

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



**November 19, 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
Present	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	
Present	Greg Parker Council Member	Ward 5	Present	David Austgen Town Attorney	

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. Ordinance No. 1504, Lamb Public Way Vacation**

- a. Review of Legals – Mr. Austgen stated the legals were in order for the public hearing.
- b. Opening Remarks – Mr. Recupito noted it was a public way vacation. It appears to be a thirty-foot platted right of way. Platted as Elwin Road by W 128<sup>th</sup> Lane. He asked Tim or Jeff if they had opening remarks. Mr. Kubiak stated he just received it this afternoon. He did not have time to drive over there. He looked at it on GIS and it looks to be one of few connectivity points between 128<sup>th</sup> Lane and 129<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He discussed the crossroads in the area. He stated he was not certain of the topography. He again stated he has not had a chance to go and look at it. He discussed it being a potential cross point. Mr. Carnahan stated he liked his comments. He discussed the possibility of it being needed in the future. Mr. Recupito stated there was a letter from NIPSCO in the packet. NIPSCO has reviewed and consent to the vacation of the alleyway. Mr. Recupito agreed with what Tim said. Mr. Austgen stated there is a note in the Town’s file of Brandon and Riannon Porter who were contacted and in favor. This has been a cold file for the Town. Once received, his office never received another word from anybody. A brief discussion continued. Mr. Austgen stated he does not believe they received an ordinance. He discussed continuing the public hearing and directing him to prepare the ordinance.
- c. Remonstrators – None.
- d. Town Council Discussion – None.
- e. Town Council Decision

A motion to continue the public hearing at the next public meeting 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Minutes:** October 1, 2024
- 2. Claims:** All Town Funds: \$1,253,371.17; Wastewater Operating: \$371,288.99; Water Utility: \$389,960.18; Storm Water: \$13,303.88; Payroll: October 24, 2024; November 1, 2024; and November 7, 2024; \$678,200.86; and October Remittances \$207,807.70
- 3. Manual Journal Entries:** October 1 – October 31, 2024
- 4. Donations:** Fire Donations to include the following: Tim & Lori Brown \$100.00; Ann Sharp \$100.00; In- Kind Donation to include: Education Inflatable House

Mr. Thiel asked about the education inflatable house and what type of liability they have as a Town for the bounce house. Chief Wilkening stated it is not a bounce house. Ms. Sandberg stated her understanding in conversations with the insurance company, it still would be categorized as an inflatable house, like a bouncy house. Not necessarily covered by the current policy. It would require additional coverage. Mr. Thiel asked if besides additional coverage, if clarification to insurance for what it is. He stated maybe

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the insurance company does not understand what it is. Ms. Sandberg stated the insurance company was sent a copy of everything. Mr. Carnahan asked if it would be outside and the wind could potentially pick it up. Mrs. Ray stated she looked into it as well to be used for community events. It could be used indoors or outdoors. She stated she too sent them the specifics. It does not have a floor to bounce on. It is essentially a tent they can maneuver through. Mr. Thiel stated it is an inflatable tent. Not an actual bounce house. Chief Wilkening stated it is like any other tent and has to be anchored down appropriately. The inside is for fire prevention education. It was bought by the Association to the Fire Prevention Division of the department by those members. They are looking for it to be donated to the Town to become part of the stock. Mr. Recupito asked if there were any other questions. Mr. Thiel stated that was his question. Mr. Parker asked if he received an answer. Mr. Thiel stated he is still a little confused. He understands how insurance companies work to limit liability. If it is a tent, what is the difference in coverage, whether they have a tent at Farmers Market, Taylor Ice Fest, or Summerfest. Mrs. Dickson stated it is an inflatable. Any inflatable has to have additional insurance. She stated they do for Summerfest. Mr. Thiel asked if there was no getting around the inflatable. Mrs. Dickson stated they have to get additional insurance. She knows they do for Summerfest and she knows Farmers Market does. Mr. Thiel stated even though technically it is not a bounce house. Mrs. Dickson stated if they wind gets underneath it and moves it is the problem. They look at it being an inflatable. Mr. Thiel asked if they have received a quote for the additional. Ms. Sandberg stated they have not gone that far because they do not technically own it. Mr. Thiel stated he would like to hold off on that until they know what the additional will be. Ms. Sandberg stated she would reach out to Risk Management tomorrow and get his questions clarified. Chief Wilkening asked if he thought it would be thousands of dollars. Mr. Thiel stated he does not want to make a decision without knowing the total. Chief Wilkening stated he was asking Mary Joan. Mrs. Dickson stated their carnival people get additional insurance. They require it. She does not know a number. Mr. Thiel asked to hold off on the donation of the education inflatable bounce house until the next meeting. Ms. Sandberg stated she will have a response from Risk Management before the next meeting. She asked if the motion would be to approve the consent agenda less the in-kind donation and move that item to the next consent agenda.

A motion to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the consent agenda less the in-kind donation of the education inflatable house was made by Richard Thiel with second by Mary Joan Dickson. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

**1. Ordinance No. 1505 - Amendment to Town Ordinance No. 1402**

Mr. Austgen stated this is a lighting ordinance clarification. A clarification to the lighting section. Mr. Parker read Ordinance No. 1505 by title only.

A motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1505 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.

**2. Resolution No. 1363 - Specific Development Approvals and Authorizations**

Mr. Parker read Resolution No. 1363 by title only. Mr. Thiel asked to give a brief description. He stated he has attended the Building Department meetings and heard the confusion and concerns with issuing permits for already approved lots in both Lakeview and Railside business park. With the recent IDEM letter and concerns with water, permits were being held. He stated this is to clarify that anything going in the two industrial or business parks, low water consumption businesses, would be able to get permits issued. This would also help clarify anything coming before Plan Commission. He stated these are already approved and infrastructure is already in the ground. He stated this is for clarity on what permits can be issued by the Building Department. Mr. Austgen stated there has been dictum from IDEM about these matters. They have been in communication directly with representatives in Indianapolis. They know these are approved parcels, permit wise. IDEM is leaving them to their discretion based upon the scientific knowledge and permit information, for the decision they are considering.

Mr. Recupito allowed remonstrators for Resolution No. 1363. Robert Henn, 13455 Parrish Avenue, stated Rich explained that great. He stated he was confused by Section One. The wording includes dates and developer agreements. He stated he wanted to make sure that the permits they already have, building permits that were already turned in in August or July, will be released once this passes. Mr. Thiel stated that was correct. Mr. Henn stated any future permits will still go through Plan Commission unless it is a high

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water user. Mr. Thiel stated that is correct. Mr. Thiel discussed developments that were approved with no NOI's signed. He stated that is why it is worded the way it is. Mr. Parker stated these were approved NOI's. Mr. Thiel stated yes, these do. It has to be worded for those that were approved by Plan Commission without signed NOI's. This does not give those developments the authority to come in until those are figured out. Mr. Austgen stated they are walking a delicate walk. They have to let the developer know they are working in partnership with the Town. The fact this is occurring is part of the delicate walk. They will not necessarily receive automatic approvals at Plan Commission. It will be based on technical data. A brief discussion continued.

Mr. Carnahan stated the last page shows signatures of the Town Council and signatures of the Utility Board. He asked if they could approve it even though they are the same board but it is not the utility meeting. Mr. Austgen stated they could approve it as the Town Council this meeting. Put it on the next agenda for utility board. He stated that is because some aspects are utility board jurisdiction. They need to be on this. The dealings with IDEM will be inclusive of both boards.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 1363 was made by Chuck Becker with second by Richard Thiel. Mr. Carnahan noted it will go to the Utility Board next. Mr. Thiel stated it does not limit them from coming in tomorrow to get their permit. Mr. Austgen stated Town Council has approved the resolution. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

**BZA/PLAN COMMISSION**

**1. Approve Beacon Pointe East, Unit 1 conversion to Maintenance Letter of Credit in the amount of \$136,694.72 due to expire on October 30, 2027**

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

**2. Approve Beacon Pointe West, Unit 5 – Performance Letter of Credit Extension in the amount of \$212,835.71 due to expire on May 19, 2025**

A motion to approve 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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Cedar Lake/Town Y2024 Monastery Clubhouse Facility Apartment Lease**

Mr. Recupito asked Ms. Sandberg if she has been involved in this. Ms. Sandberg stated yes, it is an annual item. It is for the tenant in the apartment above the Monastery Clubhouse. She stated she has no issue as the tenant pays timely. Mr. Austgen stated it is for \$650 per month. Has been that way for the last year's term. Mrs. Dickson asked if this was for 2025. Mr. Austgen stated that was for 2024. Mr. Thiel asked if they have done any rent calculations for an increase for consideration. Mrs. Rivera stated rationale in previous years has always been the insurance is less because it is occupied. The person keeps an eye on the place as well as loud parties on the weekends. A brief discussion continued. Ms. Sandberg stated for many years it was only \$500 per month. Within the last few years, the Council increased it to \$600 and within the last year or two it was increased to \$650. Mrs. Rivera stated she was fine with the current amount.

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

**2. Fire Department Water Softener Rental Agreement**

Chief Wilkening stated they need a water softener. It has been out for three weeks. The water is messing everything up in the station. He stated he polled everyone to see what would be the best thing to do and the consensus was a lease. Jennifer mentioned it had to be approved by the Council to go into a lease and that is why it is before them. He stated they asked four different places and only got one quote back. Mr. Becker stated most leases when you rent if something goes wrong, they pay for it. Under six, it says the renter shall be responsible for maintenance and necessary repairs during the rental term. Mrs. Rivera asked if that could be an error. Mr. Becker voiced concerns with renting one

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with that clause. Chief Wilkening stated it is a business rental versus residential. A member of the audience stated a lot of times a business rental is different from a house. Mr. Parker asked what it cost to purchase one. Chief Wilkening stated they did. It was around \$2,000. Ms. Sandberg stated it was just under \$2,000. Chief Wilkening stated it had a warranty and they just have to maintain the salt. A lengthy discussion continued on renting versus purchasing a unit.

A motion to approve the purchase of a water softener from Action Plumbing at an amount not to exceed the estimate as well as using CCD funds was made by Richard Thiel with second by Greg Parker. Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

**3. Krohn & Associates Engagement Letter for the 2024 General Obligation Bonds**

Corby Thompson with Krohn & Associates reported that they already have an engagement letter with the Town. Any time they do bonds, it is a requirement by MSRB as well as the SEC that they get an additional engagement letter signed. The rates in this engagement letter are materially the same as the general services engagement letter. It is a legal formality to engage in doing the bonds. Mr. Recupito stated they are estimating that the engagement will cost anywhere from \$25,000 to \$35,000. Mr. Thompson stated that is correct and considering the type of sale they are doing; he anticipates it to be on the lower end. Mr. Austgen stated this is appropriate. They are catching the paper up as they are already in process.

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

Mr. Thompson added that they are still trying to figure out the sources and uses. He stated they essentially have \$2.4 million dollars in uses. That leaves approximately \$200,000 in bond proceeds to allocate as the Council sees fit. That is considering not purchasing a payloader or street sweeper with the funds. If that is something they want to do, that would certainly use up the remaining proceeds. He stated he wished to put that on their radar. Mr. Carnahan asked if they discussed streets. Mr. Recupito stated they did discuss it. He spoke with Don and the streets committee is supposed to get with Don before the end of the year to go over the Paser Rating. Don has instruction to get together with that committee. Mrs. Dickson asked who was on that committee. It was stated Mr. Becker, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Carnahan.

**4. Y2024/2025 Moto on Ice Event Agreement**

Mr. Austgen stated this is nearly identical to last year. Insurance is an update item as well as the dates. It could potentially be used from January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>. It is usually the Town Manager with the producers and promoters to get the details pulled together. Mr. Recupito asked Mr. Jenkins if he had anything to add. Mr. Jenkins stated no. They looked through it with the club and everything stayed the same. They still need to meet with Jeff and a couple people in town. Mrs. Ray stated last year Parks helped execute the events. She asked for their consideration regarding snow being plowed on the grassy areas. She stated parks is responsible for maintenance and repair. She asked for a clause for pavement parking only. The areas behind the park office and by the bandstand was plowed out for parking spaces. Mr. Recupito asked who that was done by. Mrs. Ray stated Moto On Ice. She stated it is not outlined in this agreement. Mrs. Dickson asked Mr. Jenkins if they would be willing to put the grounds back to their original state if there was damage done. Mr. Jenkins stated he did not think they would have a problem with that. A brief discussion continued on parking for the event. Mrs. Dickson asked if Mrs. Ray would be willing to agree to that. Mr. Recupito discussed an addition to the agreement about the grassy areas being restored. A brief discussion continued. Mr. Austgen stated he understood. Mr. Becker asked if the insurance is enough. He voiced concerns about someone getting hurt and the Town's responsibility. Mr. Austgen stated there are similar limits as to what the statute talks about for liability. It will probably never be enough but that is an objective limit. Mr. Recupito asked if they needed something in the motion for what they just discussed. Mr. Austgen stated that would help.

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A motion to approve the 2024-2025 Moto On Ice Event Agreement with the understanding that they will work with the Park Department to return the grass to original condition 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.

**5. Consider sale of old phone system utilizing govdeals.com**

Mr. Wroe reported the phone system for the Town was upgraded as part of the building projects. That left them with the old system. He stated they would like to liquidate it using GovDeals. Mr. Thiel asked when they would see the correct extensions. He stated he still sees emails with old extensions. Ms. Sandberg stated that is on the individuals. Mr. Wroe stated he updated the website and he will email all users to make sure they update that.

A motion to approve 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.

**6. CBBEL Change Order No. 1 for Morse Water Main Project from \$900,000.00 to \$894,760.00**

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

**7. CBBEL Pay Request No. 3, Final, Morse Water Main Extension Project in the amount of \$138,179.50**

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

**8. Authorize Town Council President to sign the 2024-2 Community Crossings Matching Grant Agreement and All Related Contracts**

Mr. Carnahan stated this is for \$791,789.69. A motion to approve was made by Robert Carnahan with second by Greg Parker. Mr. Becker asked if they are going to discuss where it is going. Mr. Carnahan stated they already approved that. Ms. Sandberg stated this is for the Shades Phase II project. Mrs. Dickson asked if it could be put on the website. People saw it but have been asking. Mr. Bunge stated sure. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

**9. Allow early closure for Town Employee Holiday Party Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Mr. Recupito asked if there was discussion. He asked if it was something they do every year. Ms. Sandberg stated past administrations have allowed for a staff holiday party. Town Hall and Public Works will close up early. Discussions were regarding a staff potluck. Mr. Kubiak stated they will work it out. Mr. Recupito asked what time they would close. Mr. Kubiak stated 12:00PM. Discussion occurred on location.

A motion to approve the early closure for Town holiday party was made by Julie Rivera with second by Robert Carnahan. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

**10. Consider posting a Notice to accept applications for 2025 Board and Commission Appointments**

Mr. Bunge stated as of a notice or announcement for a number of boards and commissions, that help run the Town, they do have some terms that expire at the end of the year. There are two on the Board of Safety, one Park Board, one on Plan Commission, one on Storm Water, and one member of the Unsafe Building. They will be expiring. A brief discussion occurred on the BZA and Park Foundation. Mr. Recupito asked Jeff if they were going to reach out to the current members to re-apply. Mr. Bunge stated he would be willing to do that. A brief discussion continued.

A motion to approve was made by Richard Thiel with second by Mary Joan Dickson. Mrs. Dickson asked where the posts will be made. Mr. Bunge stated on the Town website. Mrs. Dickson asked if they would use social media too. Mr. Bunge stated okay.

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Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

**11. Consider Chamber of Commerce to use the Town Council Chambers for Santa during the Parade of Lights on November 23, 2024**

A motion to approve was made by Chuck Becker with second by Richard Thiel. Mr. Bunge asked Cliff if he would have access for the front doors. Mr. Wroe stated the Police Department escorts them in. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

**12. Requisition No. 18 Disbursement of funds from 2022A Construction Fund in the amount of \$20,623.70**

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

**13. Requisition No. 17 Disbursement of funds from 2022B Construction Fund in the amount of \$22,949.07**

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

**14. Requisition No. 19 Disbursement of funds from 2022A Construction Fund in the amount of \$8,525.59**

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

**15. Requisition No. 18 Disbursement of funds from 2022B Construction Fund in the amount of \$170,360.96**

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

**REPORTS**

- 1. Town Council** – Mr. Carnahan reported the Jean Eberle Parade of Lights will take place Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6PM. It will kick off at Hanover and end at Town Hall. Mrs. Dickson discussed an email from Julie Zasada regarding waiving of the fee for the Taylor Ice Fest. Jeff should have received the email. Mr. Bunge stated it was one of the first things he did when he came on in January. He believes they credited back the expense. Mrs. Dickson stated it was asked to be waived. Mr. Bunge stated they waived approximately \$95.00. Ms. Sandberg stated she would have to pull what he gave her as she did not recall. Mrs. Dickson asked if Jeff had discussed with her. Mr. Parker stated he is okay with Jeff handling it. Mrs. Ray asked if they are approving that, she would not suggest by date because they take about a week ahead to start getting the temperature up. Mrs. Dickson stated Jeff has got it. Mrs. Dickson asked about getting the dates approved for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. She stated they need that for contracts. Mr. Recupito asked for it to be on the agenda for the first meeting in December. Mr. Thiel stated JMOB true-up questions from Sue Haase were sent out for 2022 and 2023. He sent them out to all JMOB members, Council Presidents, and both Clerk-Treasurer's. Mr. Carnahan asked for it to be sent out to all Council. Mr. Thiel stated he can. He initially sent it to everyone involved because Craig asked what they would like to see on the meeting agenda. Mr. Thiel asked where they were at with the mechanic. Mr. Kubiak stated yes and he will start on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Ms. Sandberg stated she did not have an update on that. A brief discussion continued. Mr. Thiel asked if the Planning Director was posted. Ms. Sandberg stated it was posted. She asked how long they wished for it to remain posted. Mr. Thiel stated for a week or two. A brief discussion continued.
- 2. Town Attorney** – No report.
- 3. Clerk-Treasurer** – Ms. Sandberg reported she continues to work with the consultants on the General Obligation Bond. She plans to have a draft of the 2025 Salary Ordinance for the next agenda. There will also be a transfer resolution for the next agenda. She has already spoken with some departments on needs. She stated she is going to wait until after the 12/5/24 pay to notice an additional appropriation for the fire overtime. That is a public hearing that will occur at the second meeting of December. She stated she needs those 12/5/24 pay numbers in order to better calculate the additional needed. Mrs.

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Dickson asked what the additional appropriation was for. Ms. Sandberg stated for the fire overtime.

4. **Town Manager** – No report.
5. **Director of Operations** – Mr. Kubiak stated he is glad they have the mechanic position filled. He discussed leaf pick up winding down before winter.
6. **Police Department** – Chief Brittingham reported Matthew Milan graduated from the police academy last Friday. He is back and continuing his training. He is a great, local kid. They will see him out there in addition. Chief Brittingham briefly reported on the monthly calls report.
7. **Fire Department** – Chief Wilkening briefly reported on the monthly calls report. 7AM is the new time to run a lot of calls. That is around shift change. That puts them out for a while. That is additional overtime. He stated he needs to ask the Council to help pay for repairs on the ambulance that they lost the motor on. That is ambulance #1261. They do not have the money in their line item for repairs to fix it. He stated Jen asked him to ask the Council for help. He stated the estimate has been received. Ms. Sandberg stated yes, she received the estimate but there has been a change from their last conversation because of the other invoices that have come in. He would need to request an additional appropriation for the whole estimate amount. Ms. Sandberg stated that line item has been depleted with other invoices that have come in. Mr. Recupito asked if that is something that has got to be a public notice like the other appropriation for overtime. Ms. Sandberg stated yes. Mr. Becker asked if it was already getting fixed. Chief Wilkening stated yes, they could not wait. Mr. Becker asked if there was a schedule for maintenance. Chief Wilkening stated yes. Mr. Parker asked if the fuel system has been maintained and if there was a log kept. Chief Wilkening stated he is sure there is. He would have to look into it as it is maintained by the people who work on the ambulances. Mr. Recupito asked Jennifer if she needed direction. Ms. Sandberg told him to direct her to include it when she goes to advertise the additional appropriation. Mr. Becker asked how much is it for total. Mr. Parker stated it is growing. Ms. Sandberg stated the first quote was for approximately \$12,000. She did not recall the total of the second quote. Mr. Thiel stated \$19,000. Chief Wilkening stated he believed it was just under \$20,000. A discussion occurred on the quotes received for the fuel system and engine. Mr. Thiel estimated approximately \$33,000. Mr. Parker discussed the Ford power stroke diesel being notorious for doing what it did in the ambulance if the fuel system is not maintained. He stated after they replace the engine, which will be stupid expensive, they need to make sure it is getting done. If they are not sure if it is getting done, they need to spend twice as much time making sure it is getting done. He stated it is a pretty well-known industry standard that that is a defect with that engine. It is usually prevented if maintained properly. Chief Wilkening stated he would have to look back in their records. Mr. Parker stated he has never seen one blow out before. Mr. Becker stated it has less than 100,000 miles. Mr. Recupito stated he sent Freddy some information on diesels and preventative stuff as he has a truck with the same fuel pump. Chief Wilkening stated yes but their guys are not mechanics. They do basic PM on the trucks every day and different stuff. They rely on different companies to do the maintenance. He discussed having them serviced by Public Works. Mr. Becker discussed looking into budgeting service contracts. Mr. Parker stated he would rather error on the side of caution and take it to the Ford dealership twice a year to have the fuel system serviced. That way it has the correct dealer manufactured parts to make sure this does not happen again. Chief Wilkening stated J&M suggested putting a different fuel system on it. He stated he does not believe they could have prevented this. Mr. Recupito asked Jennifer again if she needed direction tonight. Ms. Sandberg stated that they direct her to include it in the additional appropriation. Mr. Recupito stated it has to be done. Ms. Sandberg stated it will come before them with the public hearing and will be noticed properly. Chief Wilkening stated they do the best they can. He stated he got the impression they do not feel they have a legitimate maintenance plan. He stated he will be asking the Board of Safety to approve Anthony Elkmann at the next Board of Safety meeting for hire. Then they will ask the Council to hire him at their next meeting. He is currently working part-time. Chief Wilkening stated they are awaiting the PERF for Mr. Gagliardi. He too is working part-time while waiting. He continued to talk about covering shifts. Danny Misiak was approved and will be in the same boat until PERF switches him over. He is just transfer from one department to another. He stated they are getting there but will still be short a few people. He stated as they get applications they will be interviewing people. Mr. Thiel asked Chief about the training. He stated in light of the situation with overtime, until the end of the year, is their required or mandatory training. Chief Wilkening reported there is training to be done before the end of the year but the training will completely slow down from now until February. Mr. Thiel asked about seeing any type of training that is not mandatory, be stopped as to not accrue any more overtime. He discussed turnover of employees and training of new employees. Shifts have to be covered. He stated he understands the overtime is high but they have lost so many people and they are working part-time people at full-time positions. He stated if they look at the full-time line item it is under and the

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part-time and overtime is over. He continued to discuss the shifts left open due to the turnover. Chief Wilkening discussed training with the confidence trailer. It is done every year to keep the guys sharp. He stated they keep talking about the overtime and there is no way to fix it unless they hire people or they could run short. Mr. Becker asked about the open house and how many people worked the open house that were paid overtime. Chief Wilkening stated they could not have an open house. Mr. Becker voiced concerns with the additional money spent on overtime for the open house. A heated discussion continued on department staffing and overtime. Mr. Parker asked Chief Wilkening to be mindful of the budget, costs, and spending. Chief Wilkening stated most of their budget this year has been spent on fixing things. He stated there was nothing brand new down there. Mr. Thiel clarified his question was regarding mandatory training versus regular type training. Mr. Recupito stated he thinks they need to get together with the Fire Department. Mrs. Rivera stated it is more of a conversation for Board of Safety or an executive session. Chief Wilkening voiced his frustration. He stated he would rather have a discussion behind closed doors. Mr. Parker stated they will get there. He asked Chief Wilkening if he had another ambulance with the ford power stroke. He asked him to get it in and get it serviced. He stated he does not want to see another blown engine. Chief Wilkening stated he would talk to Chief Mager as he handles the maintenance. Chief Wilkening discussed the sensitivity of the conversation surrounding Southcom. He stated since he has brought up the topic of asking Council to look into it, he has received a lot of rhetoric on social media. He stated he has received threats in various forms. He stated people have been saying they are talking with Council. He stated he has no issues with the operation of Southcom. He stated when he saw the cost of Southcom, he had to say something. He continued to discuss the increased needs versus costs. He discussed potential savings for going to central. He continued to voice his concerns with threats. Mr. Parker apologized for interrupting him and voiced his frustration with social media. He voiced his frustration with rumors and innuendo and their ability to get anything done with all the chatter. Mr. Thiel stated they did try to get a meeting scheduled with Southcom. It was tentative for the 13<sup>th</sup> and it fell apart. Again, they are trying for the 25<sup>th</sup>. A lengthy discussion continued on Southcom.

- 8. Parks Department** – Mrs. Ray reported they are planning Taylor Ice Fest. It is December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. They have things happening bigger and better, starting with a 25-foot Christmas tree for the tree lighting ceremony. The motto is do better than they did last year. It is a shuttle only event. There will be limited accessible sites available on the Town Grounds. Parking and shuttles will be at Lemon Lake County Park and Faith Church for the duration of the event. She stated the master plan for the parks went to the DNR in draft form on November 15<sup>th</sup>. They anticipate notes and review in February.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

- 1. Building Department Report** – Mr. Recupito asked Mr. Bunge if he would be taking this. Mr. Bunge stated he had not had a chance to see it. Mr. Recupito asked Mr. Kubiak if he had anything to report. Mr. Kubiak stated he knows they passed 1,100 permits for the year. Mr. Parker expressed thanks for whoever sent the Building Department Report. He stated that is good information. Mr. Kubiak stated that is from Michelle.
- 2. Christopher B. Burke Report** – Mr. Bunge discussed the engineering report. He discussed the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the 2026 – 2030 TIP. Money is available for infrastructure and transit projects. An application was made for the Pickerell Creek Culvert Replacement on 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue under Protect funds as well as the 133<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Sidewalk from Faith Church to Robin’s Nest under Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG). Mr. Carnahan asked if they were 80/20 matches. Mr. Bunge stated yes. Mr. Bunge discussed the Community Crossing Matching Grant award.

Mr. Thiel asked about the Utility Board Item #3. He asked if they will want to start seeing Christopher B. Burke at the utility meetings. Mr. Recupito stated he thought it was a good idea. They will ask for a representative to begin attending. Mr. Recupito asked Mr. Bunge to arrange that moving forward.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gayle Brannon, 7014 W 139<sup>th</sup> Place, asked where Pickerell Creek was located. Mr. Recupito stated the south end of the lake. Mr. Bunge stated the little bridge where Coffin’s used to be, back into the marsh by Mr. Lotton’s property.

Angie Mikolijczak, 12806 Lee Court, asked if the Parks would refrain from putting a Taylor Ice Fest sign in the roundabout. She voiced concerns with the signs lasts year. Mrs. Ray stated there is no signage in the roundabout. Mrs. Mikolijczak asked if anyone is notified about what is going on with NIPSCO. It was stated no. NIPSCO does not give notice. Mrs. Mikolijczak discussed a meeting with Don Oliphant and problem areas with the streets. Mr. Thiel stated it was the safety analysis meeting. Mr. Bunge stated they are there for the Town’s reference for future funding opportunities. Mrs. Mikolijczak asked about getting a real stop sign at Hilltop. She voiced



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concerns with the sign being in the tire. Mr. Parker stated that was because it kept getting hit. Mr. Kubiak discussed the possibility of getting something done. A brief discussion continued.

Jerry Connor, 10330 Paramount Way, discussed the situation with Southcom. He stated he has no problem with the dispatch center. He voiced concerns with the amount of money being sent and comments made. He stated it does not seem like things are going to change. Mr. Recupito stated he would not come to that conclusion. They agreed they would have the meetings and come to a determination. Mr. Connor continued to voice concerns with the cost. Mr. Parker discussed the history with Schererville. A lengthy discussion continued on Southcom and costs. Mr. Connor voiced concerns with social media and accusations made. He stated he bases his comments on his experience. He stated his is not a puppet. He stated he is a friend of Chief Wilkening's. He speaks for himself.

Jeff Biel, 10240 W. 134<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated a couple of things have come to his attention. At the Plan Commission meeting on October 16, 2024, during public comment, Commissioner Parker totally lost it. He stated Terry Broadhurst was asking some questions when Mr. Parker stood up, pounded the desk, and was screaming at him. It went back and forth. Chairman Kiepura was also raising his voice and telling him to sit down. Mr. Biel stated this type of behavior should not be tolerated. He stated it was an embarrassment to the residents of Cedar Lake and the Town Council. He stated as a Town Council they were elected by residents to make decisions and watch over all boards and commissions that help keep Cedar Lake moving forward. He asked them to suspend Mr. Parker from any board or commission he is a member of. He stated his actions do not follow the guidelines of stable and transparent government that they are striving for. He stated as a community they deserve better. Mr. Biel stated he holds the position of the Hanover Township Democratic Chairman for the Town of Cedar Lake. He stated in that position he has to stock the workers for the different elections. He stated the people work hard and do not get paid enough. He voiced concerns with the last Presidential election and the harassment of poll workers. He stated there was a situation on Election Day this past November 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Biel stated there was a Cedar Lake Police Officer that was conducting himself unbecomingly of an officer. Mr. Parker stated here we go again. Mr. Biel asked him what that is supposed to mean. Mr. Recupito asked Mr. Biel to continue. Mr. Biel stated the officer was at a polling location in Cedar Lake. The outburst was witnessed by over 50 people. Mr. Biel asked if the Police Chief or the Police Commission have done anything about the situation. He asked if it had been addressed. Mr. Thiel stated that is a personnel issue that they cannot discuss publicly. He stated there are guidelines that they all have to follow and as far as personnel that is one of them. Mr. Biel stated there are laws governing that. He stated they can be brought to court. He stated they deserve better and they do not need this kind of stuff. He addressed Mr. Parker and comments made under his breath. He stated he does not need to do that. Mr. Parker stated he has addressed his behavior at the meeting. Mr. Biel stated he gave a short apology. Mr. Parker stated he addressed his behavior at the meeting. The gentlemen was out of line the whole meeting. He was trying to rearrange an agenda for a public hearing. He stated to the point that he upset the Plan Commission President to the point that Mr. Parker thought he was having a medical emergency. He stated then he doubled down. Mr. Parker stated he is not here to lose his mind or temper. He stated he is here to do the work. He stated he does not like it when people try to interfere with getting the work done when they do not know what they are talking about. Mr. Biel tried to speak. Mr. Parker stated particularly when that person is a resident from Orland Park, Illinois. Mr. Parker stated as far as he is aware, no one in this community has affected the health, welfare, safety, or financial conditions of Orland Park, Illinois. He stated there is nothing to get bent out of shape about. He stated he is working on it. He stated he is working on himself on a number of things but so is the Council. He stated the nonsense has to stop or they will never get anything done. He asked Mr. Biel if he would like to get something done. Mr. Biel stated he would but he can not do what he did and not suffer any consequences. Mr. Parker stated he lost his temper. Mr. Thiel discussed the posting outside of the door discussing decorum during public meetings. He stated if the president asks someone to stop talking or if things happen out of order and it is not being held, who is at fault. Mr. Kiepura stated he asked for a police officer and did not get it. Mr. Parker stated he regretted that. He gavelled the gentlemen and told him to sit down and be quiet. He was ignored. He stated it is his job to control that meeting. If that happens, things do not accelerate to that level. Mr. Parker stated he was not happy with his behavior that night. He stated he is here to do the work and he is not here to play political games. Mr. Biel stated he agrees but still he cannot act the way he did without being reprimanded. He stated something has to be done. He stated you do not see Julie standing and slamming her fist because she does not agree with something. Mrs. Rivera stated she did yell back at Terry but he started it. Mr. Thiel stated he has had his moments. Mr. Parker stated the gentlemen has done it repeatedly. It has to stop. He stated the Council has had discussion about public comment. Mr. Thiel stated they all need to learn about public comment. He discussed the Council being at fault for allowing too much dialogue. He stated that is a negative affect of trying to be inclusive and transparent. He stated they are all guilty of it at some time. He stated they have had a lot of dialogue individually on how they are supposed to conduct themselves. They are all at fault and guilty at some point. They all need to improve. The public as well. Mr. Biel discussed his concerns and stated the police officer situation should be addressed. He stated the young woman was traumatized. Mr. Thiel stated they are aware of the

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situation as well as the Board of Elections and Registration. It is not a Council decision at the moment and there are policies in place.

Terry Broadhurst stated a few statements were made about him tonight. He thanked Mr. Biel for considering his feelings of what did take place. Mr. Thiel stated he did not mean to interrupt but they will need a name and address for the record. Mr. Boardhurst stated he would like to start by apologizing for the last time he was forced to give a name and address. He stated he was caught off guard and would like to apologize to this board and the Plan Commission. Mr. Recupito asked him to give a name and address. Mr. Broadhurst stated he is homeless. He stated he will not find his address on a house. He stated three years ago he sold everything he owned in the hopes of creating a new future. He stated he bought the land out of pocket and had big dreams. Mr. Parker and Mr. Recupito stated they needed an address. Mr. Broadhurst stated he is homeless and has no address. He stated he would give the address on his license. He stated 2123 Arthur Avenue, Lockport, Illinois. That is on his license. He stated unfortunately he found out that night that they are homeless. He stated that hurt. Out of reaction he gave his old address. That is sons home now. He stated he has to recant that. He started he would like to bring up something to the board from the State of Indiana. He discussed the need to justify what he needed to say that night. He stated a comment was made by the petitioner on a public hearing that was left only. He stated you cannot find a gavel on the public hearing anywhere. He stated when he got to speak, he felt that he should be able to comment as well. He stated in legalize he should have been able to speak based on it being opened back up. He stated John asked him if he had anything to add. He stated the petitioner said a few words. He stated he stood up in the back to present himself at the podium and got screamed at. He stated he did talk back. Mr. Broadhurst stated the facts are the facts. He stated he was protecting his rights. He should have the right to speak on something regardless if everyone agrees. He stated everything he planned to say was discussed with Greg that morning in his lot. He discussed giving up everything they did on that one thing. He discussed the fire that was started. He stated he asked questions on what they were giving up. He stated he should have the right to speak without interruption. He stated he had no impressions in talking tonight. He stated he has to apologize as he is taken off guard. He stated he has something from the State of Indiana from Indiana Code Section 5-14-1.5-4(b). He read that section. He stated nowhere does it state that he needs to give his address. He asked the board to restrict the address he gave at Plan Commission. He stated it is no longer his address. He stated he does not want to baggage to fall on his family. He stated they have the right to disagree. Mr. Broadhurst continued to discuss his involvement with the Town and community. He discussed defending himself. Mr. Recupito stated there will be disagreements that may not be able to be reconciled. He stated there is a time and a place for public comment. He stated people need to be respectful of whoever has the microphone. He stated they will not tolerate any outbursts anymore from either side. Mr. Broadhurst stated he has gotten loud on many occasions. Never does he come back with anger. He takes it out the door with him as it is just business. He stated he has a lot of good information. He has shared it. He stated he agrees with Mr. Biel. He stated there should be repercussions on the way people act. He continued to discuss actions and decisions. Mr. Parker asked Mr. Broadhurst about the Thursday morning after that meeting. Mr. Broadhurst stated he came and took pictures of his house because he was doing unpermitted work as a Council member. Mr. Recupito gaveled Mr. Broadhurst. Mr. Parker asked Mr. Broadhurst if it was okay for him to intimidate him at his home. Mr. Broadhurst stated he was not intimidating him. He stated he was doing unpermitted work as a Town Council member. Mr. Parker voiced concerns with him taking pictures of his house. Mr. Broadhurst stated he has every right to stand on the street and take a picture of a house. Mr. Parker asked him if it would concern him. Mr. Broadhurst stated he would probably be upset but he is not doing unpermitted work as a Town Council member. Mr. Broadhurst stated they elected him to set an example. Mr. Parker stated it is becoming very clear. Mr. Broadhurst said yes that you do not care about the Town of Cedar Lake. Mr. Parker asked Mr. Austgen if that made any sense. Mr. Austgen stated it was public comment. A little elongated but it was public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT** President Recupito called the meeting to adjournment at approximately 9:47 PM.

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**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