

**TOWN OF DUNE ACRES
COUNCIL MINUTES - DRAFT
May 19, 2026**

The Town of Dune Acres Town Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at the Clubhouse. Council President Richard Hawksworth called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm., with Council members Alex Stemer and Paul Woidke; Clerk-Treasurer Bonnie Hawksworth; and Town Attorney Adam Mindel in attendance. Commissioners present were Shawn Fitzpatrick (Parks) and Dick Taylor (Maintenance).

The meeting was broadcast live and recorded via Zoom. The recording will be archived online for 90 days and can be accessed at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/d5QJNqgesjJIQ3Y9YePzj_ssX-yZC8Iu-vnDV9YBRyoVA6vVPVtXvxhN7w2Ygc6i.BeF_N-iu-uSpbXIU

Passcode: @CjR0+X#

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Clerk-Treasurer Hawksworth presented the April month-end financial report. The combined bank account balance as of April 30 is \$660,317.54. At this point in the year, approximately 35% of our budget has been expended. Year-to-date revenue is \$125,253.63.

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 May in the amount of \$56,357.95 (http://duneacres.org/apv/apv_2026-05.pdf). This includes a refund of the construction deposit for 18 West Road/Snyder, which was approved by Tom Roberts, Building Commissioner at the time of construction. It was moved and seconded to approve the APVs. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

TRAIN CROSSING

Since the meeting, the Mineral Springs Road crossing has been blocked three times, for a total of 239 minutes. A commuter train blocked the tracks this morning for 35 minutes, the first commuter train blockage in our log.

BUILDING PERMITS

New building permits are being developed to comply with new state statutes and to streamline our internal review. There will be a three-track protocol for building permits, One track will be for building only projects such as interior remodels, one track for projects that also require plan commission approval, and one that covers demolition, earthworks, tree cutting, and other activities. These will be circulated to the building commissioner and plan commission for review and comment.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS

Property tax assessments should have been received recently. Residents are urged to review the information and valuations carefully to ensure they are taking advantage of any available deductions, including homestead, senior citizen, veteran. We are currently in the second year of a five year transition period. This year, residents should see a standard homestead deduction of \$48,000, a supplemental homestead deduction of 40% of the gross assessed value up to \$600k, and a supplemental homestead credit of \$300.

PARKING PERMITS AND PASSES

Residents will be able to apply for resident parking permits and guest parking passes beginning on Sunday, May 24. An online application will be available this year and residents can also download a printable form and submit it to the clerk's office.

An email will be distributed with links to both applications. Residents can visit town hall to bring documentation or payment, if required, and to pick up stickers on
Tuesday, May 26 from 10-noon
Thursday May 28 from 5-7

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Total Disposal will begin servicing the town on June 2. More than 40 residents responded to recent emails and were directed to contact the vendor directly. Interested households should call (219) 944-1800 — be sure to mention you are a Dune Acres resident to receive preferred rates.

ROADS

The state has moved to a once annual Community Crossings grant cycle. The next deadline for submission is at the end of September. I met with David Kudrna to discuss flooding at the tennis courts, which will require infrastructure work. David has agreed to obtain PASER certification, which is now required by the state. PASER is the system for annually reviewing and rating the condition of roadways.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

BEACH: None

BUILDING: The council members reviewed

Building Permit 2026-011

5 Summit Drive
Renewal by Andersen
\$69,719.68
Window and door replacement.

Building Permit 2026-12

27 Crest Drive
Advanced Skyline Homes
\$150,000.00
New garage. Reviewed and approved by plan commission.

There was a motion and second to approve permits 2026-011 and 2026-12. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

ENVIRONMENT: None

FIRE: None

MAINTENANCE:

Commissioner Taylor suggested that the boardwalk at the bottom of the Circle to Beach drive stairs be extended to the parking area. Council President Hawksworth said he would check the specs of the original job and would ask vendor for a quote.

PARKS:

Commissioner Fitzpatrick reported that the tennis court resurfacing will take place on June 2nd. The pickleball nets have been set up. Regarding the playground proposal, Fitzpatrick provided answers to several Town Council questions via email prior to the meeting.

Council President Hawksworth asked Council Mindel to assess requirements for cooperative purchasing in Indiana to determine if a council resolution is required.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick asked if making a decision at the June meeting was realistic. President Hawksworth stated that the council is looking forward to receiving answers to all its questions and said that the council has a duty to the taxpayers to ensure a thorough vetting of such a significant investment. He added that the interest of the council is not just to scrutinize the proposed quote, but to make sure the investment and community need are aligned.

ROADS: None

SECURITY: President Hawksworth reported on staffing for security. With Lee McKinley vacating the Security Commissioner position, Hawksworth suggested that Roger Goode, Chief of Security, could report directly to the council, rather than through a commissioner. Both Councilmember Woidke and Councilmember Stemer commented positively on the idea. Clerk-Treasurer Hawksworth will inquire with Shepherd Insurance whether there would be any coverage issues related to the proposal. President Hawksworth asked Council Mindel to investigate the legal implications.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Oak Drive Stair Project: President Hawksworth presented an estimate from Duneland Landscape for the construction of new stairs, boardwalk, and landing at the Oak Drive beach access. The quoted cost is \$42,930.53. Hawksworth recommended the proposal be accepted and that funds be requested from DACIF. He stated that the town could not undertake the project with the playground discussion in limbo, but would reassess should DACIF deny the request. It was moved and seconded to accept the proposal and make the request. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

Municipal Garbage Service: President Hawksworth presented comparative pricing for the municipal garbage collection.

- Republic Services: \$321/monthly \$3852/annually
- Total Disposal: \$232/monthly (April - September); \$150/monthly (October - March) \$2292/annually

Hawksworth stated that switching service to Total Disposal would save the town more than \$1560 annually. Councilmember Stemer suggested staying with Republic Services until the council could assess resident satisfaction with Total's service. Councilmember Woidke made a motion to approve the change in service to Total. There was no second. The motion died.

Draft Ordinance, Stormwater Retention: President Hawksworth re-presented the draft stormwater retention ordinance that was initially presented in September 2025. Hawksworth stated it would give the town authority to compel a resident whose stormwater discharge was negatively impacting public or private property to take steps to mitigate the discharge.

Councilmember Stemer suggested the Roads Commissioner should consider repaving roads where private stormwater discharge is an issue. Hawksworth noted that designing roads specifically to mitigate one problem often invites others, calling it "whack-a-mole."

2027 Budget Calendar: Clerk-Treasurer Hawksworth presented the 2027 Budget Calendar. There will be a Budget Workshop at the July 21 Town Council meeting. The Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 18, followed by the Budget Adoption on September 15. There was a motion and second to approve the schedule. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next regular meeting of the Town Council is on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at the Clubhouse.

PAUL WOIDKE, Town Council Member

ALEXANDER STEMER, Town Council Member

BONNIE HAWKSWORTH, Clerk-Treasurer