

**TOWN OF DUNE ACRES
COUNCIL MINUTES
September 19, 2006**

The Town of Dune Acres Town Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at the Town Hall. President John Wilhelm called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm with Councilpersons Lou Roberts, Clerk-Treasurer Beverly Hubbs, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Sherry King, and Town Attorney Dan Whitten in attendance. Ben Bolton was not present. John Wilhelm opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and then extended thanks to Lou Roberts for her leadership and service as president for the past 16 months..

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Lou Roberts moved that the minutes for August 15, 2005 be approved, John Wilhelm seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented. The minutes for the September 5, 2006 budget hearing was presented, Lou Roberts moved that they be approved, John seconded, and they were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF August 31, 2006:

Porter Bank - Checking	\$ 161190.62
Fifth Third - High Int. Checking	\$ 55832.20
Chase Bank - Savings	\$ 130700.83
Adjustment	\$ -159.00
Fifth Third Service Charges	\$ 37.44
Record Balance	\$ 347602.09

Clerk-Treasurer Sherry King reported that she had moved funds from Fifth Third Bank to Horizon because the interest to be earned was higher. The funds were placed in a 90-day CD.

Lou Roberts moved that the financial report be approved as presented, John Wilhelm seconded, and the financial report was approved unanimously.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

It was decided that the new VCR purchased for the security system at the Gatehouse would be charged to the Roads Fund. After discussion of other individual claims Lou Roberts moved that the vouchers for September be accepted, John Wilhelm seconded and the motion passed.

Lou Roberts reported that she attended a meeting at which Governor Daniels presented plaques representing the funds to be received by local government entities. Our funds will be in the amount of \$26,489.49. Dan Whitten said that the distribution is based on population correlated with the CREDIT fund.

CORRESPONDENCE:

John Wilhelm reported that the Porter County Visitors Commission is planning to bury a time capsule and is inviting every town to choose something which represents the Town to be enclosed in the capsule. John invited town residents to consider what that item might be.

John said that we had received correspondence from IACT about a grass roots effort called Home Town Matters seeking ways to raise money for local governance. He said that town officials will look into this further before responding.

The Porter Beach Homeowners Association sent a letter inviting us to join them in an effort to provide services for elderly or disabled residents.

A letter from the Bombergers requested repairs of the damage done by Indiana American Water when new pipes were installed.

The Porter Fire Department wrote thanking Dune Acres for the donation in appreciation of their services at the fireworks in July.

Sherry King presented an announcement of the ice cream social benefiting the Boys and Girls Club in Chesterton on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at 135 Lincoln Street, Chesterton from 5 to 7 p.m. Please RSVP by 09/22/2006.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FIRE:

John Wilhelm explained that the different colors on the caps of the hydrants around town represent the size of the main that serves the hydrant. He said that the code is uniform in all of the areas that Indiana American Water serves so that they always know the following:

Red means that the main is 6 inches in diameter or less

Orange means that the main is 8 or 10 inches

Green means that the main is 12 inches or larger

MUNICIPAL CODE:

Bill Nixon distributed the new Municipal Code books to the town officials present. He explained that he has negotiated an agreement that they will not charge us for 50 of the blank pages. The book has 278 pages but only 248 have printing. The final bill for the project will be \$1,931.73 due December 2007. He recommended that we buy 2 more books at a cost of \$170 so that we have a copy for Joan Rearick, secretary of the Plan Commission, and a copy to loan out. After the Code is adopted, Muni Corp will put it on the internet after which it can be posted on our web site. The Council thanked Bill for his untiring effort in this big task and asked that he stay with the project through the revisions and corrections which will continue. Bill also passed out a print of guidelines for what constitutes an ordinance for use in the future.

It was decided that the Code would not be adopted at this meeting because there were changes in fees and fines for which a public hearing should be held by the Plan Commission. This meeting will be set sometime before the October Council meeting so that the Code can be adopted at that meeting.

ROADS & ENGINEERING:

Irv Call reported that he is waiting to hear from contractors bidding on the work on Shore Drive. Sand from the Bapst property has been put on West Road and the curve there looks less dangerous with the extra sand. He said that the road near the Nowak property on Ridge Road will be shored up this fall but that he has no bids yet

Irv listed what he termed "annoyances" at the Clubhouse which he recommended be fixed. The kitchen door has no handle on the outside and opens the wrong way. Light switches around the building are too few and don't seem logical. Lights in the parking lot are not placed optimally.

He said that two tables have been repaired and new coasters were put on the bar so that it can roll more easily. The roof still leaks into the pantry and into the dumb waiter. The chair lift doesn't work.

John asked whether the reticulation pumps have been programmed. Irv said that he knows they work but not whether they are properly programmed. The abundance of rain lately means they haven't been needed.

PARK:

Lou Roberts reported for Kelly Klein. Rob Carstens is looking for a new liner for the hockey rink. Kelly Klawson is working on a design for more secure garbage cans. The tennis screens will be taken down soon.

BUILDING:

John Sullivan said that he has plans for the Quinn house and the Mark Phelps remodeling project. The Kramer remodeling project is going well. The Brewer project on Oak Drive is just about complete. The

Bates, who are remodeling on West Road, are nearly finished. The Bapst interior remodeling is nearly finished and the garage addition is well under way. Melons and Hawksworths are moving along on their projects.

He expressed concern that he had not seen a building permit for the McCahill project. Sherry King said that she will check what is needed before the permit can be issued and call John with the information.

John said that the Kudrna remodeling project is ready for inspection. He said that there have been numerous violations of the Town Ordinance 2004-1 governing the use of public roads during construction, in spite of numerous warnings. The Council asked the Town Attorney, Dan Whitten, to draft a citation in the form of a letter to the general contractor to be signed by John Sullivan listing the violations and requiring the \$50 fine be paid for each incident.

MAINTENANCE:

Mike Konapacki asked why we have two garbage companies servicing the Town. John Wilhelm said that this should be considered in the future in the interest of better service for residents.

Jeff Swoger thanked Cheryl Evans for the donated computer and said that the program for the pumps has been loaded and that Irv Call is working with it. He said there had been a couple of minor power outages, probably related to lightening, which blew a fuse and caused the lake pumps to go out.

Mary Ann Tittle reported that the request for historic landmark status for the Clubhouse has the first and second approvals and that we should hear in the next month or so whether it is successful.

POLICE:

Cecilia Call reported a problem with a broken water hose on the mule which has been fixed. She said that the welcome sign has been removed temporarily because it was blocking the view from the security office. There was some discussion of the placement. It will be relocated..

ENVIRONMENT:

Cheryl Evans reported that the Pitcher Thistle Grant fund has a balance of \$6,459.00 but that Casey Sullivan has done some clean-up work and will be paid from the fund when he is finished. She asked about some gouges on the new paving near the former Putnam property. John Wilhelm said that they should be repaired by the property owner.

WATER:

John Wilhelm said that Ben Bolton is working with American Water on plans for new lines on Ridge Road. Road work there has been postponed until after this project.

Irv Call discussed the need for another transformer and line at the pump house and the costs related to putting in a new pole and a third transformer for that purpose.

OLD BUSINESS:

John Wilhelm reported that the Council had respectfully declined the Lake Michigan Coastal grant, due to no volunteer manager and restrictive covenants.

Lou Roberts moved that the budget for 2007 be adopted as published and presented, John Wilhelm seconded. There were no questions from the floor and the motion passed.

Because the Municipal Code has increased fees and fines, it was agreed to set up a public hearing by the Plan Commission, possibly on October 9, after which the Council can have the final adoption at the October meeting.

Dan Whitten said that he can write an ordinance setting up a Rainy Day Fund which can be approved before the end of the year.

The Council approved attendance at the Keystone training program in October by Sherry King and Bev Hubbs.

NEW BUSINESS:

John Wilhelm described the Beacon Hill Project, which is modeled after a very successful program in Boston, MA. Dune Acres has been asked to provide \$100 to buy a resource guide in cooperation with Beverly Shores and Porter. The project would provide paid volunteer services to people who need help to be able to stay in their homes in spite of age or disability. It was decided that this money be allocated.

Building permits were requested for the John Quinn residence at 86 East Road and Mark Phelps residence at 9 Beach Road. Lou Roberts moved that both permits be approved based on approval by the Plan Commission. John seconded and the motion passed. The plans were signed by the Councilpersons present.

John Wilhelm said that Lou Roberts will head a group which will look at standards for signage around Town in the interest of more uniformity in color, plan, and appearance.

John reported that the Council is in the process of contracting for appraisals of all of the Town buildings.

John said that Commissioners have asked for a process to make it easier to communicate with the Council and he presented the following liaison assignments:

Ben Bolton

Maintenance Commissioner	Mike Konapacki
Beach Commissioner	Rob Castens
Park Commissioner	Kelly Klein
Water/Indian American Water Company	

Lou Roberts

Police Commissioner	Cecelia Call
Environmental Commissioner	Cheryl Evans
Clubhouse Commissioner	Rick Demkovich

John Wilhelm

Town Engineer	Irv Call
Road Commissioner	Irv Call
Fire Commissioner	Mark Hull
Municipal Code	Bill Nixon
Building Commissioner	John Sullivan

John Wilhelm reported that the planter at the Security Office will be modified but not removed. Attorney, Dan Whitten, said that he had submitted the two claims for damage to the planter to Anton Insurance in the expectation that they will be able to collect the funds without litigation.

John also said that a concrete foundation will be laid for the new clock in its present location.

Lou Roberts reported that the VNA will offer flu shots in Dune Acres on Saturday, December 2nd.

There was discussion from the floor about the condition of the Clubhouse and concern that it needs attention soon. John explained that we hope to receive historic landmark status in the near future, which will allow us to apply for major amounts of money in the form of grants. In the meantime, Irv Call was authorized to get bids for short term repairs, which he estimated in the range of \$2,000.

Mary Ann Tittle thanked Mike Konapacki for his work on the Shore Drive Easement. She said it has never looked so good.

Bill Nixon reminded us of the Fall Party on October 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.