

**TOWN OF DUNE ACRES
COUNCIL MINUTES
July 21, 2020**

The Town of Dune Acres Town Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at the Clubhouse. Council President Richard Hawksworth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with Council Members Peter Bomberger and Alexander Stemer, Clerk-Treasurer Jeannette Bapst and Attorney Adam Mindel representing Dan Whitten in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the minutes for the June 18, 2020, Town Council Meeting be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

BANK BALANCES 06/30/2020

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Porter State Bank | \$ 136,380.04 |
| Trust Indiana | \$ 357,848.33 |
| | |
| Record Balance | \$ 494,228.37 |

*Those funds marked with an asterisk are designated monies and can only be spent for the designated purpose.

**BREAK DOWN OF FINANCES AMONG FUNDS
As of June 30, 2020**

| FUNDS | CASH BALANCE 06-30-20 | APP BAL. | % Left |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------|
| GENERAL | 176,317.99 | \$235,683 | 56 |
| MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY | 5,005.39 | \$12,333 | 20 |
| LOCAL ROAD & STREET | 14,780.63 | \$36 | 0 |
| MOTOR VEHICLE HWY RESTRICT | 5,719.64 | | |
| PARK & RECREATION | 51,494.59 | \$8,937 | 79 |
| RAINY DAY FUND | 110,000.00 | \$50,000 | 100 |
| CCI | 760.82 | | |
| CCD | 15,691.71 | \$1,906 | 6 |
| CEDIT | 20,669.25 | \$15,365 | 76 |
| RIVERBOAT REVENUE SHARING | 332.29 | \$1,500 | 60 |
| Donations* | 33,688.40 | | |
| Clubhouse Dune Grant* | .00 | | |
| Construction Security Dep* | 40,000.00 | | |
| SalesTaxClubHouseRental* | 214.25 | | |
| ClubHouseRentalDeposit* | 3,300.00 | | |
| Local Road & Bridge Grant* | 14,740.76 | | |
| TOTAL FUNDS | \$ 492,715.72 | | |

Clerk-Treasurer Bapst presented the June month-end financial report. It was moved and seconded to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

It was moved and seconded that claims for the month of July, 2020, #6870 - #6906, in the amount of \$83,702.18 be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

FEMA: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED LAKESHORE FLOODPLAIN DESIGNATION: Correspondence received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding the public comment period on the proposed revised floodplain designation along the Lake Michigan shoreline was shared with residents. Both construction oversight and flood insurance rates are associated with the designation. Residents seeking flood insurance options were encouraged to contact their insurance agents for access to the lower, grandfathered rates currently in effect. The map and notification letter are available at the Dune Acres town hall.

EPA: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED NIPSCO BAILLY ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION: Correspondence received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the public comment period on the proposed remediation plan for a section of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company's (NIPSCO) Bailly generating plant property was shared. The EPA had mailed all Dune Acres residents the proposed plan. Meeting discussion focused on methods and scope of the cleanup. Some believed the proposed remediation was not adequate, while others felt it was the only viable option and reasonable relative to human health concerns.

Council Member Stemer said all or part of the Bailly site may at some point become part of the Indiana Dunes National Park, and the Town should support this possible park expansion.

EMERGENCY ACCESS GATE PROTOCOL: Discussion was held regarding residents' concerns that the emergency access gate located at the end of East Road, on the town's easement over the 86 East Road Quinn property, is not being opened when needed during emergencies due to Easement Agreement limitations. Cited was the July 19th car accident on Mineral Springs Road and Rt 12. During the emergency response, residents who were westbound on Rt 12 waited 55 minutes to reach town. The emergency gate, which could have provided an alternate route, was not opened due to Agreement constraints. The Council instructed Attorney Mindel to initiate discussion with Quinn's counsel to review emergency protocols and Agreement language.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

BEACH: Beach Commissioner Rob Carstens commended recent communication efforts aimed at improving dog activity at town beaches. He said leash signs at the beach have made a difference with dog owners responding positively. Council President Hawksworth asked that the dog control issue be monitored, and if residents continue to oblige by keeping pets 'under direct control' as defined in Ordinance, stricter measures may not be necessary.

Carstens stated July 3rd fireworks were well attended and enjoyed by residents. Jim Mayhercy, 1 Beach Drive, shared his concerns that for the second year, significant amounts of fireworks ash and embers have fallen on his roof and yard. He hoped the situation would be remedied.

Carstens said he had been asked about purchasing a portable walkway for East Beach to improve access for those with limited mobility. Carstens recommended a roll-up PVC mat system estimated to cost \$5,000 that would run approximately 150 feet from the parking lot toward the water. Carstens was instructed to secure a sample of the walkway, and if deemed appropriate for the site, the Council would request DACIF funding for the project. Matting for a short section of Ridge Beach was also suggested.

Establishing a designated town swimming beach where motorized watercraft would be prohibited was discussed. The designation would require approvals from multiple agencies with lakeshore oversight. Carstens was asked to research requirements, with an initial, limited focus on Ridge Beach.

BUILDING: Discussion was held regarding contractors starting work prior to 7:00 a.m. and working after 7:00 p.m., in violation of town Ordinance. Building Commissioner Tom Roberts will be notified of reported violations and asked to contact contractors.

MAINTENANCE: Maintenance Commissioner Dick Taylor reported on improvements being made to drainage on Ridge Drive.

ENVIRONMENTAL: Environmental Commissioner Robin Tennant requested authorization to conduct a modified fall Town Cleanup that would comply with COVID-19 health safety guidelines. Town Council Member Stemer commented on area COVID-19 statistics, mask and social distance requirements, and outdoor vs. indoor events. The Council agreed by consensus to approve the Town Cleanup for Saturday, October 17, 2020.

SECURITY: Security Commissioner Bill Griffin recommended hiring Steven Claar as Security employee. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

Excessive traffic at the gatehouse roadway was then discussed. Council Member Stemer shared his concern about residents waiting in line to enter town, behind national park visitors who are being re-directed to public parking sites. He said town residents should have priority, with visitors secondary. All agreed the problem of more traffic than the small roadway can safely accommodate will continue, and probably get worse over time. Closing the Cowles Bog parking lot was discussed. Stemer and Griffin will conduct an on-site review aimed at establishing a passing protocol whereby entering resident vehicles may bypass waiting cars when so directed by security. Other options may also be explored.

ROADS: Bapst reported the July 1st Community Crossing Road Grant application call was postponed by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) because of tax revenue shortfalls from the COVID-19 emergency. INDOT will review fund balances again in September 2020 and January 2021, and then announce whether grants will be offered for 2021 road projects.

Bapst updated the Council on town road projects completed the past four years, noting \$606,041 in Community Crossings grants had been received.

OLD BUSINESS

Ridge Beach Deck – DACIF Funding Approved. The Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation (DACIF) had approved funding the 8'x12' Ridge Beach deck, with completion expected the end of July.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economics Security Act Grant. Bapst reported the town received reimbursement for the full amount of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economics Security Act grant totaling \$5,904.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Budget Workshop: Bapst presented the draft 2021 budget to the Council and asked for feedback prior to the Budget Public Hearing scheduled for August 18, 2020.

Resolution #2020-03, Vacation Pay: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution #2020-03 Vacation Pay. Motion passed unanimously. The resolution authorizes customary vacation pay, per Ordinance, to qualifying maintenance and security employees.

Deer Cull, 2021 Winter Season: The Council announced intent to conduct a deer cull in Dune Acres during this upcoming 2021 winter season. Two comments were received from meeting attendees. Mary Chuman, 64 East Road, asked that culling take place only in 'non-residential' areas of town. Michael Yetnikoff, 1 Cypress, said he was uniformly opposed to a cull, citing his objection to the public discharge of firearms. Council members said the cull would be in compliance with Indiana Department of Natural Resources guidelines and with attention paid to residents' safety concerns. It was moved and seconded to conduct a deer cull. Motion passed unanimously. Additional resident input will be accepted going forward. Information on the cull timeline, procedures and locations will be shared with residents when available.

Ordinance 2020-02, Chapter 7, Special Events Permits, First Reading: Following discussion, Ordinance 2020-02 First Reading was tabled until the August 18, 2020 Town Council meeting. Revisions based on resident and Council Member comments will be incorporated into proposed language. The Ordinance creates a town permit process for special events.

Vaccine Clinic, 9-12-2020: Town Wellness Coordinator Sharon Tutlewski had requested authorization to conduct the annual vaccine clinic in Dune Acres on September 12, 2020. It was agreed by consensus to authorize the clinic.

OTHER BUSINESS: none

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council and 2021 Budget Hearing are at 7:00 PM, August 18, 2020 at the Clubhouse

RICH HAWKSWORTH, Town Council President

PETER BOMBERGER, Town Council Member

ALEXANDER STEMER, Town Council Member

JEANNETTE E. BAPST, Clerk-Treasurer

CLAIMS FOR JULY 2020

| <u>CLAIMANT</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Payroll, Gross | July payroll, gross | \$ 16,512.97 |
| Payroll, Net | July payroll, net | \$ 13,223.93 |
| Indiana Dept of Revenue | July payroll, state w/h | \$ 775.20 |
| EFTPS | July payroll, fed w/h, fica/med | \$ 3,777.10 |
| Frontier | Phone and Internet | \$ 64.95 |
| Comcast | Phone and Internet | \$ 129.64 |
| NIPSCO | Gas and Electric | \$ 16.11 |
| Duneland Landscape | Circle/Beach Stairs | \$ 11,913.07 |
| Indiana Dept of Transp | Community Crossings Refund | \$ 14,740.50 |
| Town of Dune Acres | Grant Fund Closeout | \$ 0.26 |
| Town of Dune Acres | Employee Donation, Fireworks | \$ 300.00 |
| Republic | Waste Service | \$ 105.00 |
| Frontier | Phone and Internet | \$ 100.03 |
| NIPSCO | Gas and Electric | \$ 547.84 |
| NIPSCO | Tennis Court | \$ 44.96 |
| Nathaniel Pilla | Nature Program | \$ 150.00 |
| Town of Dune Acres | CARES Act Fund Adjustment | \$ - |
| Capital One VISA | Security Monitor, Clubhouse Fuses | \$ 540.39 |
| Duneland Landscape | Ridge Beach Stairs and Pathway | \$ 5,607.80 |
| Jeaneen Dougherty | Vehicle lamp | \$ 10.36 |
| Martin Security | Clubhouse and Town Hall Monitor | \$ 385.00 |
| Melrose Pyrotechnics | Fireworks | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Menards, Portage | Supplies | \$ 349.73 |
| Pinkerton Oil | Vehicle Fuel | \$ 326.68 |
| Pride Toilet | East Beach Toilet | \$ 120.00 |
| Professional Pest Mgmt | Pest Management | \$ 50.00 |
| Reeders Auto Service | Oil Change, Mtc | \$ 71.94 |
| Riggs Outdoor Power | Chain Saw Mtc | \$ 205.91 |
| South Shore Marina | Buoy Install and Equipment | \$ 3,301.50 |
| Tilden Enterprises | Supplies | \$ 62.95 |
| Dan Whitten | Legal, 2Q and hourly | \$ 3,100.00 |
| Menards, Michigan City | Supplies | \$ 101.94 |
| Jeannette Bapst | Nature Program Expense | \$ 27.93 |
| Indiana American Water | Water | \$ 75.50 |
| Jenny Carey | Clubhouse Deposit Return | \$ 600.00 |
| Comcast | Phone and Internet | \$ 303.90 |
| Hopkins Ace Hardware | Supplies | \$ 59.09 |
| TOTAL July, 2020 | | \$ 83,702.18 |