

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



January 21, 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	Absent	Jennifer N. Sandberg Clerk-Treasurer	
Present	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	

OATH OF OFFICE – Firefighter/EMT Anthony Van Auken received the oath of office from Chief Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Margo Nagy.

Council Member Carnahan briefly discussed the 2020 Census. He stated census forms will start arriving in March. Each person is worth \$27,100 over the next ten years. He asked everyone to spread the word.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Mary Joan Dickson, 8711 W. 132nd Place, asked how much tourism money was available. President Niemeyer stated the Town receives \$4,725 annually. That number hasn't changed in many years.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes: January 7, 2020

2. Claims: All Town Funds: \$691,001.13; Wastewater Operating: \$222,560.61; Water Utility: \$50,649.35; Storm Water: \$43,910.09; Payroll: January 9, 2020 - \$247,308.84.

3. Utility Adjustments: \$48,501.43

4. Town Grounds Request & Waiver: Region Radio – June 12 & 13, 2020

5. UpCycle Rain Barrel Event

A motion to accept and waive the reading of Minutes and accept the consent agenda was made by Ralph Miller with second by Richard Sharpe. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Foreman – Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

1. Confirming Resolution No. 1251: Temporary Loan 2017 A, B, and C Bonds

Chief Deputy Clerk Margo Nagy read Resolution No. 1251 by title only. She explained this is due to a shortfall with the tax settlement. Not enough funds were received to make the debt service payment on January 15th. This is a temporary loan for a total of \$194,457.10. Mr. Carnahan expressed that he wished Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg was available for the meeting because everyone has complimented her on not having to borrow any money and she's done an excellent job up to this point. Ms. Nagy explained this was a recurring item due to a shortfall.

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

A motion to approve Confirming Resolution No. 1251 was made by John Foreman with second by Ralph Miller. Mr. Miller asked if they were borrowing the money in anticipation of more funds. Ms. Nagy explained the loan would be repaid with the spring settlement. Mr. Miller asked who gives the spring settlement. Ms. Nagy stated Lake County. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Foreman – Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

2. Confirming Resolution No. 1252: Temporary Loan 2007 RDA Bond

Chief Deputy Clerk Margo Nagy read Resolution No. 1252 by title only. She explained this is similar to the previous item. This temporary loan is for \$6,019.71. It will be repaid with the spring settlement.

A motion to approve Confirming Resolution No. 1252 was made by John Foreman with second by Richard Sharpe. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Foreman – Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

PLAN

1. Letter of Credit: Summer Winds Unit 3

Town Administrator Murr stated this is for Summer Winds Unit 3. The letter of credit is in the amount of \$29,817.59. This was recommended and reviewed by the Town Engineer. It was approved at the November 20, 2019 Plan Commission meeting. It has been reviewed by the Town Attorney. Mr. Austgen stated in form and content it is acceptable.

A motion to accept the letter of credit for Summer Winds Unit 3 was made by John Foreman with second by Julie Rivera. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Foreman – Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Contract Agreement – Austgen, Kuiper, Jasaitis PC

A motion to renew was made by Ralph Miller with second by Richard Sharpe. President Niemeyer asked if there were any changes to the contract. Mr. Austgen stated only the dates were changed. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Foreman – Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

2. Contract Agreement – Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd

A motion to renew was made by Ralph Miller with second by John Foreman. President Niemeyer asked Mr. Oliphant if there were any changes. Mr. Oliphant stated there was a 3% rate increase. That is the first since 2004. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Foreman – Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

3. Fire Department Training Reimbursement Agreement – Van Auken

Town Administrator Murr stated this is the form and format that was created by ordinance for use by the Town Attorney. It was recommended they approve the agreement.

A motion to approve the reimbursement agreement subject to attorney review was made by John Foreman with second by Richard Sharpe. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Foreman – Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

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

REPORTS

1. Town Council – Mr. Carnahan reported that Friday at 9AM, 16 Plus will be meeting at the Schererville Town Hall. Lake County Community Services will be speaking. Mr. Sharpe stated he received a message from some residents in Noble Oaks. They asked him to mention their roads. They don't want any more band aid fixes. The residents would like to be involved in discussions on road improvements. They are concerned about their roads and the value of their neighborhood. Mr. Sharpe stated he will be discussing the area with the Street Committee. President Niemeyer briefly discussed the ad hoc committees. Mr. Miller asked for an update on streetlights. Mrs. Murr stated she has put together a list. She would like to review it with the Police Chief and Public Works. President Niemeyer stated he circulated earlier today a draft document of objectives. Once the Council has had time to review and add things he would like to make it a guiding road map. They need to keep track of important projects and make sure they are getting done. Mr. Carnahan stated he read it and it indicated Jennifer needed to look at what kind of bond money was available. President Niemeyer stated that is a task for the financial consultants and the Clerk-Treasurer to examine the debt load. To see what becomes available as bonds roll off.
2. Town Attorney - None
3. Clerk-Treasurer - None
4. Town Administrator/Staff – Mrs. Murr stated she is actively working on the streetlights and having that as part of the committee list as well as working on streets for the community crossing grant.
5. Police Department – Chief Fisher stated he has established his command staff. He's asked Deputy Chief Brittingham to remain in his position and he has accepted. Sergeant Tim Kilgore has been promoted to Patrol Commander. The 2020 Cops Grant is available again. In researching the grant, they've found that the total grant provides approximately 75% of the approved entry level salary for a police officer. That includes fringe benefits. Not the same as the previous grants. He asked for the Council's blessing to move forward after approval of the Police Commission in seeking the grant. It is \$125,000 over three years to add a new officer.

A motion to approve the Cops Grant contingent on approval by the Police Commission was made by John Foreman with second by Richard Sharpe. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Foreman – Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

Chief Fisher asked for the Council's approval in addition to the Police Commission's, to advertise for an emergency hire. Currently, the department is down two officers. The surrounding communities are in the emergency hire process now too. His goal is to hire an officer to replace himself right away. The process takes approximately three months. With this a list will be established for the potential replacement of an officer later in the year. They'll keep the list for one year.

A motion to approve the emergency hire was made by John Foreman with second by Julie Rivera. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Foreman – Yes. Vote: 7 - 0. President Niemeyer stated part of the objective list circulated earlier is to work with the department and Town staff to really take a look at personnel and department needs and keep with the momentum built over the last few years. He's looking to sit down with everyone in February and

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

6. Fire Department

President Niemeyer reiterated to Chief Wilkening that part of the objective list is to keep with the Fire Department and look at staffing and tackling the turnover issue.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

1. 2019 Building Department Report – Mrs. Murr stated there were a total of 188 new home permits with a residential value of \$32,019,819. The number of permits has decreased but the home values have increased. There were 497 alteration permits with a residential value of just over \$6.1 million.
2. Christopher B. Burke Engineering Report – Mr. Oliphant stated they are watching some house and senate bills they are keeping an eye on. They are waiting on NIPSCO in regards to Highland Subdivision. They are working with Jill on streetlights. The design is coming along for 129th Avenue. They are continuing to work on some storm projects.
3. Hanover Community School Corporation – School Board Liaison Appointment to Town Council - Dennis Wilkening has been appointed as liaison.

WORK SESSION: Tourism Funds Request

1. Cedar Lake Summerfest
2. Cedar Lake Historical Association
3. Cedar Lake Farmers Market

President Niemeyer asked the Council to review the requests so they can make a decision within the next couple of meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Yvonne Taves and Sharon Greenwalt voiced concerns with a residence in the Cedar Point Park Subdivision. They shared pictures of the house in question. The Police Department is coming around constantly. She thanked them for their hard work. She voiced concerns with the individuals in the home and people constantly coming and going. She voiced concerns with criminals in the neighborhood. She stated they are doing work without proper permits. She asked that multiple departments of the Town get involved and help with the issues. Multiple conversations overlapped as residents began to voice concerns with individuals in the neighborhood. A very lengthy discussion continued on the concerns of the residents.

Cody Rice voiced concerns with suspected deviant activity in the neighborhood.

Wesley voiced concerns with excessive traffic in the neighborhood and vehicles blocking his driveway. He voiced concerns with his children being able to safely play in the neighborhood. He continued to voice concerns.

President Niemeyer urged the residents to keep doing what they are doing but to be calm and try to avoid confrontations. Residents continued to voice concerns. Chief Fisher asked for the residents that have video evidence to bring it to the department.

Jim Lameka, 12712 Meadowlark, stated he was there to follow up on an issue he previously came to the Council with about a water main issue and damage to his property. He stated he contacted multiple people to discuss the issue. A section of sidewalk was removed but nothing more was done. Mr. Lameka stated he has heard nothing in regards to what is going on with the issue. He shared pictures with the Council. He asked for help in getting the issue resolved. A lengthy conversation continued on the issue and what is being done internally. President Niemeyer asked for Mr. Oliphant to look into the issue. He asked that it be brought to the attention of the Storm Board.

Doug Robinson, 11505 132nd Avenue voiced concerns with his subdivision roads. He stated they are neglected. There are multiple pot holes and water stands. He submitted a petition signed by

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

many of the neighborhood residents. He stated he has multiple pictures showing the neglect. The roads are like mud. He doesn't understand why the roads haven't been taken care of. The residents have been there a long time and this is unacceptable. President Niemeyer and Mr. Foreman discussed the asset management plan of the roads. Multiple conversations overlapped. A lengthy discussion continued on the roads and the Town's funding ability. Mr. Foreman discussed looking into a short term solution.

Sandra Matter from Region Radio asked for clarification on what was voted on. Mr. Foreman stated it was approved with the waiver and asked her to connect with Jill.

ADJOURNMENT President Niemeyer called the meeting to adjournment at approximately 8:30 PM.

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

Randell Niemeyer, President

Julie Rivera, Vice President

Robert H. Carnahan

John Foreman

Ralph Miller

Colleen Schieben

ATTEST:

Richard Sharpe

Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMC
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.