

**TOWN OF DUNE ACRES
COUNCIL MINUTES
May 20, 2025**

The Town of Dune Acres Town Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 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 Bonnie Hawksworth joined the meeting at 7:30pm. Town Attorney Adam Mindel was also in attendance. Commissioners present were Shawn Fitzpatrick for Parks, Lee McKinley for Security, Dick Taylor for maintenance, Robin Tenant for Environment, and Rob Carstens for Beach.

The meeting was broadcast live via Zoom teleconference.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded to approve minutes for the March 18 Town Council meeting as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

Clerk-Treasurer Hawksworth presented the March month-end financial report. The combined bank account balance as of the end of March is \$646,522.64. The Town has spent roughly 21% of our budget. Year-to-date revenue is \$82,488.08.

It was moved and seconded to approve the financial report. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

Clerk-Treasurer Hawksworth asked the Town Council to approve APVs (claims) for the month of April in the amount of \$59,721.72. It was moved and seconded to approve the claims. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Council member Stemer recounted a meeting with Congressman Mrvan and the Surface Transportation Board, both related to the persistent rail crossing blockages at Mineral Springs Road. It was agreed that the town would continue to log and report incidents. Council President Hawksworth said he would send follow-up correspondence to Mr. Mrvan, encouraging him to advance the “Don’t Block Our Communities Act” which the congressman co-sponsored in late 2024.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

BEACH: Commissioner Carstens reported on generally excellent beach conditions moving into the warm-weather months. He promised to ascertain the number of buoys needing replacement and coordinate for installation.

BUILDING: Four building permits were submitted by Commissioner Roberts for consideration. 2025-07 for 28 Circle Drive; 2025-08 for 74 East Road; 2025-09 for 4 Crest Drive; and 2025-10 for 23 Ridge Drive. It was moved and seconded to approve issuance of all four permits. The vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

ENGINEER: None

ENVIRONMENT: Commissioner Tenant reminded the council that April 26 was the date of the Town’s spring cleanup.

FIRE: None

MAINTENANCE: Commissioner Taylor noted that surface water running down Ridge Drive was causing erosion at 2 Fern. Council President Hawksworth noted that Commissioner Kudrna had visited the site and suggested that further discussion be held outside the official meeting.

PARKS: Commissioner Fitzpatrick presented several options for remedial work on the tennis courts. It was moved to approve the bid of \$7400 for the north courts and \$6800 for the south courts. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor; motion passed.

ROADS: None

SECURITY: Commissioner Lee McKinley noted the use of the Indeed platform for advertising open positions with security. He noted the extraordinary service of Roger Goode for his leadership.

OLD BUSINESS:

Insurance Coverage: Council President Hawksworth noted that Anton Insurance continues to explore options to close the gap between the town’s liability coverage and the state caps on municipal liability.

Parking Regulations: Council President Hawksworth introduced a draft amendment to Chapter 34, Article II of the town code. The amendment would add an option for residents to purchase guest parking passes in booklets of ten, in addition to the traditional option of obtaining single day guest passes directly from security. Mr. Hawksworth stated that the system of free annual guest passes that had been employed for the last two summers does not align with current Dune Acres ordinances. A rousing discussion was held. The consensus among the families present was that the free annual pass system should be made permanent. No decision was made and the issue was tabled.

Indiana Senate Bill 1: Attorney Mindel provided an update to Senate Bill 1 which will impact Indiana municipalities. He noted that the bill had not been signed into law yet, but the approved provisions would provide up to \$300 property tax credit for homeowners. Council President Hawksworth stated that revenue forecasts he reviewed indicated that SB1 would result in a revenue reduction for Dune Acres of roughly \$50,000 over the next three years.

NEW BUSINESS:

A/V System for the Clubhouse: Clubhouse Coordinator McClead presented a proposal to install an A/V system at the clubhouse. Ms. McClead stated that DACIF had agreed to fund the purchase and installation. Council President Hawksworth took the opportunity to note that DACIF is an independent organization and the council would consider the proposal only as it relates to town property (ie. the clubhouse) and not the expenditure itself. The council heard from several of those involved in the plan and thanked them for their efforts. The council agreed by consensus to permit the installation of the equipment on town property.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next regular meeting of the Town Council is on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at the Clubhouse.

RICHARD HAWKSWORTH, Town Council President

PAUL WOIDKE, Town Council Member

ALEXANDER STEMER, Town Council Member

BONNIE HAWKSWORTH, Clerk-Treasurer