

**TOWN OF DUNE ACRES
COUNCIL MINUTES
November 18, 2025**

The Town of Dune Acres Town Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at the Clubhouse. Council President Richard Hawksworth called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., with Council members Alexander Stemer and Paul Woidke; Clerk-Treasurer Bonnie Hawksworth; and Town Attorney Adam Mindel in attendance. Commissioners present were Lee McKinley (Security), and Shawn Fitzpatrick (Parks).

The meeting was broadcast live and recorded via Zoom. The recording will be archived online for 90 days and can be accessed via this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zFd50yorcE09KyjXp-gDB_MZ8oNo2tdZUceOo75F6MsaD7Vg6Jfi_09wB4gGIQqz.L3gYgR61Ffcm9cJF
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There was a motion and second to approve the minutes from the October 21st meeting; the vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Clerk-Treasurer Hawksworth presented the October month-end financial report. The combined bank account balance as of October 31 is \$661,434.52. Year-to-date revenue is \$773,352.83.

The Town received its 1782 Notice that authorized the budget for 2026. All budgets were approved as filed. We are calculated to receive all the levy we planned for 2026 which is good.

It was moved and seconded to approve the financial report. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

Clerk-Treasurer Hawksworth asked the Town Council to approve Accounts Payable Vouchers for November (http://duneacres.org/apv/apv_2025-11.pdf) totaling \$54,857.33. This includes fall chipping, storm drain clearing, and the annual accounting software fee, in addition to the typical monthly expenditures. It was moved and seconded to approve the APVs. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

TRAIN CROSSING

Since the October meeting, the Mineral Springs Road crossing has been blocked eleven times, for a total of approximately 5 hour and 45 minutes—an average of 31 minutes per incident. This represents a significant increase compared to recent months and among the worst since we began tracking incidents in the Spring of 2024.

TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

Based on community feedback, we have developed an RFP to solicit proposals for community-wide trash and recycling collection. As we've reported previously, our current vendor has provided very good service, and inconsistent billing from household to household. The current vendor will be invited to submit a proposal along with several other providers.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

The town continues to analyze the potential impact of Senate Enrolled Act 1, which impacts how property and income taxes are collected and distributed. On top of the expectation of stalled revenue growth in the coming years, we currently lack reliable state revenue projections for 2026, 2027, and 2028. A new annual adoption process for the income tax introduces more instability, particularly for communities under 3,500. Accelerating Indiana Municipalities — the association that represents Indiana cities and towns — is preparing a list of proposed legislative changes to be considered next year.

CALUMET BIKE TRAIL

The county installed caution signs on Mineral Springs Road, both north and south of the bike trail, but they have not provided additional safety signage or bollards on the trail itself. I was scheduled to talk to the National Park about maintenance at the road/trail intersection in October, but that was postponed due to the government shutdown and will be rescheduled for early December.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

BEACH: President Hawksworth noted that beach season will end by December 1st; boats and personal items must be removed before this time.

BUILDING: President Hawksworth presented a request for Building Permit 2025-33 (8 Shore Drive, deck repair). A motion and second was made to approve this request. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed. Building Commissioner Tom Roberts requested Occupancy Permit 2025-01 for 18 West Road pending their landscaping work to be completed this spring. A motion and second was made to approve this request contingent on Plan Commission sign off, and landscaping completion. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

ENVIRONMENT: None.

FIRE: Clerk-Treasurer Hawksworth presented the Fire Contract with the Town of Porter to cover the period from 2026-2029. It was moved in seconded to approve the contract pending Attorney Adam Mindel's review. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

MAINTENANCE: Commissioner Dick Taylor reported on progress on the Clubhouse, and suggested that future strategic planning would be advantageous for the town as a whole. President Hawksworth suggested that an update to the Comprehensive Plan would be a good next step.

PARKS: Commissioner Shawn Fitzpatrick reported that he received a quote for tennis court crack repair from a new potential vendor to be considered this spring. There was good response to the survey and meeting regarding the Town park area. These will be summarized and provided in advance of the next Town Council meeting. There will be a Turkey Trot race to be held over the Thanksgiving holiday. The council agreed by consensus.

ROADS: None.

SECURITY: Commissioner Lee McKinley reported that the security team is functioning well, and the leadership team will manage staff re-training to cover emergency protocols, parking permits, and professionalism.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance 2025-02, 2026 Salary Schedule, Second Reading: President Hawksworth conducted the second reading of Ordinance 2025-02, which includes the 2026 salaries for town employees. There was a motion and second to approve the second reading. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

Garbage Services: President Hawksworth reviewed a draft RFP for town-wide service for waste removal with uniform, tiered pricing for all residents. It was moved and seconded to distribute the RFP. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Deer Cull: President Hawksworth recommended that the Town participate in the aerial census in 2026 to determine next steps.

Resolution 2025-04, Holiday Pay: President Hawksworth presented a resolution for 2025 holiday pay for the security and maintenance staff. There was a motion and second to approve the resolution. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

Clubhouse Rentals: Requests were submitted for Clubhouse rentals on 11-22-25, 12-31-25, and 4-11-26. There was a motion and second to approve the requests. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion carried.

Westchester Township Road Infrastructure Fund: It was moved and seconded to accept the Westchester Township Road Infrastructure funds. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

DACIF: DACIF has approved up to \$7,000 in funding for refurbishment of the Clubhouse windows. The organization also agreed to fund and construct a kayak rack at the Hill Drive beach access for in-season storage of kayaks.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next regular meeting of the Town Council is on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at the Clubhouse.

RICHARD HAWKSWORTH, Town Council President

PAUL WOIDKE, Town Council Member

ALEXANDER STEMER, Town Council Member

BONNIE HAWKSWORTH, Clerk-Treasurer