



TOWN OF
Ogden Dunes

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OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL- TOWN MEETING
May 4, 2026 – 7:00 P.M. in Community Room & Via ZOOM

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

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Approval of April 6th 2026 meeting minutes

- Scott motioned to accept the minutes. Doug seconded.

Roll call: Scott Kingan—yes, Doug Cannon- yes, John Hannon—abstained, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Dave Snyder-yes, Motion passed.

Approval of April Claims - not including manual portion

Scott motioned to accept as read. John seconded. **Roll Call:** Scott Kingan—yes, John Hannon—yes, Doug Cannon—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Dave Snyder—yes. Motion passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department-

- Jeremy reported that no tickets were issued. 2 case reports were written.
- Friday, May 22nd is the 1st day of No Dogs on the Beach.
- He also shared that the new Police truck is expected to be delivered on June 6th.
- Regarding junk vehicles, owners have been informed to remove. 3 vehicles still remain on owner's property.
- Regarding nuisance properties, he noted that a yard on Diana Rd. was identified and the owner urged to address the issue.
- Two letters of action have been drafted regarding 2 separate properties. One on Aspen has been deemed unsafe and the other on Christmar having compliance issues with its build project. Town Atty is reviewing the drafted letters.

Building Department-

- To date, 34 permits have been issued = \$24,786 in fees. Also, to date, 160 contractors registered with the Town = \$12,700 in fees.

Street Department-

- Ben Johansen reported. This is his last official meeting as he is stepping down from the Dept to pursue an opportunity in Chicago. He expressed his pleasure working in OD as a part of the Street & Water crew.
- May 8th is the last day for seasonal operation of the leaf vac. Residents can bag leaves for pick-up during the Summer.
- The mulch delivery from Portage Compost has run out. There is some town mulch available but it's of lesser quality.
- Town clean-up will occur from May 15th to May 17th. Large dumpsters will be on hand at the street garage for the collection of discarded household items.
- Ben updated on efforts to replace the Town's topkick truck. Money has been appropriated for this purpose. 3 separate quotes have been gathered on different trucks. Each vehicle has slightly different accessory packages and delivery timeframes. The quotes are: 1st--\$73,002, 2nd--\$68,848.25 and the 3rd--\$79,000, all w/government pricing.
- The 3rd vehicle is a 2023 Chevy Silverado 5500 with 100 miles. It has all the features required for Dept use—and is available now. A decision hasn't been finalized yet because Mike L. is currently out of Town. After some discussion, the council decided to make a motion to approve the expenditure dollars now. Dave motioned to approve funds not to exceed \$79,995 for the intended purchase of the 2023 Silverado 5500 with 100 miles. John seconded. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder—yes, John Hannon—yes, Doug Cannon—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes. Motion passed.
- John informed the council that INDOT reached out to Amy that funds were now available for repaving roads under the 2026 CCMG Grant cycle. Because OD put in an application for this, back in October 2025-- which was rejected, the new instruction by INDOT was to proceed with getting bids from contractors. A chosen bid along with a commitment that local matching funds are available could then be submitted. John is requesting that Amy as clerk be authorized to advertise the project. Scott motioned to authorize clerk to advertise for project bids. Doug seconded. **Roll Call:** Scott Kingan—yes, Doug Cannon—yes, John Hannon—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Dave Snyder—yes. Motion passed.
- John briefed the council on his and Tom Cleland's efforts to interview Alex DePorter as a replacement for Ben Johansen. Alex has worked with the Street crew in the past as a part-timer. He's knowledgeable with machines and mechanics and is a certified EMT. John therefore recommends council approval to hire Alex as a fulltime replacement for Ben.
- Dave made the motion to extend an offer to Alex to begin on May 6th. Doug seconded. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder—yes, Doug Cannon—yes, John Hannon—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes. Motion passed.

Water-

- Gate valve testing will be conducted around town. This may cause momentary water pressure reduction in some homes.
- Bernadette wished Ben well and thanked him on behalf of the council for his dedicated work in Town!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Fund

- Maryann Schaefer, Community Fund chair, 43 Sunset Trail, reported via zoom on the 5 Grant awards for the year.
- They are: 1) \$500.00 to the Beautification for perennials, shrubs and some consultation from a master gardener.

2) **\$4,950.00** to the Environmental Advisory Board for 4 initiatives: including Bird Town Dues, A Speaker's fee for presentation given by environmental expert, some educational signage and a youth bird house building session during summer camp.

3) **\$4,500.00** to the Town for partial funding of some Accessway 2 walkway materials and materials for 3 new sitting platforms there.

4) **\$3,000.00** to Beach Nourishment Committee for a new set of beach accessway stairs

5) **\$1,600** to the council for purchase of 4 new planters to be placed in front of the Firehouse.

- These grants total **\$14,550.00**—the majority of which will be coming from the Porter Co. Community Foundation.
- Bernadette thanked the Community Fund for the awarded grants! She asked for a motion to approve the granted projects and amounts. Scott motioned to approve. Doug seconded. **Roll Call:** Scott Kingan—yes, Doug Cannon—yes, John Hannon—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, Dave Snyder—yes. Motion passed.

ODHA

- Andrew Gurschik, 22 Hillcrest, updated on beach accessway status. Regarding access 7—next to Dave Tarpo's home build. It is currently dug up and unusable because of trenching-- in preparation for a wall to be constructed by homeowner. It's expected to be open and usable in 2-3 months.
- The retaining wall at Access 14 is complete and now open. The neighboring home owner paid for this work! Access 9, is waiting for mulch to be laid.
- He was happy to announce a \$5,000 donation from NISource, which will go toward finishing the 20-year project of clearing invasive plants and replacing with natives at Polywog Pond.
- He wanted to thank the Street Dept for their help with clearing invasives along the sand track and Nelson Reck.
- There are currently 144 members who have joined ODHA.
- The Grand Opening of the Pavilion is on Memorial Day weekend (Saturday). It will start at 6 p.m. with a pig roast donated by the Police Dept., the community church and the preschool who is contributing ice cream! Leroy's is providing the side dishes.
- There will be a cash bar and D.J. The culmination will be a fireworks show at 9 p.m.
- Doug shared that Access 7 is also closed because of sand blowing out westward from the base of the steps there.
- Dave asked Andrew about a proposed memorial bench and its placement at Access 18? He recommends considering vehicle access to the beach as well as getting input from the neighboring homeowners. A more detailed discussion about this will occur after the meeting.

Parks and Rec

- John reported that the board members are setting up all the court nets in preparation for use.
- He'd like to thank them for their hands-on coordination!

Planning Commission

- Scott said they will meet next week to discuss House Enrolled Act 1001. He'll share more on this later.

Beautification

- Bernadette shared that the work has begun at the messaging board. She also shared the involvement of Master Gardener Dan Knipsel, who is donating his time to working with the committee. His guidance regarding the choice of plants has been really helpful!
- In lieu of a Recognition announcement, she wishes to thank Dan for his generous help!
- Bernadette was also wanting to determine who placed the solar powered lights around the Crane sculptures? It's a bit of a mystery but very appreciated!

OLD BUSINESS

Reminders

- Reminder of Porter County voting sites with IN primary election the following day.
- The mobile voting vehicle in OD was well received. Efforts are still underway to restore a polling location in OD Community Rm.
- Restricted seasonal parking is now in effect. Please get proper permits or avoid restricted areas with your vehicles.
- No Dogs on the Beach is also in effect---for the season.
- There are openings on the Environmental and Park boards for people interested in volunteering.

Preparing Access 19 and 17 for use.

- Dave shared plans regarding Access 19-- to clear the drifted sand on the walkway and shift it toward the ramp in order to bury it. There's a significant amount of sand to move and to safely cover over the ramp, so it won't be slippery under foot. The existing rope through the posts has frayed and will be replaced with new rope.
- Scott spoke about efforts with access 17. Jim Combs has been working with neighbors on planting some dune grass. This, in conjunction with some beach fencing will help restore the dune there. Trying to protect this restoration work means funneling foot traffic away from the plants. One of the ideas is to put some wood posts with rope railings in. This would hopefully guide traffic down the dune so folks won't trek over sensitive adjacent areas.
- Dave said that safety or post caps should be installed there too. Jim Combs agreed and will help with this.

More readying efforts

- Bernadette brought up the topic of beach raking. There are differing views on when, how frequent, or even if it's sensible using a rake at all. Jim Combs shared data that says raking can run counter to the capture of sand in dune formation. He shared a term which describes the effect as "racking".
- On another topic, Dave would like to see the accessways better identified from the water side. He thinks 3.5- inch reflective numbers attached to existing posts would greatly enhance locating spots and emergency response.

Access 18 work

- This accessway has been used by vehicles and machinery over the years as the primary means to reach the beach. Over the course of time, this corridor has been built up layer by layer. Because of its current height, homeowners such as Nick Sever, have experienced a large increase of sand accumulation onto their properties. He'd like for the Town to help take down the level of this access roadway. Knowing that the Town doesn't have the inhouse equipment to do this task, Nick Sever has offered to provide a large skidster, dump truck and operator. If the Town agreed to fund \$3,000 of the lowering and removal project, he would cover the rest at his own expense.
- The issue is when this effort would begin. Homeowners want it to occur as soon as possible as summer is almost upon us. The dilemma is the existing protective rock project directly to the east, which numerous homeowners embarked on last spring 2025. The project was interrupted midstream, by a court order. Half the residents in the project, were not allowed to finish their work.
- Where this affects Access 18-- is that it's the existing route by which heavy machinery needs to deliver the stone in order to complete the project— hopefully in the Fall.
- A special committee comprised of Dave, John, Tom Cleland and affected residents Nick Sever, Sandy Boyer and Jim Combs. has been formed by Bernadette to determine the best recommendation on how to move forward.

- Dave made a motion to approve \$3,000 to help remediate Access 18 and that the committee would come back to the Council with a recommendation as to what the process will be. Bernadette clarified that the council will accept the recommendation after the committee meets at a special meeting. John seconded. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder—yes, John Hannon—yes, Doug Cannon—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation for full-time police officer William Reshkin

- Jeremy spoke of Bill Reshkin's experience and qualifications. He recommends that council hire Bill as our full-time midnight patrol officer. He is also taking the place of Michelle Dvorscak.
- Dave motioned to hire patrolman, William Rushkin. Doug seconded. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder—yes, Doug Cannon—yes, John Hannon—yes, Scott Kingan—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes. Motion passed.
- Scott made a motion to recognize Officer Ruskin's past experience and to grant him 40 hrs, vacation time. not to be used within the 1st 6 months. Dave seconded. **Roll Call:** Scott Kingan—yes, Dave Snyder—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, John Hannon—yes. Doug Cannon—yes. Motion passed.

Thank you to Alan Halline and his wife for the bird condos. Also, thanks to Greg Mino & Doug Cannon for installing them at Long Lake!

Town Web Site update

- Scott reported that task group is meeting tomorrow to evaluate the design elements of the platform the Town has accepted from **TownWeb**.
- He expects the new website to be up and running on June 30th.

Legislative update—House Act 1001

- Scott said there is now a requirement for all towns to submit annual housing reports. The first one is due January 1st 2027. There's some compliance reporting such as any new growth or development in a community.
- It's suggested that county councils and commissioners engage with towns & cities more to better develop local income tax structures.
- There are also some new restrictions on building regulations. There are not going to be time limits on permit approvals. There will also be building permit fee limitations.
- Starting in January, 2027 all future permit fee increases have to be tied to the CPI index, but they can only be done every 5 years. This means a town will have to average out the total cumulative effect of the average CPI over those 5 years.
- Also, after Dec 31st 2026, the town may not assess the fee for building permits, zoning development, subdivision, rezoning, etc.
- Dave added that the way we do things now is going to have to be done differently in the future. We'll need to factor the time Jeremy spends on the building approval process. Also capturing the processing time spent by Megan to keep the records & books

Reminder of May events

- Sandpiper is having a backyard bash on May 16th.
- The Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the Lion's Club is on May 25th
- Election Day is tomorrow.

RESIDENT REMARKS

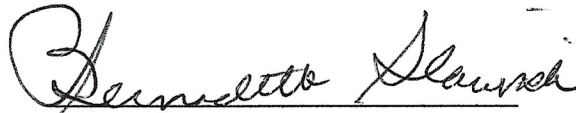
- Sandy Boyer shared that if anybody needs a ride to a polling place, they can contact Barbara Schultz. She and some other residents are willing to drive voters to locations.

TOWN COUNCIL REMARKS

- Scott wished Ben Johansen nothing but the best!

Motion to Adjourn

- Scott motioned. Dave seconded. **Roll call:** Scott Kingan—yes, Dave Snyder—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes, John Hannon—yes, Doug Cannon—yes. Meeting adjourned.


Bernadette Slawinski, President