

TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA  
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL



January 7, 2020

Public Meeting Advertised for 7:00 PM  
Conducted at the Cedar Lake Town Hall  
Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

**Roll Call:**

Present	Robert H. Carnahan Council Member	Ward 1	Present	Colleen Schieben Council Member	Ward 6
Present	John Foreman Council Member	Ward 2	Present	Richard Sharpe Council Member	Ward 7
Present	Julie Rivera Council Member	Ward 3	Present	Jennifer N. Sandberg Clerk-Treasurer	
Absent	Ralph Miller Council Member	Ward 4	Present	Jill Murr, CPM, IAMC, MMC Town Administrator	
Present	Randell Niemeyer Council Member	Ward 5	Present	David Austgen Town Attorney	

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2020 Town Council Appointment of Officers**

A nomination for Randy Niemeyer as President was made by Ralph Miller with second by Richard Sharpe. No other nominations made. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0. President Niemeyer thanked Mr. Foreman for stepping up in 2019 and working hard to keep the business of the Town moving forward.

A nomination for Julie Rivera as Vice-President was made by John Foreman with second by Colleen Schieben. No other nominations made. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

**2. Chief of Police Appointment and Oath of Office**

President Niemeyer read a letter from the Police Commission giving their recommendation of William T. Fisher for Chief of Police. Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg gave the Oath of Office to William T. Fisher. Chief Fisher thanked them for the opportunity.

**3. Town Council Liaisons, Appointments and Committees**

The following appointments were made to the various committees:

Redevelopment Commission:	Bob Carnahan
Plan Commission:	Bob Carnahan, John Foreman, Rick Sharpe
Police Commission:	Ralph Miller
Unsafe Building:	Colleen Schieben
Stormwater Management Board:	Bob Carnahan
Joint Management Oversight Board:	Ralph Miller, Rick Sharpe
Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission:	Bob Carnahan
Lake County Solid Waste:	Bob Carnahan
South County Community Services:	Ralph Miller

Ad Hoc Committees:

Ecosystem Restoration Committee:	Julie Rivera, John Foreman, Ralph Miller, Dan Pager (Citizen Appointment)
Public Works & Safety:	Randy Niemeyer, Julie Rivera, Ralph Miller
Park & Recreation:	Colleen Schieben, Rick Sharpe, Ralph Miller
Council Affairs:	Randy Niemeyer, Ralph Miller, Rick Sharpe
Streets :	John Foreman, Rick Sharpe, Bob Carnahan
Planning Committee:	Bob Carnahan, John Foreman, Rick Sharpe

A motion to accept the list of committee appointments as read was made by John Foreman with second by Julie Rivera. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Yes, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

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**4. Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

Police Commission:	Charlie Kaper
Redevelopment Commission:	Jolie Covaciu, Nathan Vis, Doug Spencer, Eric Burnham, Randy Niemeyer
Storm Water Board:	Ryan Lisek
Plan Commission:	Chuck Becker
Council Appointment to BZA:	Jerry Wilkening
Council Appointment to Unsafe:	Colleen Schieben

A motion to accept the list of board and commission appointments as read was made by Ralph Miller with second by John Foreman. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Yes, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Minutes** – December 3, 2019 and December 17, 2019
- 2. Claims:** All Town Funds: \$434,864.89; Wastewater Operating: \$142,098.49; Water Utility: \$33,761.10; Water Bond 2010B: \$70,135; Storm Water: \$150,147.19; Payroll: December 26, 2019 and December 31, 2019 - \$182,476.42
- 3. Clerk-Treasurer's Bond**
- 4. Cancellation of Old Outstanding Warrants**
- 5. Forwarding Encumbrances**
- 6. EMS Collections Transfer from General Fund** - \$42,126.22
- 7. Manual Journal Entries** – 12/1 – 12/31/2019
- 8. Conflict of Interest** – John Foreman, Tim Kubiak, Doug Machalk, Margo Nagy, Cliff Wroe
- 9. Donations** – DARE – Hanover Central Middle School \$1,000; Police – Schillings - \$400; Fire – Franciscan Health - \$4,000

A motion to accept and waive the reading of Minutes and accept the consent agenda was made by John Foreman with second by Julie Rivera. Mr. Carnahan asked about a claim of over \$43,000 that looked like a refund from 2016 from Lowell. Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg clarified that he was looking at the expenditure report and that is the GL description for the monthly due to Lowell on the refunding bond. President Niemeyer asked about the Clerk-Treasurer's Bond, Cancellation of Warrants, and Forwarding Encumbrances. Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg stated she is required to be bonded annually. It was filed with the Lake County Recorder before the end of 2019. She stated the cancellation of warrants and forwarding encumbrances were previously emailed and are annual housekeeping items. Forwarding encumbrances total \$201,447.93 and a majority of that is Fund #804 – TIF for American Structurepoint for the roundabout engineering. She gave brief descriptions of the other funds. Seven checks from 2017 will be cancelled and the funds will be placed back into the proper funds. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

**REPORTS**

- 1. Town Council** – Mr. Carnahan reminded everyone about the 2020 Census. Questionnaires will be out soon. Its important Cedar Lake gets as much of that money as they can. California may lose a state congressman and he's hoping Indiana will gain one. He encouraged everyone to tell everybody they know. The census committee received a grant for \$2,000 from the Legacy Foundation to be used towards advertising for the census. A booth will be at the Business Showcase in March. Mr. Foreman asked Mr. Kubiak to check on a culvert issue west of US 41 by 129<sup>th</sup>.
- 2. Town Attorney** – None
- 3. Clerk-Treasurer** – Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg stated her office will begin wrapping up 2019 and working on the annual report. They are continuing to move forward with the utility budget.
- 4. Town Administrator/Staff** – Ms. Murr stated they will be working on the next application for Community Crossings Grant. Mr. Kubiak is working on pricing for the detour routes. They will be looking at funding and anticipate having a recommendation within the next few weeks. Deputy Chief Brittingham reported on the monthly statistics for the Police Department. Mr. Foreman thanked Mr. Brittingham for stepping up and for all his informative reporting. Mr. Brittingham stated he received help from Mr. Wroe with the reporting. Chief Wilkening congratulated the Council on picking a great Police Chief. He spoke highly of Mr. Fisher. He stated his annual report will be coming on the next meeting. He asked for their permission to move forward with advertising and hiring

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for a new firefighter that was approved in the 2020 budget. Mrs. Murr stated this was previously discussed and it is a budgeted position. It is recommended to move forward.

A motion to amend the agenda and direct the Fire Chief to begin the hiring process was made by John Foreman with second by Richard Sharpe. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes. Vote: 7 - 0. President Niemeyer asked about the turnover in the fire department since 2013. Chief Wilkening reported 18. President Niemeyer discussed working on a fire territory again and if it's not successful, what the next plan of action would be. A brief discussion continued on future plans for the fire department.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Father Jon Kowalczyk, 10717 W. 134<sup>th</sup> Place, congratulated Randy and Julie on their officer appointments. He led a prayer.

President Niemeyer spoke about the position of Town Council President. It is not a mayor. It is someone who serves at the pleasure of the Council and the Community. He will be a representative of the will of the Council in all meetings. His job is to make sure that the strategic agenda of the people of Cedar Lake is fulfilled and managed. He's learned a lot over the previous years as Council President. He thanked them for the opportunity.

**ADJOURNMENT** President Niemeyer called the meeting to adjournment at approximately 7:41 PM.

**COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**

Randell Niemeyer, President

Julie Rivera, Vice President

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Robert H. Carnahan

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Ralph Miller

Randell Niemeyer

Colleen Schieben

ATTEST:

Richard Sharpe

Jennifer N. Sandberg  
Clerk-Treasurer

The Minutes of the Cedar Lake Town Council are transcribed pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-4(b), which states:

(b) As the meeting progresses, the following *memoranda* shall be kept:

- (1) The date, time and place of the meeting.
- (2) The members of the governing body recorded as either present or absent.
- (3) The general substance of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided.
- (4) A record of all votes taken, by individual members if there is a roll call.
- (5) Any additional information required under IC 5-1.5-2-2.5.