

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



October 1, 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
Present	Julie Rivera Council Member	Ward 2	Present	Richard C. Thiel Jr. Council Member	At Large
Absent	Nick Recupito Council Member	Ward 3	Present	Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMCA, CMC, CPFIM Clerk-Treasurer	
Present	Chuck Becker Council Member	Ward 4	Present	Jeff Bunge Town Manager	
Absent	Greg Parker Council Member	Ward 5	Present	David Austgen Town Attorney	

PRESENTATION

Tim Hollandsworth with V&S Engineering, gave an update on the East Side Sidewalk Project. He stated the firm was hired by the Town to design sidewalks from Cline Avenue to Constitution Avenue. He stated the goal is for everyone to leave comfortable with the project and well informed so they can decide by the next meeting to move forward to the next phase. The biggest issue previous was the right of way. Not only the time to do it but the amount needed for the project. They looked into various options. They looked at cancelling the project, delaying the project, and minimizing areas as well as phasing the project. They are investigating more into phasing per the direction of the Town Manager. Working with him, additional direction was provided to place an emphasis on reducing the right of way impact. Original direction by previous administration included an eight-foot-wide sidewalk. They are able to reduce that per INDOT standards. They could go all the way down to a five-foot sidewalk but it would require a four-foot buffer space between the roadway. Doing that would still require right of way. Another option would be to reduce it down to six feet but have it on the back side of the curb and gutter. That is an INDOT standard. By applying this to the overall corridor, they reduced the overall project by \$800,000. That involves construction, right of way, and construction inspection across both phases. That still has significant value as that is \$800,000 out of \$5,000,000. He discussed phase one. Phase one would be from Cline Avenue to Hilltop Street. They would still be looking at impacting the right of way one to two feet by going six feet outside of curb and gutter. They looked at alternatives. They found that section of roadway is twelve-foot-wide. State minimum for that road classification is eleven feet. If both lanes are reduced to eleven feet, they will gain two feet of right of way. They could place the sidewalk with no impact to right of way from Cline to Hilltop on the north side of the street. That is the only section of the project that reduces the right of way to zero. They looked further and by doing that, it would involve having to mill and overlay the roadway. In the estimate for phase one, they included milling and overlaying the road to adjust the crown accordingly. Putting in a curb and gutter means storm water that was running off, would need to be captured, and moved. This means they would have to include additional storm structures. That is included in the estimate. Another benefit would include the utility poles on the north side. The poles fall outside of the sidewalk. This reduces any overhead utility issue on phase one. With the boat launch, they investigated the widths of boats, ramps, and trailers. It is still feasible and a very common road width through those corridors. Mr. Hollandsworth stated a benefit of having curb and gutter sections as well as having the roadway eleven foot, helps people feel that they are going over the speed limit. This will cause people to go slower. It will reduce the speeding through that area. He stated they were able to reduce the cost of phase one. The Town's out of pocket will reduce by \$100,000. That is without right of way and includes engineering. Construction ended up going up but 90% is being paid for by federal funds for phase one. That phase is \$4,000,000, however, that is currently in fiscal year 2026. That is July 2025 through June 2026. Mr. Hollandsworth stated his recommendation is to move forward with the road section for phase one. The environmental document, which is a phase of the right of way plan development, is advised to be done for the full corridor. Having it for the second phase if they decide to pursue that later on will guarantee it to be a legacy project. That will result in it scoring higher for funding applications. That makes it more likely to receiving funding later on. He stated there are other things he will recommend. Mr. Carnahan asked if it was an 80/20 match with the federal government. Mr. Hollandsworth stated it is a 90/10 match as it is classified as a safe routes program. Mr. Hollandsworth noted on the budget sheet that it calls out a max federal portion for the area. The Town has only received \$110,000 for federal for engineering. Once the Town is under contract for the remaining amount, if funding is available at the end of the year, the Town would be able to request more and they can fund up to 90% of the engineering. Mr. Hollandsworth stated he has only included what they have programmed but the max amount is what it could cover. Mr. Hollandsworth discussed phase two. It is the remainder from Hilltop Street down to Constitution Avenue. He stated there are multiple options and variations through the phase two corridor. He recommended splitting into two phases and doing the environmental

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for the full project due to funding. He stated when they go back and request phase two for the legacy project, they are requesting the right of way portion that they need. They will be requesting everything they want for that phase. He recommended an engineering report to explore everything so the request includes it all. There are significant impacts through the corridor, by reducing to six foot and including the curb and gutter. He stated they reduced a lot of the retaining wall as well as parking lot impacts at Dragobob's and Dollar General. He stated they were able to provide connectivity to the park. It would be an added crossing. He discussed the business corridor near Rosati's and Sandbar. There is terrible access control. People can enter and exit uncontrollably onto Lake Shore Drive at dangerous locations. People enter from all directions and angles. One thing they recommend during this phase is that they include a different sort of access control. Providing two in and out as well as connecting the sidewalk through the area as well as a crossing to get across to the various businesses in the area. A right of way will be required because they are going down to six feet. It is minimized but because they will already be acquiring right of way, it does not have to match the same mold as the northern section. For phase two, they recommend doing an engineer report which would explore different options that the Council may have interest in. That way when the application for phase two is put together, they are requesting exactly what they want. He stated this would avoid change orders or scope changes because of different ideas for the project. It will solidify the plan moving forward. He continued to discuss the various phases. He stated phase one is feasible to be constructed with the current letting and current fiscal year. NIRPC was asking about the project because they have \$4,000,000 invested into the project. They are trying to guarantee that it is moving forward. If they go with phase one, they would be able to give NIRPC some money back as well. That would help with other projects in the region. He stated once they are cleared to move forward and include the engineer report, they can vet all of the ideas and decisions. Mr. Hollandsworth recommended all the engineering costs for phase two be included in phase two. He stated they could include all in phase one and seek reimbursement. He stated by doing it in phase two and submitting a new RFP, that will open up avenues and minimize risk of upfront costs. Mr. Carnahan asked about the costs for phase one. The federal portion showed \$695,360 and Cedar Lake's portion is \$402,600. He stated that is not a 90/10 match. Mr. Hollandsworth stated that is because of the engineering. The engineering was not a 90/10 match. He discussed the maximum and minimum reflecting the 90/10 match. He stated last year there was opportunity to get extra funding but they were not to a point with the project that they were under contract for phase two. They had to turn down the additional funds. He stated moving forward he would like to plan with what they currently have. Mr. Becker asked if this was a reimbursement. Mr. Hollandsworth stated yes, similar to how it has been. Mr. Carnahan asked the turnaround. Ms. Sandberg reported thirty days. Mr. Recupito asked if she was joking. She stated no, it took thirty days to get the first request reimbursed. Mr. Recupito stated that seems quick. Ms. Sandberg stated it may seem okay for the current workload. There are not very many obligations from the TIF currently. In the future, if that changes in phase two, and bigger checks are getting written, it could get hairy for the fund. Mr. Hollandsworth stated construction for phase one would be summer of 2026 going through the normal INDOT process. Phase two construction would not be until the summer of 2029. He stated delays now could delay that further. He recommended they move forward with phase one and include the environmental for the entire corridor. He recommended an engineer report to vet any ideas. Mr. Recupito discussed funding. He asked Ms. Sandberg about the sustainability plan and plans for funding. Ms. Sandberg stated the sustainability plan showed TIF. She questioned phase two pushing to 2029. She stated she would have questions for financial consultants. Mr. Carnahan asked if Sue would be the one to answer the questions. Ms. Sandberg stated not really since it is TIF related. Mr. Thompson stated it was TIF that would be used originally assuming the project. A brief discussion occurred. Mr. Recupito stated according to the chart from Mr. Hollandsworth, Cedar Lake's portion would be \$1,023,100. Mr. Hollandsworth stated that is if phase two is funded fully. A brief discussion occurred on engineering and potential cost savings.

Mr. Recupito allowed public comment.

Cheryl Parker, 7227 W 136th Court, asked about the option for sidewalks butting up to the curb. She asked how much of an easement would there be from the edge of the road. Mr. Hollandsworth stated along the north side it varies from four to five feet from the edge of roadway. They were proposing shifting and reducing so they could get two extra feet for the full width of the sidewalk. Mrs. Parker asked if they would have to grade the area. Mr. Hollandsworth stated that is the area that it would go up and they looked at it for the drainage. Mrs. Parker voiced concerns about additional costs. Mr. Hollandsworth stated that was built into the costs.

Terry Broadhurst, 14515 Morse, asked about public safety. He discussed moving the sidewalk to the backside of the curb. He questioned the sidewalk and foot traffic in the corridor. He asked if there would be a protective barrier. He voiced concerns.

Sarah Goers, 13546 Beach Place, asked if they do not do the project and allocate the money to other things, what is the risk to the town. Mr. Recupito stated they had a reimbursement for engineering. Ms. Sandberg stated there is a contract for up to \$110,000. If they did not move forward with the project, they would have to give back those reimbursed monies. At this stage,

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that is \$110,000. Mrs. Goers asked about the money being repurposed. Ms. Sandberg discussed the preliminary engineer reimbursement process with INDOT.

Shaun Meyer, Cedar Lake FOP, 6330 W 136th Ave, voiced concerns with narrowing the road. He stated when they respond to emergencies in that area, it is already tight. He stated a lot of times cars are unsure where or how to pull over. He discussed now having to navigate curbs and sidewalk with less width. Mr. Recupito stated maybe it is something they could take a look at in the next couple of weeks before acting. A brief discussion occurred on next steps.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

- a. Review of Legals – Mr. Austgen reported legals were in order.
- b. Opening Remarks – Mr. Recupito stated this is something they have been talking about for a while. The seventh-year option he attempted to pursue has not be responded to. He stated this is a rate increase being proposed. Ms. Sandberg stated it includes current year. The rate with Republic increased on June 1st. What is proposed is for the remainder of the period through May 31, 2025. The next would be for the period June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026 and June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027. That takes them to the end of the current contract. Mr. Carnahan stated the amount for the first period is \$21.36. For the second year, is \$22.21 and the third year is \$23.10. Ms. Sandberg stated that is correct. Mr. Recupito stated they are currently running a deficit on the trash account. They are charging less than they are paying. This is to make them whole again. Mr. Carnahan stated they have been doing this since June. Mr. Recupito added that the current rate is \$20.00 a month. Ms. Sandberg stated that is correct and they are paying Republic \$20.75.
- c. Reading of Ordinance No. 1499 – Mr. Thiel read Ordinance No. 1499 by title only.
- d. Remonstrators - None
- e. Town Council Discussion – Mr. Carnahan stated he does not like increasing rates. Mr. Recupito stated they cannot run a deficit and run out of cash in the reserves. He stated they could deal with it each year or take it in one go so the public knows what they will be paying for the next three years. Mr. Carnahan agreed. Mr. Recupito discussed the language in the ordinance. Mr. Thiel stated he was ready with a motion.
- f. Town Council Decision

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 1499 with Rate A up to the remainder of May 31, 2027 and that Section One of the ordinance be changed to reflect the Rate A schedule and remove the worksheet from the ordinance was made by Richard Thiel. A second was made by Chuck Becker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

2. Ordinance No. 1501 - Y2025 Budget – First Reading

- a. Review of Legals – Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg reported the Form 3, Notice to Taxpayers, was filed and noticed timely.
- b. Opening Remarks – Corby Thompson stated as Ms. Sandberg just mentioned, they did get the Form 3 submitted on September 20th. That gave the ten-day notice period but before that they had the budget introduction and presentation. The Form 1 has been posted to the website. As far as moving forward, they did notice a GO Bond. It was discussed at the budget introduction meeting. Mr. Recupito interrupted and asked Mr. Austgen if the Legals were in order. Mr. Austgen stated to the best of his knowledge and the Clerk can verify. Ms. Sandberg stated that is the Form 3. Per DLGF, they do not have to notice in the newspaper. They have to upload Form 3 in Gateway ten days prior to the public hearing. Mr. Thompson continued. He stated the notice that went out had a property tax levy and related appropriations for the debt service on such a bond. The Town's assessed value has increased. That has allowed the Town to issue a potential bond without increasing the tax rate. They have discussed the purchase of a \$1.1 million dollar fire truck, \$400,000 for an ambulance, \$400,000 for a payloader, and \$700,000 that could be a match for the Shades Subdivision Phase Two project. It will not necessarily increase the tax rate based on the current assessed values. That is the big update compared to what was presented during the budget introduction. This would also allow the town to rearrange appropriations so that there could be more money available for public safety personnel in the future. He stated outside of that, everything is the same as presented in the budget introduction. There are no major updates. Mr. Recupito stated he spoke with Corby at length on Friday and that included public safety wage discussions. Mr. Recupito asked him to speak about future bonds dropping

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off and appropriations. Mr. Thompson reported there is an economic development bond outstanding that will be paid off in May 2025. Once that bond is paid off, there will be cash flow available as far as local income taxes. He stated he mentioned rearranging appropriations because what he would propose is that they move certain engineering and one time project costs to the economic development income tax fund freeing up amounts in the General Fund or public safety wages. He stated they could also have some public safety local income tax money available for increased wages or additional personnel. The reason for that is the original plan was to have Shades Subdivision Phase Two paid with an economic development income tax bond. That is no longer necessarily needed with the GO Bond proposed. Mr. Thompson stated there would be an opportunity, he strongly suggested they get to the end of the year, to explore additional public safety wages or personnel. This way they can see how the cash balances and cash flows work out. He stated they would review 2024 and see if there is opportunity in 2025 to provide for increased needs. Mr. Recupito asked if they could start as early as the end of this year to get the wheels in motion. Mr. Thompson stated he would like to see the year end financials first. He anticipated in February they could start exploring. Mr. Carnahan asked for an explanation on the budget figures for the public. Mr. Thompson reported on the General Fund and the debt service funds. Discussion continued on the various funds, budgets, levies, and rates as well as the process with the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). *A copy of the Form 4 can be found at the end of the minutes.*

c. Reading of Ordinance No. 1501 – Mr. Thiel read Ordinance No. 1501 by title only.

d. Remonstrators

Dean Wilkening, 15011 Euclid St, stated he was before them a few weeks ago talking about the money they pay Southcom. He stated it is going up \$100,000 and if they go to County, they will pay \$135,000. He stated he does not see the justification of spending that money that could go elsewhere for police and fire. He asked if there was any dialogue with Southcom. Mr. Recupito stated a meeting was supposed to be scheduled. He stated he has no update. Mr. Thiel stated he was told something was going to be scheduled but it has not yet. Mr. Wilkening continued to voice concerns with the funds spent on Southcom. Mr. Recupito stated he needs to learn more about it. He stated Mr. Wilkening has more experience with his service. Mr. Recupito stated he was not sold one way or the other and had his own homework to do. Mr. Wilkening likened it to being able to move to a different, better home for cheaper rent. Mr. Thiel stated he does not believe it is as simple as that. Mr. Becker asked if they were under contract with them. Mrs. Dickson stated that is correct. Mr. Wilkening stated it is a yearly contract. Mr. Recupito stated he would like to meet with Southcom. Mr. Wilkening asked if they would have an update by the next meeting. Mrs. Rivera asked if anyone has reached out to County to see if they could take on additional communities. Mr. Wilkening stated they would not have a problem with it. Mr. Becker stated they are shorthanded. Chief Wilkening stated he talked to the director and they have been waiting for the Town to come on board.

Shaun Meyer, 6330 W. 136th Avenue, thanked Nick and Chuck for the time they have taken to listen to the FOP and their efforts to increase some benefits. He stated when looking at the excel sheet online, there was no mention on benefit increases. He asked if any of that was part of the budget. Ms. Sandberg stated they were not directed to make any changes to those benefits. Mr. Recupito stated he knows the form has been submitted. He asked if changes could be made after the fact. Ms. Sandberg stated they would have to look at moving things around within appropriations. For what they submitted, they will not be able to go over the dollar amounts in the various funds. She stated they could do an Additional Appropriation but they have to make sure they have the revenue source. That has been the sticking point as they do not have additional revenues coming in to make significant changes. Mr. Carnahan stated if they do not do this budget now, they will revert back to the old budget. Ms. Sandberg stated unless they were to turnaround special meetings within the next week. Mr. Recupito asked what she meant. Ms. Sandberg stated they have to follow the DLGF budget calendar. They hoped to do the first reading last month. That did not happen. They need to have everything adopted before the end of the month and submitted just before November in order for DLGF to review. If not, as Bob stated, you revert to the current year budget. That is what they would give you and no changes would be made. Mr. Carnahan stated maybe they could look into it next year. Mr. Meyer voiced concerns with the potential for more losses of officers if nothing is done to increase benefits. He discussed benefits in surrounding communities. He stated what they asked for in their letter was miniscule and would not cost the Town any extra money. He stated as a resident of the Town he

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does not want to put anyone at risk. He voiced concerns with morale. Discussion continued.

Jake Huppenthal, PO BOX 216, stated the way he worked it out, the certified salary would go from \$78,000 to approximately \$80,000. He stated they get 52% after twenty years of service. Mr. Recupito stated he has talked with Chuck and they cannot keep saying they will deal with it next year. He stated that is why he spoke with Corby about the CEDIT bonds and what they could do. He stated even if the budget gets adopted, they need to figure out how they would make this a better place to work. A brief discussion continued.

Chief Wilkening stated they sent out options for time off and discussions were had prior to the budget meetings. Packages were sent out. He asked if Mr. Recupito recalled getting it. Chief Wilkening said he wished to make sure. He stated taking bites out of it would help. Increases would help. He stated they are losing people left and right.

Jerry Connor, 10330 Paramount Way, discussed the dispatching costs and what they could potentially do with an additional \$300,000. They could keep qualified and trained people. Mr. Recupito stated he does not disagree. \$300,000 could go a long way. History is involved. He stated he needs to make his own mind up and do his own homework on that. Mr. Connor continued to voice concerns with the departments being short staffed. Discussion continued on action needing to occur.

Chief Wilkening commented that when they talk about having a meeting with Southcom, he urged them to have a meeting with County too. They could discuss all of the possibilities. He stated there are rumors from the past. The County dispatch center is very cohesive with the Fire side. He stated the money is the issue. He asked them to do their due diligence.

Cheryl Parker, 7227 W. 136th Court, asked why if both groups provide the same services, why is one \$300,000 more than the other. Chief Brittingham stated County is dividing it up fifteen ways and Southcom is dividing it up two ways. Mrs. Parker asked if Southcom is private. Chief Wilkening stated it is municipally operated by the Town of Schererville.

- e. Town Council Discussion – Mrs. Dickson asked if they were still thinking about getting a street sweeper. Mr. Recupito stated he had a conversation with Tim earlier. Mr. Recupito stated one of the priorities is to not increase the tax rate and still get the essential items. Tim stated the sweeper might be new after repairs. Mr. Kubiak stated the payloader is twenty-four years old now. That is a more critical piece of equipment that is used daily. It needs to be put ahead of a street sweeper. Mr. Carnahan stated there is a potential to get a grant for a sweeper. A brief discussion continued.
- f. Town Council Decision

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 1501 was made by Julie Rivera with second by Richard Thiel. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0. Ms. Sandberg stated the adoptive reading will occur at the October 15th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dean Wilkening, 15011 Euclid Street, discussed garbage and asked how far have the been trying to catch up and who has not been watching this to make sure they got behind. Mrs. Dickson stated June. Mr. Recupito stated June. It is part of the contract that was previously approved. Each year the price increases. June 1st is when the rate increased with Republic. Mr. Wilkening asked if they just caught it in June. Mr. Recupito stated they new this was going to happen. When the previous contract was signed, everyone knew per the contract what the increase was going to be. Mr. Wilkening stated previous discussion made it seem like no one was watching the books. Mr. Recupito stated no. Ms. Sandberg stated she has been asking repeatedly. A brief discussion continued.

Doug Robbins, 1530 North Indiana Street, Griffith. He stated he owns property on Sunnyside Place. He stated he would like to speak on Resolution No. 1349. Last March he purchased two parcels and consolidated them into one, 1.2-acre lot. Today, he became aware of the resolution saying no new houses can be built on one acre or greater lots. He stated he would like to request a waiver for when they go to break ground next year. He would like to be grandfathered in for a new residence. Mr. Recupito asked if he has spoken with the Building Department. Mr. Robbins stated he has spoken with them a couple of times and they know that is the reason he bought the property. Mr. Recupito stated they can grant relief on a case-by-case basis. A brief discussion continued on the possibility of a waiver. Mr. Recupito asked Mr. Robbins to get with the Town Manager.

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CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Minutes:** September 3, 2024
2. **Claims:** All Town Funds: \$351,771.72; Wastewater Operating: \$12,626.55; Water Utility: \$47,582.33; Storm Water: \$172.72; and Payroll: September 26, 2024 - \$277,802.17

A motion to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the consent agenda as listed was made by Mary Joan Dickson with second by Richard Thiel. Mr. Carnahan commended Ms. Sandberg on the nine pages of minutes. He discussed Dredge America on the claims for \$188,749.99. He asked if that was a final pay request. Ms. Sandberg stated that is the final pay. They approved it at the last meeting. The total amount was \$249,750. There were funds in the ecosystem non-reverting but they were not enough to cover so the difference was paid with ARPA funds. Mr. Carnahan asked Tim about LGS and the west side sanitary sewer interceptor. He asked what that was for. Mr. Kubiak stated that was for the manhole markers that Neil discussed at the last Utility Board meeting. They marked them in the fields so they would not get messed up during planting. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution No. 1359 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Plan Revision**

Mr. Thiel read Resolution No. 1359 by title only. Ms. Sandberg reported as previously discussed, they are required to have remaining ARPA monies obligated by December 31, 2024. That means it must be under contract. A majority of the money went towards the Utopia Water Main Project. That was previously approved by Resolution No. 1314. That project finished up and funds remained. To get the monies off the books before December 31st, they need the additional funds for overages on the dredge project and will also re-allocate costs for the water main project out here on Morse. That will save money in the TIF fund that was previously obligated to the water main project. The proposed action to Provide Governmental Services would be in the amount of \$2,659,341.83 for the Utopia Water Main Project. The second project would be the Cedar Lake Dredging Stage 2 Project in the amount of \$61,000.01. The third project would be the Morse Street Water Main Project in the amount of \$267,283.50. She anticipated pay requests being received for that project by the next meeting. Hopefully, the money will be off of the books and then they will not have to worry about further federal reporting requirements for the obligated funds.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 1359 was made by Julie Rivera with second by Chuck Becker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Approve recommendation from Board of Safety to promote Todd Konradi to the position of Captain FF/Paramedic (Vote 5-0 on September 25, 2024)**

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

2. **Review recommendation from Board of Safety for Michael Gagliardi to be hired Full-Time as well as Part-Time while completing the Perf process (Vote 5-0 on September 25, 2024)**

Chief Wilkening introduced Michael Gagliardi. A motion to approve was made by Robert Carnahan with second by Richard Thiel. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

3. **Review recommendations from Board of Safety to hire the following personnel for Part-Time (Vote 5-0 on September 25, 2024)**

- a. Mark Whitlock
- b. Anthony Elkmann
- c. Jenna Nelson
- d. Katherine Knauerhaze

A motion to approve the recommendation to hire by the Board of Safety was made by Robert Carnahan with second by Chuck Becker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker- Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

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4. Review recommendation from Board of Safety for Stephen Williams to be hired as a volunteer (Vote 5-0 on September 25, 2024)

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

Chief Wilkening stated they have another paramedic coming in tomorrow from another community. He will be applying. He is a sixteen-year veteran of that department. It could be a lateral transfer. He stated he has to be approved by the Board of Safety. A brief discussion continued.

REPORTS

- 1. Town Council** – Mrs. Dickson stated she wished to inform the public that the Town of Cedar Lake did not cancel the Hanover Homecoming Parade. It was a school matter that was not a Town event. Mr. Carnahan reported the Jean Eberle Parade of Lights will be Saturday, November 23rd. Applications are available in the Chamber Office. He stated at the last NIRPC meeting he presented Tye Warner with the Resolution passed by the Cedar Lake Town Council for the costs related to doing an audit. He stated he shared copies with other communities. He stated he was invited to a prayer breakfast at the Nazarene Church in Valparaiso. He spoke of the breakfast, public speakers, and elected officials in attendance. Mr. Thiel stated he spoke with Mr. Kubiak on the applicants for the Water Department as well as the Building Department for the Planning Coordinator. He stated hopefully in the upcoming week. Mrs. Rivera stated it is great to see all the new hires. She stated something they need to revisit is the training reimbursement fees. She believes they should be prorated. Chief Wilkening stated he would like to see it eliminated unless they put people through training for paramedic school. He stated the training agreement is a deterrent for people applying to the department. Mr. Recupito stated it is worth a look. He asked Julie if she would mind taking the lead. She agreed and stated something fair needs to be looked at. A brief discussion continued.
- 2. Town Attorney** – No report.
- 3. Clerk-Treasurer** – No report.
- 4. Town Manager** – Mr. Bunge discussed a concern from Mrs. Dickson on the AIM organization. They have a couple training sessions available. The AIM Summit is next week. He stated Jennifer, himself, and Mary Joan would be attending. Ms. Sandberg corrected him. She would not be in attendance due to the budget. Mr. Bunge stated a roundtable is coming up on November 6th in Schererville. Discussion occurred on the meeting date conflicting with Plan Commission. He discussed the webinar on Water Loss Audits on December 12th. Mr. Carnahan asked him to talk about a grant writing class he attended. Mr. Bunge stated it was a Purdue Extension program. It was a great experience. They hope to help dig up some funds for the Town.
- 5. Director of Operations** – Mr. Kubiak stated they have the new mechanic on board. He started a week ago. He has gotten quite a few things at Public Works fixed. Hopefully, in the middle of October they will start getting police cars in for oil changes. November for the Fire department. They do not want to overwhelm him. Mr. Recupito asked if they figured in the budget for the extra supplies for services, they can now do in house now. He asked if that was considered. Ms. Sandberg stated it was already in the budget. They previously had a mechanic. They did not decrease anyone's supply budget during the time they went without a mechanic. Hopefully, what they will see is less outsourced expenses. A brief discussion continued.
- 6. Police Department** – Mr. Recupito noted previous discussion on police vehicles. He stated Chevrolet has options for pursuit vehicles. Chief Brittingham stated they do and he would love to have one. They are a lot more and even the Ford Explorers are considerably more expensive. Discussion occurred on the cost of vehicles. Mr. Recupito stated they got something through AIM and wanted to bring it to his attention. Chief Brittingham discussed the Durangos. He stated it is the cheapest Police SUV on the market. Every vehicle has had its issues. He stated they hope they do not experience the catastrophic issues with the Durangos. If they catch it early, it is a small problem. A brief discussion continued on vehicles and repairs.
- 7. Fire Department** – Chief Wilkening thanked the Council and Board of Safety for starting a good trend to get people hired quicker. He stated they are working on the interview process with the Board of Safety. All ambulances and apparatus are back in service and running. He stated everything has been going well.
- 8. Parks Department** – Mrs. Ray reported they have been busy with projects and spaces. They are identified in the report to Council. The major one is the Meyer Manor Basketball Courts. It is a 2024 Fall project. They are getting concrete donated from Smith Ready Mix. Mr. Carnahan asked if they will put in benches. Mrs. Ray stated for 2024 they will be doing the court and hoops. In the spring, they are identifying signage, benches, and a memorial tree as well as new trash cans. They spring will also be the surfacing of the court. They are excited to bring that forward. They are busing working

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

on the Trunk or Treat event. It is the first time the Parks Department is running the event. They will be having a costume contest starting at 11:30. There will also be a vendor contest for most original award. They are still looking for vendors. They are also accepting candy donations. They are moving forward with Taylor Ice Festival planning. It will be December 6th and 7th. They welcomed the Chamber of Commerce into the last meeting.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

None

UPDATE/DISCUSSION

- 1. Bond- Fire Truck, ambulance, street sweeper, and payload** – Mr. Recupito asked Jennifer to let them know the next action steps for the GO bond. Ms. Sandberg stated she had a conversation with Phil Faccenda from Barnes and Thornburg. He is bond counsel and working on a calendar for them if they wish to move this bond issue forward before the end of the year. It would require a special meeting the first week of November. She asked for direction from them so she can update Phil in the morning. A brief discussion occurred on a meeting date that week. Mr. Carnahan asked if they could just amend the agenda and approve it now. Ms. Sandberg stated Phil is working on a calendar for them. That way everything is spelled out. If they want to issue the bond before the end of the year, they have to follow the calendar and that week is important for action to occur. Discussion occurred on possibly scheduling it for Wednesday. Mrs. Ray stated the Park Board will not be meeting on Thursday, November 7th as they will be attending a conference. They will be rescheduling. It was agreed to schedule the special meeting for November 7th at 5:00PM. Ms. Sandberg stated she would get with Mr. Faccenda to confirm the date to get the calendar out to them.
- 2. Moratorium Resolution No. 1348 and Resolution No. 1349/ Indiana Department of Environmental Management Meeting on 09/25/2024**
Mr. Recupito stated on September 25th the working group met with IDEM officials in response to the August 8th letter received in regards to the water utility and capacity. The meeting was approximately two hours. The news was not good but it was a good meeting and good people that wish to help them with the situation. Mr. Recupito stated they get a lot of heat for the moratorium. They validated the concerns had. They will not issue any NOI's (notice of intent) for water extension. Right now, the working group has to get together to get a response to IDEM that spells out the projects in the works as well as proposed capital improvements. They also have to create a water master plan. Mr. Recupito stated they have to get to work on the items. He stated they need water and they need storage. He stated they have been working since before the IDEM letter was received. Mr. Recupito stated any well drilling in Town has to be permitted through IDEM. A handful of test wells were done without permits. He stated he did not think it was a bad thing to have a permit. Mrs. Dickson discussed making sure the test wells get capped off correctly. A lengthy discussion continued on the meeting with IDEM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Connor, 10330 Paramount Way, stated there was an instance where a person applied for a volunteer position with the Fire Department. It went nowhere. He asked if the Town Council did an investigation to find out the failure and if so, what did they find. He asked what action are they taking to make sure it did not happen again. Mr. Becker stated he asked about that. This was during the Board of Safety meeting. It was stated March but it was actually in November 2023. Mr. Connor asked about the delay and if he went elsewhere. Chief Wilkening stated in November 2023 they had a hold on hiring so the individual missed the academy in January and went to a different department. It was brought up with Board of Safety discussion. He believes they have it ironed out.

Angie Mikolijczak, 12806 Lee Court, discussed the Parade of Lights. She suggested because of the issue with the street sweeper, perhaps they could get volunteers to follow the parade to pick up the leftover candy. Mrs. Dickson stated they did not have the sweeper for the Fourth of July. Only a six-foot spot was missed. A brief discussion continued.

Mark Picaro, Sunset Harbor Condo Association, he discussed the request for a guardrail. Mr. Recupito stated he is not aware of a decision but they were looking at the proposals. Mr. Kubiak stated they are working on identifying money for this year. Mr. Carnahan stated he talked to Jennifer tonight and she has about \$15,000 that she can take out of the building fund for the absent of a Planning Director. Ms. Sandberg clarified that the Planning and Building Department received a \$15,000 allotment out of CCD for equipment or capital upgrades. Since there has not been a Planning Director moving forward with those items, there is approximately \$13,000 remaining. But her understanding is that is not enough to cover the cost so they would be looking at taking the last of the Public Works capital monies out of LRS. If Mr. Kubiak does not have those funds obligated, but traditionally this close to the end of the year, everything is obligated. Mr. Carnahan asked about TIF money. Mr. Austgen stated it is in the TIF district and they may use it. Mr. Becker asked about safety funds for improvements. Ms. Sandberg stated Local Roads

**TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
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and Streets when it comes to that stuff. Mr. Carnahan stated Dave said they could use TIF money. He stated they probably have money there. Ms. Sandberg stated they have a healthy TIF balance. Mr. Recupito asked for them to make sure the plan works for everybody. Mr. Kubiak discussed the location for the guardrail. A brief discussion continued. Mr. Thiel asked about the process for approving use of the TIF funds. Ms. Sandberg stated Mr. Kubiak would give them an updated proposal and that would be on the agenda for approval. They would specify to utilize TIF funds to pay for the guardrail. A brief discussion occurred on having something ready for the next meeting.

Jennifer Prunsky, 14617 Blaine Street, thanked them for going to Indianapolis for the IDEM meeting. She stated she was glad they went down and are moving forward. She asked who approved the NOI's and what was the process. Mr. Austgen stated the developer representative prepared the NOI to submit to the Town and IDEM. When completed, they would execute, engineer or developer rep, would come into the Town. The executive of the body or responsible department head would countersign and off the NOI would go. It is an abbreviated process for issuance of permits by IDEM because it is under a specific portion of the Indiana Administrative Code that permits it. It is used often by developers. Mrs. Prunsky asked who the Town's representative was. She asked who was negligent in signing off on them. She asked who was responsible. Mr. Austgen stated that was complicated. They will get to the bottom of it. Mr. Recupito stated they are doing some homework and getting to the bottom of it. A lengthy discussion continued on the matter.

Cheryl Parker, 7227 W. 136th Court, asked about the last six months. The IDEM letter stated there were twelve NOI's submitted since 2020. She stated that was prior to the moratorium. She asked how that happened. Mr. Austgen stated that is part of the investigation.

Diane Jostes, Chamber of Commerce, with the Parade of Lights, she appreciates someone wants to help but they are hesitant to have someone on the streets at night. They discourage throwing candy during the Parade of Lights.

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, IAMCA, 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

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

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

State Form 55865 (7-15)
Approved by the State Board of Accounts, 2015
Prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance

Budget Form No. 4
Generated 10/1/2024 3:33:39 PM

Ordinance / Resolution Number: **1501**

Be it ordained/resolved by the **Town of Cedar Lake Town Council** that for the expenses of **CEDAR LAKE CIVIL TOWN** for the year ending December 31, **2025** the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of **CEDAR LAKE CIVIL TOWN**, the property tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance.

This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the **Town of Cedar Lake Town Council**.

Name of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Type of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Date of Adoption
Town of Cedar Lake Town Council	Town Council	10/15/2024

Funds				
Fund Code	Fund Name	Adopted Budget	Adopted Tax Levy	Adopted Tax Rate
0101	GENERAL	\$8,818,700	\$5,121,934	0.4958
0180	DEBT SERVICE	\$1,434,000	\$1,394,046	0.1349
0182	BOND #2	\$388,000	\$320,000	0.0310
0283	LEASE RENTAL PAYMENT	\$848,000	\$740,638	0.0717
0342	POLICE PENSION	\$200,000	\$0	0.0000
0706	LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$320,000	\$0	0.0000
0708	MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY	\$909,750	\$198,355	0.0192
2379	CUMULATIVE CAPITAL IMP (CIG TAX)	\$27,500	\$0	0.0000
2391	CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	\$629,500	\$527,101	0.0510
2430	REDEVELOPMENT - GENERAL	\$89,000	\$61,986	0.0060
2482	REDEVELOPMENT BOND	\$167,100	\$200,963	0.0195
		\$13,831,550	\$8,565,023	0.8291

Home-Ruled Funds (Not Reviewed by DLGF)		
Fund Code	Fund Name	Adopted Budget
9500	Lake County Solid Waste	\$95,500
9501	Casino Gaming	\$50,000
9502	Park Non-Reverting Operating	\$35,000
9503	Law Enforcement Continuing Education	\$29,500
9504	CEDIT	\$471,000
9506	LOIT Public Safety	\$375,000
		\$1,056,000

**TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
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State Form 55865 (7-15)
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Budget Form No. 4
Generated 10/1/2024 3:33:39 PM

Name		Signature
Robert Carnahan	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Julie Rivera	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Nick Recupito	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Chuck Becker	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Greg Parker	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Mary Joan Dickson	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Thiel	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	

ATTEST		
Name	Title	Signature
Jennifer Sandberg	Clerk-Treasurer	

MAYOR ACTION (For City use only)			
Name		Signature	Date
	Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Veto <input type="checkbox"/>		

In accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-16(k), we state our intent to issue debt after December 1 and before January 1 Yes No

In accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-16(k), we state our intent to file a shortfall appeal after December 1 and before December 31 Yes No