

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



November 7, 2024

Public Meeting Advertised for 5:00 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	Absent*	Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMCA, 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	

*Margo Nagy, Chief Deputy Clerk, present.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Ordinance No. 1503 – Appropriating Proceeds from General Obligation Bonds

- a. Review of Legals – Mr. Austgen stated the legals were in order. Mr. Recupito asked if it was an adoptive reading. Mr. Austgen stated it is.
- b. Opening Remarks – Mr. Recupito stated this is considering issuing bonds for capital purchases. It is not to exceed the aggregate amount of \$3.1 million dollars. He stated they are looking at doing some roadwork, ambulance, fire truck, and a payload. He stated there are more needs than they have money. Mr. Parker stated Tim found a good deal on a payload and that might save some money. Mr. Recupito stated that looks promising. He stated they received news from Don Oliphant that the Town was issued the CCMG grant. He thinks the Shades Phase II. Mr. Carnahan asked if he meant the Community Crossings Grant. Mr. Recupito stated yes and it was north of \$700,000. He stated that is good news for the Town. Mr. Austgen stated this is the ticket to allow them to spend the money if they raise the bonds. He stated it is necessary in the financing process.
- c. Reading of Ordinance No. 1503 – Mr. Parker read by title only.
- d. Remonstrators - None
- e. Town Council Discussion – Mr. Recupito stated they are trying to delicately balance tax rates with spending. He stated he believes in discussions had with Corby and the Clerk-Treasurer, there are handful that spoke about this, and they will hopefully keep the tax rate flat. He stated that does not mean that taxes will not go up next year because assessed values go up. There is nothing they can do about that. He stated as far as the taxes they are levying; they are focused on keeping them relatively flat but still providing for a better quality of life for residents. Mr. Carnahan asked if Corby wanted to say anything. Mr. Thompson stated they are looking to keep the tax rate flat but also provide additional road improvements as well as provide new equipment. It is designed to keep the tax rate level and provide the citizens with new services and management with new equipment to provide services. Mr. Carnahan stated they are going to do some roads and there are lots over the years but they cannot do them all overnight. He asked for patience and stated they are going to do the best they can.
- f. Town Council Decision

A motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1503 was made by Mary Joan Dickson with second by Chuck Becker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance No. 1502 – Authorizing Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds

Mr. Parker read Ordinance No. 1502 by title only. Mr. Thompson explained this is the ordinance that authorizes the ability to issue the bonds. Beginning with this is a remonstrance period. He called not recall the period for remonstrance. He stated once adopted; it gives the Town the opportunity to issue the bonds. Without approval, the bonds could not be issued this year. The bond ordinance approved for \$3.1 million dollars. They are looking to do about \$2.6 million dollars in issue for the road project, fire truck, ambulance, and payloader or any other road improvements that come to light and may take priority. This provides the option to issue the bonds if they get favorable rates. It authorizes it to get done this year. A brief discussion continued on rates. Mr. Carnahan asked Mr. Austgen about the time period. Mr. Austgen stated it was twenty days and they are on task. He stated it is to authorize the issue of bonds not to exceed \$3.1 million at an interest rate not to exceed 5.75% within the time periods discussed tonight. Mrs. Dickson asked about the wording regarding the equipment and there being no limitations. She asked if that could possibly switch up. Mr. Austgen stated that is why it has that wording.

A motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1502 was made by Greg Parker with second by Chuck Becker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

Mr. Austgen stated next steps include report of the Additional Appropriation to the DLGF tomorrow. There will be publication in the newspapers on the 8th and 15th of the decision to issue the bonds. The matter is on task and on time. He stated he spoke with Corby and they are moving. There is information over here for the Clerk's office to distribute to potential vendors or financiers. All those processes now begin with their actions this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of Fire Department to hire Volunteer Firefighter Kyle Caves

This item received a favorable recommendation from the Board of Safety on October 23, 2024 with a vote of 4 in favor and 0 against. Chief Wilkening stated they went through the interview process and with their authorization tonight, they can send him to the academy in January. In six months, he will be one of the volunteers on the street. He comes with experience. He is currently a BP/Amoco firefighter. That is part of the training he needs but not all of it. He has a flexible schedule and will be able to help on day fires.

A motion to approve was made by Mary Joan Dickson with second by Richard Thiel. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

Mrs. Nagy asked Mr. Wilkening if he had the application for the individual. Chief Wilkening stated yes. He stated it was distributed to the Board of Safety. Mrs. Nagy stated it was not sent to the Clerk-Treasurer's Office. Chief Wilkening stated he knows he went down there. He will make sure that they get it. Mrs. Nagy thanked him and stated otherwise Jen would not have the information to reach out to him to start the process. She checked with her before she left. Chief Wilkening stated he would check with Sandy. Mr. Recupito asked Margo if she would have the same question for item two. Mrs. Nagy stated they have everything for item two.

2. Consider approval of Fire Department to hire Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedic Danny A. Misiak

This item received a favorable recommendation from the Board of Safety on October 23, 2024 with a vote of 4 in favor and 0 against. Chief Wilkening stated Mr. Misiak is a transfer from the Hammond Fire Department. He is currently a paramedic/firefighter with seventeen years of experience. He comes highly recommended. The Board of Safety did an extensive interview process with him. He is also a certified inspector and would be a great help to the team.

A motion to approve was made by Chuck Becker with second by Richard Thiel. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

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3. Consider advertising for the position of Planning Director

Mr. Thiel stated after attending several of the Building Department meetings and stuff like that, this is still a position they are needing after Ashley has left. They kicked around a bunch of different ideas on what the position would look like. Every time they came to the same conclusion, the description is exactly what the Planning Director is. Instead of reinventing the wheel, they will just apply for it that way. He stated they will see what the notice looks like before it gets posted. Mrs. Dickson asked if they would do an extensive advertisement. Mr. Thiel stated he believes they will just do this for a couple of weeks. Mr. Carnahan asked if they are covering every possible avenue to advertise. Mr. Thiel stated he knows they have just started using Indeed. He stated he does not know to what extent they were planning on doing with this one. He stated he believes they should stay consistent. Mr. Carnahan asked if they were still looking for a mechanic. Mr. Thiel stated he spoke with Tim today and they have it narrowed down to three or four for interviews. He stated the latest round that Tim went through; it did not seem that any were better than the previous four. Tim set up interviews with those individuals.

A motion to approve was made by Mary Joan Dickson with second by Chuck Becker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT President Recupito called the meeting to adjournment at approximately 10:08 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