

**TOWN OF DUNE ACRES  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
June 20, 2023**

The Town of Dune Acres Town Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at the Clubhouse. Council President Richard Hawksworth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with Council Members Alexander Stemer and Paul Woidke, Clerk-Treasurer Jeannette Bapst, and attorney Adam Mindel in attendance.

The meeting was broadcast live via Zoom teleconference.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

It was moved and seconded that minutes for the May 16, 2023 Council Meeting be approved as presented. Vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**BANK BALANCES 05/31/2023**

Porter State Bank	\$99,063.77
Trust Indiana	\$267,646.50
Record Balance	\$366,610.27

\*Those funds marked with an asterisk are designated monies and can only be spent for the designated purpose.

**BREAK DOWN OF FINANCES AMONG FUNDS  
As of May 31, 2023**

FUNDS	CASH BALANCE 05-31-2023	APP BAL.	% Left
GENERAL	63,985.99	300,856	61
MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY	12,665.68	47,856	68
LOCAL ROAD AND STREET	23,634.12	8,894	59
MOTOR VEHICLE HWY RESTRICT	5,958.22		
PARK & RECREATION	47,138.68	54,940	100
RAINY DAY FUND	130,000.00	50,000	100
CCI	761.25	1,000	100
CCD	14,825.62	28,956	72
CEDIT	20,181.00	18,072	90
RIVERBOAT REVENUE SHARING	126.37	00	0
Donations	34,820.39		
ARP Covid Relief	.00		
Lake Michigan Coastal Grant*	.00		
Construction Security Dep*	7,500.00		
Sales Tax Club House Rental*	180.25		
Club House Rental Deposit*	2,800.00		
Comm Crossings Grant*	.00		
Opioid Settlement, Restricted*	1,763.30		
Levy Excess Fund*	.00		
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 366,340.87</b>		

Clerk-Treasurer Bapst presented the May month-end financial report. She reported the Spring property tax settlement had been received with collections at fifty-seven (57) percent. It was moved and seconded to approve the financial report. Vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

**PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:**

It was moved and seconded that claims for the month of June, 2023, #7959 - #7999, in the amount of \$92,544.46 be approved. Vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

## CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Railroad Crossing Safety. An email was received from resident Lynne Remington, 6 Fern Lane, citing concerns over northbound traffic backing up onto U.S. 12 while waiting for long trains at the Mineral Springs Road crossing. Discussion was held regarding track improvement construction still underway and expected activity once improvements are complete. The Council requested a Northern Indiana Commuter Transit District representative be scheduled to address the subject at a public meeting. In addition, the Town will seek data on crossing down times after construction is complete.

## COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

**BUILDING:** Building Commissioner Tom Roberts recommended approval of Building Permit #2023-18, 46 Circle Drive \$27,350 driveway paving; Building Permit #2023-19, 46 Circle Drive \$30,000 retaining wall replacement; Building Permit #2023-20, 12 Circle Drive \$185,848 retaining wall and patio replacement; Building Permit #2023-22, 79 East Road \$44,944 deck and rail replacement; Building Permit #2023-26, 25 Hill Drive \$24,790 interior remodel; and Building Permit #2023-27, 6 Circle \$30,000 deck rebuild. It was moved and seconded to approve the recommendation. Vote was unanimous in favor, motion passed.

Discussion was then held regarding building code non-compliance at 24 Circle Drive, which is currently listed for sale. A letter will be issued regarding burying the power lines from the road to the house.

**PARKS:** Parks Commissioner Shawn Fitzpatrick updated the Council on research completed relative to an online calendar for park activities and other town events so residents may enroll and schedule electronically. He will present a proposal at the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ROADS:** As had been recommended by Roads Commissioner David Kudrna, it was moved and seconded to approve renewal of the snow removal contract with David's Lawncare. Vote was unanimously in favor, motion carried.

## OLD BUSINESS

none

## NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #2023-02 Vacation Pay. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution #2023-02, Vacation Pay. Vote was unanimous in favor, motion passed. The resolution authorizes vacation pay stipends to eligible Maintenance and Security employees per Town Ordinance.

Deer Control, 2023-24. Discussion was held regarding the Town's annual deer cull. Resident Robin Tennant spoke in opposition to the program, stating she would be taking additional steps going forward to obstruct the process. Speaking in favor of the cull were resident Lynne Remington and resident Robert Martino. Council members shared rationale for supporting the annual cull, citing residents' health and safety, environmental protection, and the belief that culling is a humane solution to animal overpopulation. Resident Cheryl Evans suggested alternative options be explored such as contraceptives. It was moved and seconded that the Town proceed with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Deer Control Permit application, with a designation of no more than twenty (20) white-tailed deer, during the period December 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024, while remaining open to suggestions for viable alternative animal control measures. Vote was unanimous in favor, motion carried.

Clubhouse Rentals: It was moved and seconded to approve clubhouse rentals for 7-29-23, 8-8-23, and 9-30-23. Vote was unanimous in favor, motion carried.

Clubhouse Program, 8-12-23 *Coexisting with Native Wildlife.* Resident Sara McKinley requested authorization to host a community program at the clubhouse on August 12, 2023 from 10 A.M. to 11:30 A.M., conducted by the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Topics will include coexisting with native wildlife, explanation of the center's mission and services, and resources available for injured or orphaned animals. In addition, 'wildlife ambassadors' will

be present which may include fox, owls, hawks, ducks and other wildlife. It was agreed by consensus to host the event for residents and their guests.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Clubhouse Fire Suppression System. Tom Roberts again shared his concerns over the complexity of the clubhouse fire suppression system and requested options be reviewed, including but not limited to, Indiana American Water supporting the water supply instead of the existing beach caisson pump. It was noted that in the past, Indiana American Water representatives stated they could not provide adequate water pressure. Fire system review will be scheduled.

Clubhouse Gardens. It was requested that Town resources be directed at improving the clubhouse gardens since volunteers are no longer conducting grounds maintenance.

Emergency Access. Discussion was held regarding alternative emergency access to the Town when the Mineral Springs Road railroad crossing is blocked or when other ingress/egress obstacles are presented, noting existing restrictions on the East Road private easement drive.

Indiana Dunes National Park Superintendent. It was noted Park Superintendent Paul Labovitz would be retiring the end of June. It was agreed by consensus that he will be missed by all, having been an outstanding community partner.

Town Tennis/Pickleball Court Lighting. Council Member Stemer asked that the two park lights currently directed at the basketball court be changed to illuminate the back tennis and pickleball courts.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council Meeting is 7:00 PM, July 18, 2023 at the Clubhouse.

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RICHARD HAWKSWORTH, Town Council President

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PAUL WOIDKE, Town Council Member

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ALEXANDER STEMER, Town Council Member

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JENNETTE E. BAPST, Clerk-Treasurer

CLAIMS – JUNE 2023

<u>CLAIMANT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Payroll, Gross	June payroll, gross	\$ 18,063.13
Payroll, Net	June payroll, net	\$ 14,704.65
Indiana Dept of Revenue	June payroll, state w/h	\$ 806.91
EFTPS	June payroll, fed w/h, fica/medicare	\$ 3,933.40
Louise Roberts	Schoon Program Reimbursement	\$ 339.39
Deyo/Stone	Appraisals	\$ 900.00
Frontier	Phone and Internet	\$ 127.18
NIPSCO	Gas and Electric	\$ 16.30
Comcast	Phone and Internet	\$ 396.78
Richard Hawksworth	Wildflower Program Reimbursement	\$ 273.32
Jenny Carey	Refund	\$ 80.00
NIPSCO	Gas and Electric	\$ 694.42
Capital One VISA	Fuel, Lights, Curtain, Clubhouse	\$ 8,952.87
Frontier	Phone and Internet	\$ 120.72
Republic	Waste Service	\$ 162.50
AMA	Town Directories	\$ 1,513.00
Bren-Mark Window	Clubhouse Window Wash	\$ 620.00
Datagraphics	Mtc. Business Cards	\$ 60.00
Ecorealm	Environmental, Town-Wide	\$ 4,110.71
Jeannette Bapst	Postage Reimbursement	\$ 8.13
Per Mar Security	Town Hall Monitor	\$ 2,296.31
Pinkerton Oil	Vehicle Fuel	\$ 208.79
Pride Toilet	Beach Toilet	\$ 500.00
Quill Office Products	Toner	\$ 132.99
Reeder's Auto Service	Oil Change	\$ 93.20
Shore Marina	Buoys	\$ 12,555.00
Tilden Enterprises	Supplies	\$ 345.10
Town of Porter	Fire Contract	\$ 10,567.00
Postmaster	Postage	\$ 189.00
Richard Hawksworth	Clubhouse Deposit Refund	\$ 300.00
Shawn Fitzpatrick	Clubhouse Deposit Refund	\$ 800.00
Bruce Riffle	Clubhouse Deposit Refund	\$ 500.00
Rob Carstens	Clubhouse Rental Refund	\$ 107.00
Great Lakes Nursery	Plants for Entry	\$ 2,040.00
Hopkins Ace Hardware	Supplies	\$ 46.94
Mindel & Mindel	Legal Retainer, 2nd Q	\$ 2,750.00
Comcast	Phone and Internet	\$ 405.06
Indiana American Water	Water	\$ 174.56
Menards, Portage	Supplies	\$ 15.10
Down to Earth	Clubhouse Sprinklers	\$ 151.00
Michael Hogan	Clubhouse Rental Refund	\$ 2,484.00
Total JUNE 2023:		\$ 92,544.46

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