

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



**February 4, 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	
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/Paramedic Jose Navarro received the Oath of Office from Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg.

**YMCA PRESENTATION**

Mark Bates, Chairman of the Board of the Crossroads YMCA, and Jerry Steiner, Board Member, announced that they were notified by Cedar Lake resident, Dick Henn, who was engaged in negotiations with South Shore Country Club and wanted to assign the property to the Crossroads YMCA. Crossroads YMCA would like to bring a Destination Camp to Cedar Lake. They want to continue their mission in Cedar Lake. Mr. Steiner shared photos of a Destination Camp in Nashville. Mr. Bates and Mr. Steiner discussed the potential phases of the project. First, they want to bring a multi-purpose space for camping, conferences, and retreats. Water activities will be incorporated and they want to enhance the lakefront area. A lengthy discussion continued on the different activities, number of children and families served by the YMCA, and additional phases of the project.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Minutes** – January 21, 2020

**2. Claims:** All Town Funds: \$61,584.09; Wastewater Operating: \$47,760.44; Water Utility: \$36,613.47; Storm Water: \$8,440.62; Payroll: 1/23/2020 & 1/31/2020 \$184,406.70

A motion to accept and waive the reading of Minutes and accept the consent agenda was made by Richard Sharpe with second by Ralph Miller. Council Member Carnahan asked Mr. Kubiak about a new furnace installed at Public Works. Mr. Kubiak stated it was in the back by the mechanic bay. Mr. Carnahan stated they are making progress with replacing furnaces. Mr. Kubiak stated they are. They will be doing one more at the Police Station and another in the office at Public Works. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Niemeyer - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

**1. Resolution No. 1253: West Side Sewer Interceptor Reimbursement**

Council Member Rivera read by title only. Town Attorney Austgen stated this resolution permits reimbursement from capital financing for Town expenses incurred for the capital improvement. Mrs. Murr agreed with Mr. Austgen. This is something that has been in the pipeline for a while. Mr. Carnahan asked about the language used in the resolution. Mr. Austgen stated because the financing will most likely be two methods, out of pocket and bond financing. The language was left discretionary as to when or how the capital financing will occur. The \$7,500,000 is a number deemed appropriate by the engineers and financial advisors.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 1253 was made by Julie Rivera with second by John Foreman. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Niemeyer - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

**2. Resolution No. 1254: Loan from Sewage Works to Water Works**

Council Member Rivera read by title only. Town Attorney Austgen stated this resolution is in furtherance of the financing contemplated for the east side water works improvements. That will also be a multi-phase activity. They anticipate the first phase being a water tower facility in an approximate amount of \$1,000,000. They do not know the cost or expense required to get supply to the tower or the land acquisition required. This is a reimbursement resolution authorizing payment from capital funds when bonds

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are issued. Mr. Carnahan asked about the Krystal Oaks location. Mr. Austgen stated that would be the location of the water tower. Mr. Carnahan asked about the water supply. Mr. Austgen stated they can't answer that today as the engineers are working on it.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 1254 was made by Julie Rivera with second by Ralph Miller. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Niemeyer - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2020 Farmers Market Event Coordinator Agreement**

Town Administrator Murr explained this is the agreement for 2020. It is the same as last year. The market will begin on May 27<sup>th</sup> and go through October 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. They did add that during the summer months it will be open until 8:00PM. It was recommended to approve. Mr. Carnahan stated it is \$150 per event and an additional \$5 per vendor if over 40 vendors. President Niemeyer asked Ms. Dykstra if there was anything new this year. Ms. Dykstra stated they would have more games for kids and they will be including for students to get community service hours. They will have student led music from 3:00PM-4:00PM. President Niemeyer congratulated her on the success of the inaugural market.

A motion to approve the agreement 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, Niemeyer - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

**2. Veridus Master Services Agreement**

Town Administrator Murr explained this is the annual agreement with Veridus. The agreement is basically the same except for now it is for two years. When larger projects come up they will do a separate work order. Rates increased slightly as listed in Exhibit A of the agreement. Exhibit B is the same. The Redevelopment Commission uses their services as well. President Niemeyer stated they've seen Veridus put together a whole package for large scale projects. They know the internal policies of the Town and they've been working with the Town in ongoing communications with Carpere Canada.

A motion to approve the agreement was made by Ralph Miller with second by Richard Sharpe. Roll call vote: Carnahan – No, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Niemeyer - Yes. Vote: 6 - 1.

**3. Engagement Agreement – EMS Billing Medicaid Reimbursement**

Town Administrator Murr stated this is the annual agreement for EMS billing reimbursement. They've been doing this for the last few years now. It's on a contingency fee of 25%. If the Town doesn't collect any money, the Town will not pay anything out. Mr. Carnahan asked about the fee listed. Mrs. Murr explained that is why they do it on a contingency basis. Mr. Austgen stated this was a regular item for the Town to complete.

A motion to approve was made by John Foreman with second by Colleen Schieben. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Niemeyer - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

**4. Fire Department Training Reimbursement Agreement – Navarro**

Town Administrator Murr stated this is similar to the last meeting. This is the training reimbursement agreement for Firefighter/Paramedic Jose Navarro, who was sworn in earlier this evening. It was recommended to approve.

A motion to approve was made by John Foreman with second by Robert Carnahan. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Niemeyer - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

**5. Utility Board Meeting Time**

President Niemeyer stated last year they formed the Utility Board and scheduled it for the third Tuesday, immediately following the Town Council Meeting. This proposal is to keep it on the same day but move it to a 6:30PM start time. Mr. Foreman asked if the utility board meeting was to be short would they move up the start time of the Town Council meeting. It was stated no Town Council will remain at the advertised start time of 7:00PM.

A motion to approve was made by Colleen Schieben with second by Richard Sharpe. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Niemeyer - Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

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**REPORTS**

1. **Town Council** – Mr. Carnahan reported he attended a meeting at an open house for the newly opened Census Bureau in Merrillville. It was well attended. He discussed how excited he was to get higher than 80% in 2020. He discussed the Town losing almost \$20,000,000 in 2010. He implored everyone to take the time to fill out the census. It can be done online, over the phone, or via paper form. March 4<sup>th</sup> there will be Bingo Census at the Cedar Lake Library. Jon Davis, of the Cedar Lake Library, stated it will be a fun evening with some prizes. Every Friday they are signing people up for census jobs. A brief conversation continued on the census. Mrs. Murr reported that the street committee met and discussed projects they are working on and updating the capital improvement plan. They will be adding items into the plan that have been discussed over the past year including roadways left off of previous projects and storm water projects. President Niemeyer asked about financial options. Mrs. Murr stated they started that discussion and that will tie in with other boards. Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg has reached out to the financial advisor. They are looking into that. One other item they should consider is any water expansion as they do road projects and streetlights. Public Works will be putting together 2020 resurfacing list utilizing the asset management plan. A brief discussion continued on road repairs, reconstructions, and financing options. President Niemeyer discussed a document of strategic objectives. He shared it with the Council and staff. They will tackle items like Fire and Police staffing, equipment, wages, and facilities. They will also look into the other departments of the Town and the need for new positions like a Planning Director. He further discussed some of the objectives like financing, the Ecosystem Restoration Project, etc. He asked for the Council to consider adopting it as a guide.

A motion to approve the document as their strategic objective guide for 2020 was made by Julie Rivera with second by John Foreman. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes. Vote: 7 - 0.

2. **Town Attorney** – None
3. **Clerk-Treasurer** – Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg stated she is busy working on the Annual Financial Report and following-up with the financial consultants on the ongoing projects discussed this evening.
4. **Town Administrator/Staff** – Mrs. Murr reported that staff training will occur on March 4<sup>th</sup>. They will close the Town Hall from 8:00AM to 12:30PM for active shooter training. The Business Showcase will be on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Public Works and Safety will be coordinating meetings as well as Parks and Recreation. Spring soccer sign-ups will begin on March 6<sup>th</sup>. She would like to schedule a conference call to discuss the Tourism Fund Requests. The Redevelopment Commission has approved three Façade Grants totaling \$36,449. They are coordinating the first JMOB meeting of the year. Mr. Carnahan asked Mrs. Murr to circulate her report. She stated she would. Chief Fisher reported they would be hosting a School Resource Officer Training next week at the Clubhouse. They will have 22 officers from different areas including three from Cedar Lake. It's a five day school. The school is paying for the officers attending not the department. President Niemeyer asked if there was an update on Cedar Point Park. Chief Fisher stated he would love to give an update but cannot just yet. Chief Wilkening reported a volunteer firefighter and his family is going through a difficult time. He asked everyone to pray for the Conner family. They will be setting up some different fundraisers for them. They interviewed 14 candidates for the next open position. They have selected Dustin Thibideau. He will be the 12<sup>th</sup> full-time officer. He is going through the PERF process. Mrs. Murr added that they are diligently working on the Community Crossing Grant Application. They are applying for the mill/resurface, heat scarification for around the lake.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Diane Jostes, Cedar Lake Chamber, stated Vito's Italian Ice will be opening in the old Frank's Backyard BBQ.

An audience member thanked the Council for their service and hardwork. He doesn't think they hear it enough.

President Niemeyer stated Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Austgen, and himself will be meeting with the superintendent of Hanover Schools to talk about their upcoming capital projects. He congratulated the Crown Point Girls Basketball team for another undefeated season. He also congratulated the Hanover Central Boys Basketball team for their 16-1 season.

**ADJOURNMENT** President Niemeyer called the meeting to adjournment at approximately 8:15 PM.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randell Niemeyer, President

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Julie Rivera, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert H. Carnahan

\_\_\_\_\_  
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.