

**TOWN OF DUNE ACRES
COUNCIL MINUTES
August 15, 2023**

The Town of Dune Acres Town Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at the Clubhouse. Council President Richard Hawksworth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with Council Member Paul Woidke and attorney Adam Mindel in attendance. Clerk-Treasurer Jeannette Bapst participated via Zoom teleconference.

The meeting was broadcast live via Zoom teleconference.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that minutes for the July 18, 2023 Council Meeting be approved as presented. Vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

BANK BALANCES 07/31/2023

Porter State Bank	\$61,414.82
Trust Indiana	\$471,076.93
Record Balance	\$532,491.75

*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 July 31, 2023**

FUNDS	CASH BALANCE 07-31-2023	APP BAL.	% Left
GENERAL	214,489.74	215,687	43
MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY	39,840.19	40,187	57
LOCAL ROAD AND STREET	25,704.42	8,894	59
MOTOR VEHICLE HWY RESTRICT	6,814.35		
PARK & RECREATION	48,567.35	51,290	93
RAINY DAY FUND	130,000.00	50,000	100
CCI	974.95	1,000	100
CCD	9,959.87	00	0
CEDIT	7,758.61	199	1
RIVERBOAT REVENUE SHARING	126.37	00	0
Donations	33,794.18		
ARP Covid Relief	.00		
Lake Michigan Coastal Grant*	.00		
Construction Security Dep*	7,500.00		
Sales Tax Club House Rental*	215.25		
Club House Rental Deposit*	2,900.00		
Comm Crossings Grant*	.00		
Opioid Settlement, Restricted*	1,719.28		
Levy Excess Fund*	.00		
TOTAL FUNDS	\$ 530,364.56		

Clerk-Treasurer Bapst presented the July month-end financial report. 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 August, 2023, #8030 - #8058, in the amount of \$65,979.37 be approved. Vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Town Historical. An email was received from Dan Kleine requesting clarification on whether the Town's history group is the "Historical Committee" or "Historical Commission." Following discussion, and at advice from counsel, the group is designated a Committee.

NIPSCO Cell Tower. A public notice was published in The Times on August 11, 2023, excerpt as follows:

"Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) proposes to construct the following telecommunications towers and equipment at the following locations in Indiana: Porter County: a 300 self-supporting (lattice) tower (305 overall) at Bailey St Rd in Dune Acres (Job #57852);

Attorney Mindel stated that any such construction by NIPSCO would be subject to Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission oversight. NIPSCO would be exempt from town building permit requirements and other local regulations. Questions were raised as to whether commercial use was anticipated, which may improve cell reception in Dune Acres, or whether the cell tower would be for NIPSCO management of power distribution loads and other utility-specific purposes. Bapst was instructed to obtain additional information, and to share the public notice with Chris Pergiel, Indiana Dunes National Park Interim Superintendent.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

BEACH: Beach Commissioner Rob Carstens reported a significant washout had occurred around the East Beach viewing deck during heavy rains last week. The structure remains sound, but repairs, as reviewed and approved by Roads Commissioner David Kudrna are ongoing.

Resident Brian Bates, 6 West Road, requested cleanup activities take place at East Beach. He said the public area is a poor reflection of our community, littered with grills, tables, chairs, umbrellas, and every assortment of personal item. President Hawksworth suggested other town beaches may be preferable to some residents; Commissioner Carstens said he would review.

BUILDING: Building Commissioner Tom Roberts reported on various projects in town, including the new home at 2 Redwood, that has a November projected completion date. Plan Commission review of another new home at 18 West Road is currently taking place.

ENVIRONMENT: Environmental Commissioner Robin Tennant had requested the fall cleanup date of October 21, 2023. The date was approved by consensus.

MAINTENANCE: Maintenance Commissioner Dick Taylor referenced the wildfire tragedy that occurred this week in Lahaina, Hawaii in requesting attention be directed to fallen and diseased trees in Dune Acres. He suggested hiring an arborist to review trees, contract for removal of trees where needed, and create a Master Emergency Plan for the community.

SECURITY: As had been recommended by Security Commissioner Bill Griffin, it was moved and seconded to approve the hiring of Charles Murphy as Security Employee. Vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Opioid Settlement Distributions, update: A letter from the Indiana Attorney General was shared regarding State opioid settlement distributions. Bapst noted that because Dune Acres' distribution is less than \$5,000 annually, future abatement (restricted) funds will go directly to Porter County and be expended for purposes determined by the County committee overseeing these resources.

Lake Michigan Coastal Program, Town Park A Project Completion: President Hawksworth reported the initial environmental restoration of Town Park A, located on the west side of

Mineral Springs Road at the East Road intersection, which was initiated in September, 2020 is now complete. The project was funded through an Indiana Department of Natural Resources *Lake Michigan Coastal Program* matching grant. It targeted a roughly 3.5 acre town park, along with a narrow strip of land designated as habitat corridor. The project achieved its goal of reducing tree canopy coverage by 40%, and removing invasive woody and herbaceous plant species by up to 95%. Over time, as the invasive seed bank is depleted and the site's natural resiliency is improved, it is hoped the area can be maintained solely through the use of prescribed fire.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 2023-02, 2024 Appropriations and Tax Rate, First Reading. It was moved and seconded to approve first reading of Ordinance 2023-02, 2024 Appropriations and Tax Rate. Vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed. The ordinance sets appropriations, tax levy and tax rates for 2024.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mowing at Route 12 and Mineral Springs Road. A resident requested grass mowing at the northwest intersection of Rt 12 and Mineral Springs Road. Bapst was instructed to contact the Indiana Department of Transportation to complete the mowing.

Phone Directory. Resident Lou Roberts was recognized for her work on the 2023 Dune Acres Directory, with special note on the historic town pictures that were included throughout the edition.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council Meeting is 7:00 PM, September 19, 2023 at the Clubhouse.

RICHARD HAWKSWORTH, Town Council President

PAUL WOIDKE, Town Council Member

ALEXANDER STEMER, Town Council Member

JENNETTE E. BAPST, Clerk-Treasurer

CLAIMS – AUGUST 2023

<u>CLAIMANT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Comcast	Phone and Internet	\$ 418.50
Indiana American Water	Water	\$ 164.27
Kittredge & Zehner	Quarterly Bank Audit	\$ 166.00
Payroll, Gross	August payroll, gross	\$ 22,796.14
Payroll, Net	August payroll, net	\$ 18,273.37
Indiana Dept of Revenue	August payroll, state w/h	\$ 984.05
EFTPS	August payroll, fed w/h, fica/medicare	\$ 5,282.61
Porter Bank	Deposit Forms	\$ 42.76
Hinkley Springs	Security Water	\$ 56.95
NIPSCO	Rt 12 and MSR	\$ 16.20
Frontier	Phone and Internet	\$ 127.95
AE Boyce	Checks	\$ 395.82
Brainstorm Computers	Surge Protectors (2)	\$ 175.48
Circle R Electric	Pump Repair	\$ 4,668.16
Frontier	Phone and Internet	\$ 120.77
Hopkins Ace Hardware	Supplies	\$ 98.95
Jeaneen Dougherty	Supplies	\$ 32.64
Jeannette Bapst	Supplies	\$ 27.71
Menards, Portage	Supplies	\$ 313.01
NIPSCO	Gas and Electric	\$ 1,051.83
Per Mar Security	Clubhouse Security	\$ 2,356.11
Pride Portable Toilet	Beach Toilet	\$ 150.00
Republic Services	Waste Service	\$ 352.83
Yolanda Stemer	Clubhouse Deposit Refund	\$ 500.00
Capital One VISA	Supplies, Services, Fuel	\$ 3,840.79
Bill Griffin	Employee Online Searches	\$ 3,414.32
Indiana American Water	Water	\$ 88.77
Sara McKinley	Program Expense	\$ 63.38
Total JULY 2023:		\$ 65,979.37
