

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



August 20, 2024

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	Mary Joan Dickson Council Member	At Large
Absent	Julie Rivera Council Member	Ward 2	Present	Richard C. Thiel Jr. Council Member	At Large
Present	Nick Recupito Council Member	Ward 3	Present	Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMC, CMC, CPFIM Clerk-Treasurer	
Present	Chuck Becker Council Member	Ward 4	Present	Jeff Bunge Town Manager	
Present	Greg Parker Council Member	Ward 5	Present	David Austgen Town Attorney	

PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation for Hanover Central Trap & Skeet Team

The Hanover Central Trap & Skeet Team was congratulated for their participation and outstanding placement in the USA Clay Target National Competition. Mr. Bunge read a Proclamation into the record for the Hanover Central Trap & Skeet Team. *A copy of the proclamation can be found at the end of the minutes.*

2. Logan's Love/Ben's Blue Bags

Georganne Gladys introduced Logan's Love and Georgie, Logan's friend and classmate, as well as members Eliana, Gianna, and Nicole, Logan's mother. The organization was founded in memory of Logan who tragically passed away two years ago due to elopement. Elopement was a symptom of his autism. Nicole wished to honor his memory and give back to the autism and disabilities community. Through the group, they have put on sensory friendly Santa events, Easter events, and an annual Autism Walk. They held their second Autism Walk this past weekend and had 250 participants. With the Autism Walk they were unsure of what to expect and partnered with Matt Kodicek and Ben's Blue Bags to get 100 bags donated for the tri-town area. The goal was to get 100 bags donated and before last year's walk, they received 150 donated bags. This began a county-wide initiative. Cedar Lake is the 12th town that is receiving the bags. They will also be receiving training from Matt Kodicek. Twenty-eight bags will go to the Police Department and five will go to the Fire Department. Ben's Blue Bags are filled with sensory-friendly items meant to help first responders communicate and work with individuals with Autism and other disabilities. Georganne stated they too would be having a golf outing and anyone interested in participating could check out their website logansloveloganspeaks.com. Nicole thanked them for allowing them to present today and get Ben's Blue Bags into Cedar Lake. She stated the goal is to get them throughout the entire county. She stated they work to keep Logan's memory and spirit alive through their foundation and work. They want to make Lake County one of the best counties to live in for special needs families. They strive to give them opportunities like all others experience. They hope to make it a safe, educated, and accepted place to live for families by spreading Logan's Love. Nicole spoke about the walk this past weekend and invited everyone to join next year. She noted they teamed up with Project Lifesaver this past year.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Ordinance No. 1499 - Y2024 Garbage/Refuse and Recyclables Rate Ordinance Amendment

- a. **Review of Legals** – Mr. Austgen reported the legals were in order.
- b. **Opening Remarks** - Mr. Recupito stated it is an ordinance they are working on to amend the fee structure for the garbage and recyclables. They are in a six-year contract. He is in contact with Republic Services about possibly securing a seventh year. He stated they have decent rates right now. He stated he knows some of the surrounding communities are in newer contracts and above them. He stated he is hoping they can secure a bit of price stability for the ratepayers.
- c. **Reading of Ordinance No. 1499** – Mr. Parker read by title only.
- d. **Remonstrators** – Cheryl Parker, 7227 W 136th CT, asked about the schedule. She asked if it is always a twelve-month agreement with the provider. Mr. Recupito stated no. It is a five-year contract with an optional sixth year. Mr. Recupito noted it is a multi-year contract. Right now, everyone is paying \$20.00 per month but the cost to the Town is more. Ms. Sandberg stated it is \$20.75. Mrs. Parker asked if they are looking to increase it in 2024. Mr. Recupito stated yes. His vision was to have the rates set for the entirety of the contract. Mrs. Parker asked about the rates noted. Mr. Recupito discussed the current contract

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rates. Currently, they are at \$20.75 per month. Next year starting June 1st, it will go up to \$21.58. The following year starting June 1st, it will go up to \$22.44. Mr. Recupito stated he is trying to secure a seventh year that way residents know what they are paying.

- e. **Town Council Discussion** - Mr. Carnahan asked what the increase was going to be. Mr. Recupito stated he does not believe they have determined that yet. Ms. Sandberg stated her recommendation as stated in her email to them was to go with Rate A. She directed them to the attachment in their packet. She stated if things move forward, for the remainder of 2024 through May 31, 2025, the rate would be \$21.36. For June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, it would be \$22.21. For June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027, it would be \$23.10. If an additional year is added, they would have to amend their analysis. Mr. Austgen noted that the Council has the opportunity at the end of the term of pricing to solicit bids and or proposals from others. They are not locked in and there is flexibility.

- f. **Town Council Decision**

A motion to defer the public hearing to the next public meeting was made by Greg Parker with second by Chuck Becker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Groszek, 14055 Deodor, stated he has two different agendas. One that is posted online and the one received this evening. He stated they are missing one item under BZA/Plan. Mr. Recupito asked if that was the item for Beacon Point East. Mr. Groszek stated yes. Mr. Recupito explained he questioned that item as well. It was an error made on the agenda because the Council had already approved the performance letter of credit extension and then the Plan Commission filed the next night. That item has already been done. Mr. Groszek stated the item noted it was due to expire October of 2024 but it was September. Mr. Recupito confirmed it expires September 30, 2024. A brief discussion continued.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Minutes:** July 16, 2024
2. **Claims:** All Town Funds: \$783,837.06; Wastewater Operating: \$91,431.80; Water Utility: \$45,319.96; Storm Water: \$11,636.37; Payroll: August 15, 2024 - \$264,510.18; and July Remittances \$236,426.43
3. **Manual Journal Entries:** July 1 – July 31, 2024

Mr. Carnahan commended Jennifer. She was absent at the July 16, 2024, meeting but did a great job on the 12-page document.

A motion to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the consent agenda as listed was made by Greg Parker with second by Richard Thiel. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

BZA/PLAN

1. **Extension of MacArthur Elementary Performance Letter of Credit due to expire February 19, 2025 (Approved by Plan Commission (7-0) on July 17, 2024)**

A motion to approve was made by Robert Carnahan with second by Mary Joan Dickson. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

2. **Extension of Rose Garden Estates, Unit 3 Performance Letter of Credit in the amount of \$1,913,079.85 due to expire on February 22, 2025 (Approved by Plan Commission (7-0) on July, 17, 2024)**

A motion to approve was made by Robert Carnahan with second by Greg Parker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

1. **Ordinance No. 1495 – Amending Park Rules & Regulations – Animal Access in Town Parks, 2nd Reading**

Mr. Parker read Ordinance No. 1495 by title only. Mr. Austgen stated the Park Board issued a Resolution approval recommendation. It is advisory to the Council and they make the decision. Mrs. Ray reported they had been going through and cleaning up old ordinances on things that pertain to Parks today. One item they came across was the beach rules. There was confusion as to dogs being allowed on the beach. They cleaned up the ordinance relating to dogs and where they are permitted within the park system. Mr. Becker voiced concerns with the ordinance and dogs not being allowed on the sidelines at soccer practice. He stated in the past folks would bring their pets to sit on the sidelines during the practices. Mr. Recupito asked if it was something they have been having

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problems with. Mrs. Ray stated what they are trying to do is give a what is good for all not just for some approach. She stated there are children who have anxiety or allergies to pets. They want to create safe spaces for recreation opportunities without involving those things. She stated there have been problems in the past.

A motion to adopt was made by Mary Joan Dickson with second by Richard Thiel. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker- No, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – No, Recupito – Yes. Vote 4 – 2.

**2. Ordinance No. 1500 - Cedar Lake/Water Y2024 Sprinkling Usage Regulation
Amendatory Ordinance**

Mr. Parker read Ordinance No. 1500 by title only. Mr. Recupito stated they are proposing this item because there have been a series of low-pressure alarms on the west side on Mondays. The ordinance has been amended from 1385 and 1427 so it gives the Water Utility Superintendent or the Town Manager the ability to institute a full ban. All other provisions remain. Mr. Austgen stated that is correct and substantively it remains the same. They conformed the language for all three options. Mr. Recupito stated this has been going on for a couple months. Mr. Kubiak stated the first alarm was mid-July this year. Mr. Recupito stated the biggest problem seems to be on Monday. Tim got in contact with the folks in Beacon Point to get them in compliance with 1427. That should take effect Thursday. The coming Monday will be the first test. Mr. Kubiak stated that is about 94 irrigation systems that were coming on at the same time. He stated they have some high demand days. They need storage and production but having all of those irrigation systems running at the same time was creating an issue. He stated they are trying to do the best they can but everybody using at the same time is not helping matters. Mr. Recupito stated it seems the system rebounds quickly after an alarm. He stated they are not talking a three- or four-hour event. Mr. Thiel stated maybe half an hour to an hour. Mr. Kubiak stated this past Monday the alarm was back off and then went back on at 7:20 a.m. but was back up again before 8:00 a.m. He said it is a lot of water quickly. They have 250,000 gallons on demand and when everyone opens at the same time it does not take long to dissipate. Mr. Recupito stated he would like to see Beacon Point get in compliance as they seem to have the biggest impact. He is not ready to pull the trigger on a full ban. Mr. Carnahan stated Ryan Kuiper sent them a letter that said they had the lowest alarm to date on Monday, August 5, 2024. The pressure at the plant dropped to 34 PSI. He also sent a bunch of pictures and charts on the different reading through June and July. Mr. Thiel stated he believes it was 38 PSI this morning. He is trying to figure out as there has been a substantial amount of rain this weekend, he does not know how much of that comes into effect. He stated he would rather give it one or two Mondays before a complete ban.

A motion to defer to the next meeting was made by Greg Parker with second by Richard Thiel. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Requisition No. 16 Disbursement of funds from 2022A Construction Fund in the amount of \$142,065.72 to GM Development Companies LLC.

Mr. Carnahan stated he believes this is for the new Police Station. Ms. Sandberg stated yes. A motion to approve was made by Robert Carnahan with second by Richard Thiel. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

2. Requisition No. 15 Disbursement of funds from 2022B Construction Fund in the amount of \$328,103.14 to GM Development Companies LLC.

Mr. Carnahan stated he believes this is for the Fire Department. Mr. Recupito stated yes. A motion to approve was made by Greg Parker with second by Richard Thiel. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

3. Appoint Board of Safety Liaison

Mr. Parker asked if they were ready to do this. Mr. Carnahan stated Julie does not want to do it anymore. He would like Chuck Becker to join him. Mr. Recupito asked if Mr. Becker was ready or wanted to think about it. Mr. Becker stated he was ready.

A motion to approve Chuck Becker as Board of Safety Liaison was made by Robert Carnahan with second by Greg Parker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

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4. Allow for the advertisement and acceptance of applications for the position of Police Chief

Mr. Recupito asked if they wanted to set a date on this item. He asked Jennifer what their standard practice has been. Ms. Sandberg stated she would recommend a longer window. She would have to look back at the last one and see how exactly it was advertised. She stated her question to them would be what are some of the parameters. She stated there is a Lexipol policy they may want to review but there are other things they will need to consider. Mr. Recupito asked if they could make a motion to advertise and post it in a week to give them time to hash out the details. Mr. Austgen stated they have done this a lot, unfortunately, there are very significant details to consider. They are the parameters you are soliciting interest from qualified candidates. Mr. Parker stated it is not ready. Mr. Austgen stated he does not think so if nothing has been prepared. Ms. Sandberg stated no one has reached out to her. There have been no discussions of what they are looking for. Mr. Recupito stated they will get together and get those details.

A motion to defer was made by Greg Parker with second by Richard Thiel. Mr. Austgen noted there is no real statutory process for this. This is classic home rule. The questions being asked hit the bullet points in the statute about qualifications or eligibility or compensation. There is no boiler plate and this is all custom. Mr. Recupito asked Jennifer if there would be questions for them to answer before they advertise. Ms. Sandberg stated she would send them an email. Mr. Thiel asked if there was any Board of Safety involvement. Mr. Austgen stated it can. That is their choice. Mr. Carnahan stated it is a Council decision. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

REPORTS

- 1. Town Council** – Mr. Carnahan reported on a volunteer at Project Love that wished to start a golf outing. It will be Friday, September 27, 2024 at 1:00 PM. It will be at Deer Creek Golf Course in University Park. Dinner will be at 5:30 PM. It is \$100 and that includes the dinner. Mr. Recupito asked how folks get in touch to inquire. Mr. Carnahan stated folks can call Donna at the church at 219-374-7312. Mr. Carnahan stated they have the other one for autism on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Mr. Recupito stated for information on that people can call 219-789-5451. Mr. Thiel asked Jennifer if they had readvertised for the water crew worker and mechanic. Ms. Sandberg stated they were both still active on the website. She believes Kirsten resent it out last week. Unfortunately, she has not received anything other than one for the crew worker. Mrs. Dickson asked if there was a deadline. Ms. Sandberg stated no, those postings were left open-ended. Mr. Thiel stated since they did not have anything they felt it would be a good idea to repost it. Mr. Carnahan asked if they are advertising in all avenues possible. Ms. Sandberg stated yes, unless they want her to start paying for newspaper advertisements. They traditionally do not do that since no one really reads print anymore. If it is a cost they wish to take on, they can discuss it. A brief discussion continued.
- 2. Town Attorney** – No report.
- 3. Clerk-Treasurer** – Ms. Sandberg reported they are continuing to work on the 2025 Budget. They hope to have a rough draft ready to present at the next meeting. She stated they were all copied on the correspondence from the Indiana State Board of Accounts. They finished the compliance examination for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund monies. They all received a copy of the report Friday. It will be available to the public and live on the State Board of Accounts website probably within the next day or so. That report states the Town complied and followed all federal rules and regulations related to the Coronavirus monies received. She stated they previously discussed that there are funds still remaining. She hopes to have a recommendation for them at the next meeting to spend the money. She stated she would like the money off the books by the end of the year. If not, the money must be under contract. If there is not a signed contract in place before the end of the year, they will have to return the remaining funds.
- 4. Town Manager** – No report.
- 5. Director of Operations** – Mr. Kubiak reported on Unsafe Building demolitions. They tore one down on Fernwood. They will get another one on the list in the coming weeks. Mr. Thiel stated those two had demo orders set to expire in October.
- 6. Police Department** – Chief Brittingham reported on the monthly calls report. He stated the stats are pretty consistent for July. He apologized for missing the last meeting. He was out of town at training. He offered to give an explanation on the new police vehicles as there were questions asked at the last meeting. Mr. Recupito stated it was in regards to the color. Chief Brittingham discussed the four black chargers purchased in 2022. He stated they were due to buy new vehicles and always purchased from Thomas Dodge as they consistently had the lowest price. They were one of the only dealers in the area that sold government police vehicles for Dodge. They came to the department and said they have four black chargers in the lot that another agency backed out of. They offered a

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considerable discount. The Chief at that time approached the Board of Safety for approval as well as the Town Council. They discussed the considerable savings and marking them. The only way to mark them was with what is called ghost graphics. During the day they are reflective in the light. By no means, does this mean they would repeat this. They are not changing car colors. It was a one-time deal. The graphics are the same from the same company and cost. All of them are on the road with the exception of the one that sits at the school with the SRO officer. The people that have them are high activity patrol officers. The four vehicles purchased this year are at the outfitters. It was a done deal. They were bought and delivered. Things have been ordered for the outfitting of the cars. It may still be a few months before the process is complete. The purchase was approved by the Board of Safety and Town Council. The four cars purchased were purchased from James Chrysler as they were able to be competitive with pricing. The cars are replacing four vehicles in the same class or category as far as marked or unmarked. The white marked Durango will replace a patrol marked vehicle that is due for replacement. The rotation of replacement is pretty consistent. It has nothing to do with who the person is. It has to do with the year of the vehicle, the mileage and wear and tear, and so forth. This particular process is exactly what occurs for getting the vehicles. Every vehicle that is being replaced in this rotation is currently one of the oldest vehicles in the fleet and due for replacement. It has nothing to do with the individual person. That Durango is replacing a marked car due for replacement. The three unmarked cars are replacing three unmarked cars currently in rotation. That is pretty consistent with what other agencies do and what they do as long as he has been with the Town. Mr. Parker stated they are not doing anything special it is business as usual. Chief Brittingham stated it is nothing special and business as usual. Mr. Parker stated he does not know why it came up and he apologized that Chief Brittingham had to explain. Chief Brittingham state he wanted to so that everybody understands. One of those cars is the Patrol Commander. The other car is for a sergeant who currently drives an unmarked call. All of the vehicles look black. One is black and maroon and the other black and blue. Chief Brittingham stated he would be receiving the third vehicle. He conducts investigations. He stated his current vehicle is in immaculate condition with average miles. They will use that car for investigations. It will be rotated down. He stated they need another unmarked vehicle for investigations. He stated the takeaway is that it is business as usual and nothing has changed. A brief discussion continued. Mr. Thiel asked about truck routes. He stated Friday he was made aware of a truck having an issue on Colfax. He asked what do local or county do when roads are closed and a semi with a fifty-foot trailer has nowhere to turn around. He asked if there was any reporting process for Google maps. Chief Brittingham stated that is a great question. There seems to be no method to the madness. He discussed Parrish and Cline being closed at the same time. One is a road improvement and the other is due to utility updates. Two major truck routes as well as 231 are closed at the same time. The most up to date map would be the app on a user's phone. He discussed being at the mercy of other agencies. He stated he would not want to be a driver. He stated they could find themselves on a road that has restrictions and could potentially received fines for something that is not under their control. A brief discussion continued. Mr. Recupito asked if there were any complaints of semi traffic on Schneider. Chief Brittingham stated the Patrol Commander spoke with the individual today and addressed it with him. There is a sign on 135th Place and US 41. The sign is small. He stated they spoke with Public Works and they would be doing a similar sign at that location to match the others throughout town. The complainant is aware of the process and they let him know to please call 911 first. That way they can have the opportunity to have contact with drivers and possibly issue a citation.

7. **Fire Department** – Chief Wilkening stated the Fire Department report did not actually get downloaded. He reported calls are up. He thanked the Council, Clerk-Treasurer's Office, Attorney's Office, Police Department and VIPS as well as everyone who attended his father's funeral and sent well wishes. He spoke of his father's numerous accomplishments. He was very active in the community. He stated he appreciated the support. Mr. Parker stated it was a tough loss for all in the community.
8. **Parks Department** – Mrs. Ray commented on a community opportunity. She stated when she came on board, they created a community link on the park website. Individuals can email the office with a flyer of an event happening in the community, they will share the information on that website.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

1. Building Department Report

Mr. Recupito stated the building department report was in the packet. There were 20 new construction permits in July. Year to date at 98. Mr. Bunge stated there are a grand total of other permits for July in the amount of 91. Year to date is 460 permits.

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2. Christopher B. Burke Report

Mr. Recupito asked for highlights. Mr. Bunge stated the dredging is off the lake. The lines carrying the material are in the process of being pulled out and collected. Once activities are complete a final pay application will be provided. It was up to the last day back in June that they were pumping sediment up to the final hour. NIRPC held a group meeting on July 11th to discuss ramifications of changing the 2024-2028 TIP. It was approved after the INDOT fiscal year. Millions had to be transferred to mass transit funding. That will impact some of the structured TIP and projects programmed. Don did make a comment that was brought up at the funding meeting that 133rd Avenue Road Raise Project has been changed. There were unfavorable soil conditions. The scope of the road raise is being revised. Mr. Carnahan noted the project will be a total of \$454,504 in federal funds and \$113,626 in local funds. Mr. Bunge stated they are hoping to keep it a similar budget. Mr. Carnahan stated he has concerns about Founders Creek. Once they get to 2028, the federal cost of \$1,422,430 and the match of \$355,608 is a lot of money to worry about. Mr. Carnahan discussed the crack sealing being a cost of \$1,570.92 over the bid. The community crossing grant was applied for. The final construction estimate is \$1,583,579.38. He stated community crossing only allows you to receive \$1,500,000. He stated there is another possibility of applying in October. If they get \$1,500,000, they will not be able to apply for more in October.

UPDATE/DISCUSSION

1. Town Council Liaison for the Museum

Mr. Recupito asked if Mr. Bunge was contacted by folks from the museum for this. Mr. Bunge stated not really. Mrs. Ray stated she brought it to the Town Manager's attention. Previously, there was a liaison from the Council that was given to the museum. There seems to be confusion with who to contact and how to get things done. She is looking for communication and coordination with activities happening. Mr. Carnahan stated Ralph Miller used to be the liaison. Mr. Recupito stated that is something they will discuss internally to come up with a solution. He asked how recent they had a liaison. Mrs. Dickson stated it was Ralph. At the beginning of the year, they did not appoint someone. Mr. Recupito stated he did not recall it being on the list. Ms. Sandberg stated it was never a formal appointment. Mr. Carnahan stated he was at one time elected. Mr. Recupito stated they would fix it.

2. Bond – Fire truck, ambulance, street sweeper, and payload

Mrs. Dickson asked Jennifer what they need to move forward on these. Ms. Sandberg asked what do they want to do. She asked if they were going to purchase the fire truck ordered for \$1.2 million as well as an ambulance, street sweeper, and payload. She stated she would need updated quotes so they can look at that in relation to preliminary analysis given to them a few months back regarding a general obligation bond. Mr. Thiel stated for the fire truck they have a meeting scheduled for Thursday at 2:00PM. Chief Wilkening stated the truck price has not changed. They had a meeting with a couple of vendors on the ambulance and will be getting updated quotes, if they are going to do Sourcewell. Mr. Recupito stated he knows they have more needs than they can afford. The stance he has taken is what can they afford to bond out for that will not increase the taxes on the property owners. Ms. Sandberg encouraged him to look at the previous analysis given a few months back. That gave different price points of what a potential impact could look like. From there they can decide how far they wish to go. Mr. Recupito stated he would dig back through to find it. Mr. Austgen stated he heard Sourcewell. He asked if that is what they are considering using again. Mr. Recupito stated he has not had any discussion on that. Chief Wilkening stated it was discussed early on. Ms. Sandberg stated that is something to consider or if they wish to go out to bid. Mr. Recupito stated he would review the analysis. He asked Jennifer when she needed a decision on that. Ms. Sandberg responded that is completely up to them. Mrs. Dickson stated they should be ready by the next meeting. Mr. Recupito asked if there would be issues with timing. Mr. Thiel stated that is something they need to find out with the meeting on Thursday. Timeline is key when it comes to the bond.

3. Resolution 1348 – Moratorium on land development

Mr. Recupito stated they put this on the agenda as an update item. They passed the resolution earlier this year because of what they did not know. He stated they received a letter from IDEM. The biggest takeaway is without additional capacity for waterworks, there is insufficient capacity to serve the additional units Cedar Lake has already agreed to serve. They mention in the letter that since 2020, there are been twelve notices of intent (NOI) submitted to construct water main extensions. He stated his opinion is they are overleveraged. He thinks this validates the moratorium. Mr. Austgen stated they have no information from Lowell on the sewer side. He stated other than what happened in the JMOB meeting in February. They are not included in the discussions nor included in the information on the water side. Mr. Parker stated it would get worse before it gets better. Discussion continued on the matter.

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4. Master Plan Update

Mr. Recupito stated this item was brought up at the last meeting. He spoke with Attorney Austgen recently and he made comments at the last meeting as far as the plan. He stated if the Council wanted to proceed with a master plan update and he thinks the community wants to see a master plan update. Mr. Parker agreed. Mrs. Dickson asked Jen if it was something they could budget for in 2025. Ms. Sandberg stated it depends on how quickly they wish to move on something. They have to create and put out an RFP. Hopefully, they will receive multiple responses and they will take those under consideration. She stated she could not recall the cost of the last comprehensive plan but estimated around \$20,000 to \$30,000. She stated if they are able to get it done before the end of the year, there is the possibility of encumbering funds from the current year budget. She stated if not, they would note that as part of the 2025 appropriations that is the project they wish to start with when it comes to utilization of the professional services line item. Mr. Becker voiced concerns with no information on the sewer and asked how can they make a plan not knowing that. Mr. Parker stated the current plan was not developed with the state of the infrastructure. He stated in order to be responsible it needs to be redone and in such a way where the areas for future planning are zoned correctly for responsible growth. Mrs. Dickson stated the moratorium can be shared with the agency. They can have plan a and plan b. It is very flexible and what they create. She stated they want the public to have input. She stated if they can encumber money from this year, it would be awesome. Mr. Recupito asked Mr. Austgen since it is on the agenda, could they solicit a motion to put it out to bid. Mrs. Dickson stated first they need to put together an RFP. Mr. Austgen stated they need to solicit a proposal after generating the parameters. He stated just like the position description discussed earlier. The same thing applies. It is not a difficult task just time consuming. Mr. Recupito stated he would like to get it done sooner rather than later. Mr. Austgen stated this one staff, clerk, and himself can help with. The other one is law enforcement. He stated they should have examples here. Ms. Sandberg suggested that Jeff go through previous files for the last time they did an update. Perhaps there is a previous RFP in those files in the Town Manager's office. Mr. Austgen stated that is a good point. He stated he has done three of them since 2013. Ms. Sandberg stated they should see what prior administrations have done and see how the process went before. She stated those are files Jeff will have to look for. Mr. Bunge stated he knows there is a binder with the last master plan. Ms. Sandberg suggested looking for Veridus files as she believes they helped with the last update. Mr. Recupito asked Jeff if he could put that on the front burner. Mr. Bunge stated he would have a report at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Carnahan stated he as well as Chuck Becker attended the 90th Anniversary of the Cedar Lake Yacht Club. It was well planned and they had a nice activity. He discussed a brief history of the yacht club. Mr. Becker thanked them for inviting them all.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Wilkening, 10826 W 131st Avenue, asked Mr. Recupito to repeat the IDEM letter numbers. Mr. Recupito stated they stated without additional capacity there is insufficient capacity to serve the additional units Cedar Lake has already agreed to serve. Mr. Recupito thinks they are referencing that since 2020 there have been twelve notices of intent submitted to construct water main extensions for PWS ID 5245047, which is the west side. Mr. Recupito noted again there is insufficient capacity to serve. Mr. Carnahan asked if he would like a copy of the letter. Mr. Wilkening stated he would.

Terry Broadhurst, 12513 Morse, commented on insufficient capacity for what has already been approved. He asked if they would put a halt on what has been approved or will they keep going out of compliance. Mr. Austgen stated they are in the process of reviewing the matters of the communications received. They are engineer and technician signed. They are not government official appointee, elected, signed, or promised items. They are part of a development process. The permit item required for utility extension for water and sewer He stated the game plan is to get down there and visit with them substantively and begin developing a resolution. He stated they probably will slow down. That will be an ebb and flow assessment based on permit applications. They are in a time of flux economically. Mr. Recupito stated the NOI's ultimately get signed after engineer by either the water superintendent or utility board president. Mr. Austgen stated because they have been signed by the technical people. Mr. Recupito stated there are a couple outstanding that he has refused to sign for a quite a while.

Jennifer Prunsky asked if they will be posting the letter to be available for the public. He asked Mr. Austgen for a legal opinion. Mr. Austgen stated it was public record. Mr. Recupito stated absolutely they can. Mrs. Prunsky asked if they will be updating the town on the meeting and the outcome. Mr. Recupito stated he is not sure. When he spoke with IDEM, they talked about having a couple officials come down. They did not say if it was open to the public. Mrs. Prunsky asked if they thought about posting positions for the Town on Indeed. Mr. Carnahan asked if it cost money. Ms. Sandberg stated yes. Mrs. Prunsky stated no. She stated it depends. She stated she uses it quite a bit with the company she works for. She stated she just went on and found several police positions throughout the state. She discussed more traffic flow on the advertisement. She

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

discussed utilizing it for finding quality candidates. She discussed communications. She asked if they are using Teams. She stated it is a great tool to share information among departments. Mr. Recupito stated he is unaware what that is. Ms. Sandberg stated they do not use Microsoft Teams for internal correspondence.

Mrs. Dickson thanked the community for their support during the recent loss of her son.

ADJOURNMENT President Recupito called the meeting to adjournment at approximately 9:23 PM.

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

Robert Carnahan, Ward 1

Julie Rivera, Ward 2

Nick Recupito, Ward 3

Chuck Becker, Ward 4

Greg Parker, Ward 5

Mary Joan Dickson, At-Large

ATTEST:

Richard C Thiel Jr., At-Large

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:

- (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 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