street Department Superintendent on a part-time basis for a transitional period. Kathy Kniola made the motion for the Council to extend an offer of employment to Ben Newton for the position of Senior Maintenance, full-time, along with an offer to Jim Matthys for a modified employment status whereby he will be a Street Department Superintendent on a part-time basis. Mike Webber seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. Nate Ball made a motion to approve Ordinance 817 on the first reading. Scott Lehmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. Tim Nelson read Ordinance 817 in its entirety. Nate Ball moved to approve Ordinance 817 as read. Kathy Kniola seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved. Kathy Kniola made a motion for the salary amounts of \$15.75 per hour payable to Ben Newton as a full-time employee and \$40.00 per hour payable to Jim Matthys as a part-time employee. Nate Ball seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Tim Nelson gave an update on the emergency exit. He stated that a meeting will be held with Congressman Pete Visclosky on July 20, 2016 in order to bring him up to date on the Town's need for an emergency exit. Tim also stated that in June he and Kathy, as new Council members, will be meeting with Superintendent, Paul Labovitz of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park as a "meet and greet".

Tim Nelson stated that he and Jim Combs will be meeting the Army Corp of Engineers on Friday, June 3, 2016 to discuss the beach erosion situation.

Discussion was held on implementing "standards" for the Town in respect to public signs (except where mandated by State law), benches, structures, and other items where the historic character of Ogden Dunes can be preserved. Nate Ball indicated that these ideas were presented to the Building Code Review Committee and will be presented to the General Code Committee. Scott Lehmann encouraged all council members acting as liaisons to further socialize the ideas with other groups through committee meetings and discussions.

Discussion was held on short-term rentals by homeowners in our Town. It was established that no actual ordinance exists. The enforcement of short-term rentals has been based on the Indiana Supreme Court case (Siwinski vs Town of Ogden Dunes - 2011) which ruled in favor of the Town. Tim Nelson stated that he will review the court case.

Clerk-Treasurer requested and received permission to contact a cleaning source for the Community Room.

Nate Ball gave updates on the following topics. The General Code Committee is working on updating our Town's sign ordinance. In conjunction with the sign ordinance, local real estate agents will be contacted to discuss the Committee's proposed changes to their signs. Nate also discussed our existing nuisance property codes. Mike Falk, Plan Commission, has stated that the code is hard to enforce. It was suggested that the Building Code Review Committee make recommendations to the current code to include stronger, enforceable wording. Mike Falk and Herb Craig may go to Indianapolis to determine why our building codes have not been approved by Homeland Security. Nate Ball stated that the Town Council needs to appoint a subcommittee to update the Master Plan which has not been updated since 1993.

Both Nate Ball and Mike Webber stated that they have received numerous resident calls asking that dogs be allowed on the beach during the summer months. It was decided that the Council will consider an amended ordinance on a trial basis. Clerk-Treasurer has been instructed to draft an amendment to the current "dogs on the beach" ordinance which would allow dogs during the months of May 1 to October 1 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. only.

Eric Kurtz, who was present at this meeting, stated that the next Fire Training is scheduled to begin soon and asked that the Council advise Street Department personnel to attend. The Fire Department will pay the cost of the training leaving only the hourly wage cost to the Town. Eric suggested that since the course is at night, employees could start work later in the morning to eliminate overtime hours.

Eric Kurtz discussed the pending plans for renovation of the Fire Station and Community Room. He presented his "wish list" which consists of adding a pole barn to accommodate an office for the Fire Chief, new bathrooms for the Community Room, showers for the firemen and additional storage space for the Fire Department. It was suggested that renovation of the existing bathrooms should be kept to a minimum dollar amount should Eric's "wish list" come to fruition.

Kathy Kniola discussed the current INDOT grants now available to all municipalities. She suggested that Ogden Dunes apply for these funds to use for striping our roads. The Clerk-Treasurer has been instructed to go forward with the forms necessary to apply for these funds.

No further business coming before the Council, Nate Ball moved to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Kniola seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Tim Nelson, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer