



TOWN OF
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OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL—TOWN MEETING
August 3, 2026-- 7:00 P.M. in the Community Room & Via ZOOM

PRESENT: Dave Snyder
Bernadette Slawinski
Scott Kingan
John Hannon
Doug Cannon

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Approval of Town Meeting Minutes for: June 10th, Special meeting 2026

- Dave motioned to approve the minutes as presented. John seconded. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder- yes, John Hannon – yes, Doug Cannon- yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Scott Kingan—abstained.

No Claims were read.

DEPARTMENT and COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Dept.

- Jeremy reported 40 traffic stops. There were 35 ordinance violations which were mostly parking for July. So far this year, there have been 72 total. 42 have been paid resulting in \$8,450 in fines. A number of them have reached the 30-day deadline for payment. 16 overdue letters went out on 7/28
- advising of an increased fine--\$300.
- 3 Case reports were written: 2 thefts, 1 report of missing property.
- P1 dispatch system logged 259 calls for service.
- The new Police truck is in transit for delivery.

Building Dept

- Jeremy reported 98 building permits have been issued ytd bringing in \$106,901.00 in permit fees. 196 contractors have registered in Town. \$17,425.00 in fees have been collected.
- There is a new construction about to begin at 20 Hillcrest. There is also a complete renovation about to start at 42 Shore Dr.
- Scott asked about the status of the public hearing re: vacating easement at 49 Aspen?
- Jeremy said a public notice has been published-- advising of the hearing to occur during September meeting.

Street Dept.

- Mike Lanovich reported on June storm clean-up. It's required a lot of manpower and equipment use. They're making headway and tracking clean-up costs for budget purposes. Mike thinks clean-up is nearing completion.
- Regular street maintenance has resumed with trimming and mowing.

- Scott asked about the tractor? Mike explained efforts to get the CX80 tractor fixed. Problems with a broken actuator part is beyond an internal fix. He has reached out to Bane Welker in Lacrosse, IN—who after doing a thorough inspection, found a number of issues that needed to be done to overhaul and extend the life of the machine. A cost estimate for repairs is approx. \$22,000.
- Doug asked about issues with the 550 truck? Mike said it being a diesel truck makes the emissions more complicated.
- Due to all the heavy equipment usage, Scott would like to see a more thoughtful maintenance schedule created and followed for machinery and vehicles. Mike agrees and is committed to doing this. To that end, John complemented Mike for putting together an equipment report.
- Dave asked Scott if there's money in the budget for the expensive tractor repair? Scott said no, not in the budget. The Town has the money in the bank but it's earmarked for future capital improvements. It's likely that choices or offsets need to be made. Dave also wanted to know when we expected to get the tractor back? He has spotted locations that need clean-up that require the tractor for collection. Mike said he would know the answer by tomorrow but in the mean time they have been using the small rented skidster.
- Scott emphasized that we really need to know what the incremental wages are that are being spent above & beyond what has been budgeted for. We need to establish a baseline before we can project a budget for 2027.
- Bernadette asked about when we can take the Top kick truck to auction? Mike is making preparations and checking scheduled sales.
- Lastly, a meeting and walk through is scheduled later this week between Mike & Milestone engineer. The job is expected to begin in Sept.

Water Dept.

- Routine maintenance throughout the system is being conducted. 2 hydrant locations need attn.

Beach Nourishment

- Scott reported on news that Cleveland Cliffs filed for a permit to dredge sand. He has organized a petition signed by 40 residents to be filed with the DNR. He believes this will hopefully trigger a public hearing. The goal of the hearing would ultimately be to force the placement of this dredged sand on OD's beach.

Budget and Finance

- Scott says the next meeting will look carefully at the expenses we've incurred because of storm damage. We can't count on State or Federal money so we need to plan for that possibility.
- He wants the committee to update our 5-year CapEx Plan too.
- Dave brought up the matter of how much money has been spent on legal fees in the last 2 years. He thinks it's important to reach out to both the Town's law firms to give us up-to-date billing to avoid-- end of the year surprises. Much better to be proactive. Scott agrees and has directed the firms to change the billing cycle to monthly or bimonthly. No more carryover charges into the following year.

EAB

- Greg Mino, 3 Cedar Tr., updated on plans the committee has for use of the Community Fund Grant.
- He said they are focusing on three things to increase homeowner awareness regarding invasive plants. They would like to place some informative signage in the areas where clearing work is underway. They would also like to have a speaker series-- hosting experts. This would be a continuation of the successful event that occurred at the Hour Glass in early Spring. Third, they are considering a guided walk through Town to educate homeowners on examples of good plants as opposed to bad or invasive choices.

- Greg also talked about the renewal of our BirdTown status. To that end, he would like to partner with the Animal Committee on forming some messaging about outdoor cats.
- Lastly, he drew attn to the efforts of Karen Barrier who monitors water quality at our shoreline. Because of recent stormy weather, there have been some days where red alerts have shut down beach enjoyment.

Parks and Rec.

- John is recommending the appointment to the Park Board of Larry Costakis, 21 Beach LN. He has served before-- some years ago and is enthused about helping to maintain the newly designed play courts as well as the playgrounds.
- John motioned to approve the appointment. Scott seconded. **Roll Call:** John Hannon-yes, Scott Kingan-yes, Bernadette Slawinski-yes, Dave Snyder-yes, Doug Cannon-yes. Motion passed.
- Dave asked John about the rough condition of the playground at Long Lake Park. John agreed and has asked the board to form a plan and budget to rehab the entire space. Dave recommended a firm he's worked with in the past, in Illinois---New Toys Leisure Products. He thinks they could really help this process.
- Scott repeated his recommendation to reach out to Township Trustee Brendan Clancy when a Master Plan is in place.

Plan Commission

- Scott said a public hearing on House Bill 1001 will need to be scheduled for the October meeting.

Gen Code Review

- Jim Slawinski updated on recommendations the committee has for language changes in the Peddler's Ord.
- He focused on a license being granted only after our Town Marshall signs off on it. They also think some of our fees should be increased.
- Lastly, the time frame for permissible door-to-door solicitation would be 10am to 7pm daylight hours---different during winter. Saturday would be from 10 am to 1 pm. and no soliciting on Sundays.

Recognition

- Debbie Pratt was nominated by Donna Skeesick. For the past 12 years, she has done an outstanding job running the summer camp program for ODHA. The number of kids signing up as well as the number of young volunteers wishing to work has grown! There is great participation due to her leadership. She is going to be stepping down from this role so we congratulate and thank her! Trish Green will be taking her place next Summer. Thank you!

Women's Club

- They are accepting donations for the cost of the Reggae Band scheduled to perform on August 15th. Checks can be placed in the pink WC mailbox. This support is greatly appreciated!

OLD BUSINESS

Additional Storm Recap

- John shared details of the meeting between himself, Mike, Jeremy and Bernadette. It took place about a week ago to summarize where the Town is on expenditures and progress. He recommends another such meeting-- either this Friday or early next week. This is to get cost numbers tallied for budget purposes.

- Jeremy mentioned the temp speed bumps on Shore Dr. that never got placed. He does however plan to use them during the upcoming Gary Air and Water Show weekend.

Website Update

- Scott says the website was launched last Friday. They are working through some small transition bugs with some documents still not uploaded. He's pleased however with the more user-friendly look and functionality. Payment links and more Beach related content will be added too.

Town Hall Conference Room Rehab

- Bernadette briefed everyone regarding the allocated redo project. She passed out info material on costs and furnishing selections. The breakdown of costs would be: installed carpeting \$3,100, furniture—including 2 tables, 20 chairs and new cabinets = \$14,943. The total cost of these items would be approx. \$18,000.
- She reminded that money allocated for a project at the street garage will not be used. A portion of those funds can be added to the \$10,000 specifically earmarked for this project.
- Dave had questions about the placement of electrical outlets. He thinks that a proper install will add another 2,500 to the cost. He also feels that a designated laptop should be purchased for meetings. Adding these additional costs would bring the project to \$21,500.
- Scott has reservations about proceeding with this project when there are still so many variables that are unanswered-- regarding storm clean-up.
- Dave thinks that waiting until November would be prudent. It's a good worthwhile project but with a possible \$22,000 tractor repair looming-- along with other costs racking up, he thinks we should wait and make sure we can cover these bases.
- Bernadette thinks the council should look at this again next month because these are current prices for this year. She also doubts that volunteer help for painting will be available.
- John said he thought we should put this on next month's agenda & keep our fingers crossed that something develops with FEMA.

Access 2 Project

- Dave recapped last month's approval of expenditures. He said however that Doug's schedule is not going to allow him to work on this until January in the workshop.
- Doug also mentioned a possible redesign of the project
- Scott thought that if the Community Fund grant allows, there's no harm in making the build a winter project. The grant is earmarked for this purpose only.

IN Dept of Insurance Payout

- Amy explained the nature of the surprise payment. It's a result of an insurance pool the Town paid into many years ago. The IPSRMC pool is being dissolved by the Dept of Insurance. \$57,000+ is our town's share. We received word that this payment will be made in the next 30 days.
- Amy also shared that the Town received a P.O. from INDOT confirming transfer of \$324,339.60 to OD. We can move ahead with the CCMG repaving project. Some good news!

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of a NIH Research Study

- Allan Halline, 142 Shore Dr. briefed the council on a study being funded by NIH on the environmental pollution effects on community health near steel mills. He has been involved with this since last year when it only included Lake County. Purdue University is conducting the study which has expanded to include Porter County. The study aims to get more information on what's actually in our environment & the effects it may be having on our health. He is requesting the use of the Community Rm for a single Saturday each month so that

nurses from Purdue Northwest can take biologic samples from local participants of the study. He is also requesting a letter from the Town agreeing to allow use of the Community Room for this purpose.

- He'd then be recruiting participants in Town. Allan said, the commitment of the room, would last approx. a year.
- John thinks the study makes sense so he motioned to make the Community room available one day per month for a period of a year. Scott seconded. **Roll Call:** John Hannon-yes, Scott Kingan-yes, Bernadette Slawinski-yes, Dave Snyder-yes, Doug Cannon-yes. Motion approved.

Change in health benefits for Julia Klingensmith

- Bernadette explained that Julia is turning 65 and is eligible to receive Medicare. She has asked the Town to continue to contribute toward her IPEP Dental and Vision coverage. She shared a computation sheet that breaks down the cost and what percentage from each fund, would comprise this payment. As the Town would no longer pay for her previous full coverage, it would be a monthly savings of approx. \$450 per month.
- Dave motioned to accept the proposed insurance coverage monthly cost at a savings of \$457.40. A change in Julia Klingensmith's coverage –subject to an annual review. Doug seconded it. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder-yes, Doug Cannon-yes, John Hannon-yes, Scott Kingan-yes, Bernadette Slawinski-yes. Motion passed.

Town Insurance coverage

- Scott has contacted Samuelson Agency to get a competitive bid on Town coverage. He has found that a direct comparison to current agency would save the Town about 10%. If we were to sign up now, it would be a September- to- September renewal, which helps a bit in the budget conversation. He thinks we should give our current carrier a chance to respond and then return to this decision in September.

Beach Stairs

- Scott said there's a need to fix the stairs at Access 7. There's a pretty big gap between the lowest step and the ground below. The stair company has agreed to come out to do a small repair on #9. They say they will do the additional work to fix 7. The total proposed price would be \$3,469.78. We received a Community Fund grant of \$3,000 toward beach stairs. We also have an amount of money in Restore the Shore, specifically for stairs--\$2,366. He would recommend these funds get used to make the repairs.
- Dave motioned to approve payment to repair these 2 access stairways. John seconded. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder-yes, John Hannon-yes, Doug Cannon-yes, Scott Kingan-yes, Bernadette Slawinski-yes. Motion approved.

Reminders

- Gary air and water show is August 21st to 23rd.
- Please be mindful when swimming in the lake --of rip currents. Watch for beach closings due to conditions.
- Bernadette recommends that homes that experience an outage should contact NIPSCO because it could just be isolated to a small area in Town.

RESIDENT REMARKS

- Eric Roe, 15 Shore Dr. asked if the information regarding the environmental study could be added to the website? If residents are interested in participating, could forms be accessed too? Allan Halline responded that there are quite a number of steps and approvals that need to occur before the study will recruit participants. He likes the idea of the website but he'll have to get it approved with the IRB & others, first.

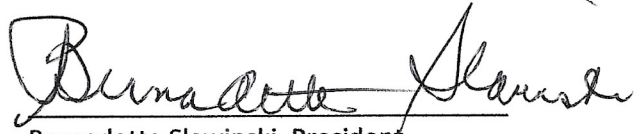
TOWN COUNCIL REMARKS

- Dave referred to the Central Rock Project. He wanted to remind everyone that the Town still has an outstanding balance of \$12,100 owed to it. Also, Access 18 eventually is going to have to be restored to its

original state and we're still in litigation with Save the Dunes regarding the Central Rock Project-- so a lot is still going on with rocks.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- Scott made the motion. Dave seconded. Scott Kingan—yes, Dave Snyder—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, John Hannon—yes, Doug Cannon—yes. Meeting adjourned.



Bernadette Slawinski, President