October 6, 2023



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

Robert H. Carnahan	Ward 1	Present	John Foreman	At Large
Council Member			Vice-President	
Julie Rivera	Ward 2	Present	Richard Sharpe	At Large
Council Member			President	
Nick Recupito	Ward 3	Present	Jennifer N. Sandberg, IA	AMC, CMC, CPFIM
Council Member			Clerk-Treasurer	
Ralph Miller	Ward 4	Present	Chris Salatas	
Council Member			Town Manager	
Colleen Schieben	Ward 5	Present	David Austgen	
Council Member			Town Attorney	
	Robert H. Carnahan Council Member Julie Rivera Council Member Nick Recupito Council Member Ralph Miller Council Member Colleen Schieben	Robert H. CarnahanWard 1Council MemberJulie RiveraWard 2Julie RiveraWard 2Council MemberVard 3Nick RecupitoWard 3Council MemberCouncil MemberRalph MillerWard 4Council MemberCouncil MemberColleen SchiebenWard 5	Robert H. CarnahanWard 1PresentCouncil MemberWard 2PresentJulie RiveraWard 2PresentCouncil MemberWard 3PresentNick RecupitoWard 3PresentCouncil MemberVard 4PresentCouncil MemberCouncil MemberCouncil MemberPresentCouncil MemberPresentCouncil MemberPresentCouncil MemberPresentCouncil MemberPresent	Robert H. Carnahan Council MemberWard 1Present PresentJohn Foreman Vice-PresidentJulie Rivera Council MemberWard 2Present PresentRichard Sharpe PresidentNick Recupito Council MemberWard 3Present PresentJennifer N. Sandberg, Le Clerk-TreasurerRalph Miller Council MemberWard 4Present Town ManagerColleen SchiebenWard 5PresentDavid Austgen

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Ordinance No. 1479 – Y2024 Budget – First Reading

- a. Review of Legals Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg reported the Form 3, the Notice to Taxpayers, was published timely. It can be found on Gateway at <u>www.budgetnotices.in.gov</u>.
- **b. Opening Remarks** Ms. Sandberg stated last Friday they held the Special Public Work Session regarding the budget. She stated Corby Thompson was available on Zoom for any questions. She stated they are looking at 3% raises. For the Fire Department, they are anticipating two new hires. Within the Police Department they increased the fuel line item and anticipate the purchase of a few new vehicles out of the CCD Fund.
- c. Reading of Ordinance No. 1456 Council Member Foreman read by title only.

d. Remonstrators

Mary Joan Dickson, 8711 W. 132nd Place, stated the 2023 budget was based on income from the building department. She asked what are they anticipating for 2024. She asked what the income was that would help support besides taxes. Ms. Sandberg stated once everything is officially adopted, she believes the Form 2 will be available. That form shows the anticipated miscellaneous revenues. She stated she did not have a number in front of her but they are anticipating 100 building permits next year.

e. Town Council Discussion

Mr. Carnahan stated he received the report and it is like Greek to him. He discussed it only showing \$60,000 for the Town Manager and he knows he makes more than that. He stated he does not see a clear picture of what all the employees are getting from 2023 to 2024 and the rate of increase. He stated he heard a rumor that one employee was going to get a 44% increase. Ms. Sandberg stated as previously report, across the board they are looking at 3% raises for employees. There are a couple others that may be slightly more or less. When it comes to the Town Manager, like herself and other departments, depending on the job duty, it will be split among the different funds. That does not show on the Form 1 because they are not required to budget the utility funds. The Town does budget the utilities. They started this year but when it comes to DLGF reporting and requirements, they are not required to put the utilities in there. She stated they are not there yet as this was their first year budgeting the utilities. She stated when they do the salary ordinance, that is when he will be able to see the specific fund breakdown. It will show the percentage. Mr. Carnahan stated for the general public to understand this, it seems kind of confusing. He stated the best report he has seen is the Gateway report that lists every employee and their salary. Ms. Sandberg stated that is the 100R report. They are required to file that annually in January for the previous year. She stated they have to wait for the approved budget. They will not know for certain what everyone will make until the 1782 Notice is received. Mr. Carnahan asked if the 3% increase included the Town Council. Ms. Sandberg stated yes. Discussion occurred on the raise for the Town Council. Mrs. Rivera stated she could live without the 3%. Ms. Sandberg stated they can address that with the salary ordinance. This is the estimated need for the budget next year. When it comes to specific salaries, that is where they will decide, is with the salary ordinance. She stated elected officials are allowed to completely waive their compensation. Mr. Austgen asked Mr. Carnahan asked if the complaint was about the content, form, or both. Mr. Carnahan stated a little of both. He voiced concerns for the average citizen understanding the forms. Mr. Austgen stated he would confirm with Jennifer but they are using State approved

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

forms. Ms. Sandberg stated yes. Mr. Carnahan stated he does not like it. Mr. Austgen stated he wanted to make certain he is not complaining about the work effort. He stated they have been meeting for months and preparing and it comes down to them using State prescribed forms. Mr. Sharpe stated this is the budget it is not the final numbers of what anyone will make. Mr. Austgen repeated that the salary ordinance would take care of what Bob is talking about. Mr. Recupito asked about the new line item for Planning and Zoning for maintenance and repairs. He asked what is that for. He asked how were they handling it before. Mr. Salatas stated they have trucks that they will have to service. Ms. Sandberg stated new trucks were purchased this year and the old trucks trickled to the planning and building department. The older trucks will need maintenance and they realized they did not have a line item for that department. Mr. Recupito stated he likes the reallocations to get stuff more in line. He asked about the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund and the increase in the budget. He asked how they expect to cover the increase. Ms. Sandberg stated they anticipate a little increase to the revenues that are received from the State. She stated they also anticipate a little more of the levy to go to the fund. They hope to give a little more of the levy to the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund. She stated when she started working with the Town, they never gave any of the levy to the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund. They worked based on the monthly revenues received. Within the last few years and working with Corby and seeing the greater needs in Public Works, they started allocating a little of the levy to that fund. Mr. Carnahan credited Ms. Sandberg and the strong cash balances in each fund. Mr. Salatas stated Jennifer is deserving of that credit but the Council is also deserving by building up a strong cash reserve so borrowing from the utilities is not necessary. Mr. Recupito asked about some of the positions mentioned, the GIS Coordinator and Mechanic specifically, he stated they still have to have a salary ordinance. Mr. Salatas stated that is correct. Mr. Recupito stated he wanted to make sure they were not guaranteeing those positions. Mr. Salatas stated the budget needs to be certified. Ms. Sandberg stated nothing will move forward until they receive the 1782 Notice. A brief discussion continued.

f. Town Council Decision

A motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 1479 was made by Julie Rivera with second by Ralph Miller. Roll Call: Carnahan – No, Rivera – Yes, Recupito – No, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Foreman – Yes, Sharpe – Yes. Vote: 5-2.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

ADJOURNMENT President Sharpe called the meeting to adjournment at approximately 7:15 PM.

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

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

Richard Sharpe, President	John Foreman, Vice President
Robert H. Carnahan	Julie Rivera
Nicholas Recupito	Ralph Miller
ATTEST:	Colleen Schieben

Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMC, CMC, CPFIM 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:

The date, time, and place of the meeting.
The members of the governing body recorded as either present or absent.
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 section 3.5 or 3.6 of this chapter or any other statute that authorizes a governing body to conduct a meeting using an electronic means of communication.