TOWN OF
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OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL- 2nd Emergency Special Meeting
AUGUST 19, 2026 – 4:30 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room

PRESENT:
Bernadette Slawinski
John Hannon
Dave Snyder
Doug Cannon
Scott Kingan—not present
Jeremy Ogden, Town Marshall

Call to Order
Roll Call

Jeremy gave an update on the NIPSCO crews that arrived in Town to address all the downed electrical wires.

- There are currently 30- 35 crew members now in Town
- The crew foreman predicted that power would be restored to the majority homes by Friday Aug 21st.
- There are pockets of Town where damage to utility poles is more severe. Also, access to some poles on private property is difficult.
- Some homes experienced weatherhead damage—where fallen limbs have yanked wires out of these hook-up points. These unfortunately need to be replaced by the home owner before power can be activated again.
- No need for any contractor permits for these particular repairs—however, professional inspection needs to occur upon completion.

Mike and Jeremy attended County Emergency Management Meeting

- Jeremy outlined the types of statistical data that needs to get captured onto a spreadsheet. This is to submit to IN Dept of Homeland Security for relief funds. FEMA has not officially declared yet.
- The data includes: street crew hours, equipment & fuel use, number of daily truck loads carrying tree debris –measured in cubic yards & necessary supply and equipment costs.
- Mike shared that Portage and other larger communities are contracting 3rd party consultants such as TRF to mobilize removal and account for damage costs. These consultants are very expensive –requiring a considerable upfront retainer.
- Bernadette wants Mike and Jeremy to meet each day at 4 p.m. to tally up that day's stats.

Bernadette named the different ways that info & guidance will go out to the community

- Depending on the information, NIXLE, email blasts and Town Website will be used. Also, the messaging board at the Fire station can be used.
- Frank Mrvan's office has provided an email link for residents who wish to file for individual recovery.

Mike gave a status update on which roads have been cleared and are passible—Phase 1

- All of Diana Rd, Hillcrest Rd and most of Sunset Rd cleared.
- All debris is currently being dropped off at Portage Compost Site. The manager of this site has been very helpful to OD—both with access to the site and use of an EMA truck and driver.
- Going forward, Jeremy advises that entire crew work collectively on 1 road at a time --closing each down temporarily for efficiency.

Council discussion on staffing and equipment resources

Mike currently has 7 crew members-consisting of fulltime, part-time and temporary workers. Ben has been able to come a couple of days, Officer Gosbin has also been helpful operating removal equip during his shifts. More help from residents and outside recommends to be sought.

- Tractor has now been returned to use, after $13,000 in repairs. Not a moment too soon!
- Need for a heavy- duty grapple truck has been highlighted and sourced for monthly rental from BTR- $9,600.00
- Dave motioned to accept the BTR rental agreement for grapple truck. John seconded. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder-yes, John Hannon—yes, Doug Cannon—yes, Bernadette Slawinski—yes. Motion passed.

Council discussion about best strategy for next steps or Phase 2 of street pick-up mobilization.

- Street crew needs to work in a synchronized flow in order to maximize use of the rented truck and other equipment.
- A rotation of loading trucks and immediately driving away to dump off debris at Portage Compost should be done as many times as possible during a possible 10 hour shift.
- Jeremy reminded that an insurance waiver for collection on resident property, may need to be drafted.
- Stumps and enormous root balls need to be handled differently—both because of size & not having loading capacity. Also, dirt needs to be removed before Compost Site chipper will accept. An outside contractor with heavy equipment & trained pros, needs to do this task. Egolf Coates Excavation has made a proposal to do the necessary job for: $100 per hr. for loader, --$113 per for excavator, --$116 per hr. for operator, --$150 per hr. for operator overtime & $330 for mobilization.
- Dave motioned to accept this proposal from Egolf Coates. John seconded. **Roll Call:** Dave Snyder-yes, John Hannon-yes, Bernadette-yes, Doug Cannon-yes. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous items

- Bernadette asked residents to make donations toward providing food and beverages for the visiting utility crews, the Town's street crew, office staff and on-duty officers. Many home owners really came through and made very generous donations! This helped with keeping the work continuous.
- Porter County will hold a ZOOM meeting this Friday with Governor Braun's representative to discuss the county's response to the storm emergency.
- Dave asked about some tree contractors & their clients leaving massive cut piles at their curb expecting the Town to pick-up. Jeremy responded that there were a couple of instances where homeowners within the first 48hrs of the aftermath-- got pick-up service, because enforcement of the contactor prohibition had not been communicated yet. Going forward, all professional tree contractors need to take away cuttings & include this in their professional quotes. **OD Street crew will not collect the remnants from professional tree services.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:45

Bernadette Slawinski

Bernadette Slawinski, President