

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



February 18, 2025

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Claims:** All Town Funds: \$341,380.01; Wastewater Operating: \$332,407.52; Water Utility: \$22,621.05; Storm Water: \$4,322.05; Payroll: 02/13/25 - \$417,527.60; January Remittances: \$331,341.43
2. **Donations:** Police - Calumet Breweries 75 Cases of Ghost Hydration Energy Drink Fire - Calumet Breweries 75 Cases of Ghost Hydration Energy Drink
3. **Manual Journal Entries:** January 1, 2025- January 31, 2025
4. **Conflict of Interest:** Barbara Littles and Douglas Machalk
5. **Tag Day Request:** Youth Baseball- April 5, 2025
6. **Tag Day Request:** American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Day- April 19, 2025

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

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

1. **Ordinance No. 1511 – An ordinance amending the job description of the Fire Department Administrative Assistant position**

Council Member Parker read Ordinance No. 1511 by title only. Mr. Austgen recommended a first reading.

A motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 1511 was made by Richard Thiel with second by Chuck Becker. Mr. Carnahan discussed the tools to operate. He asked if there was a typewriter. Mr. Wilkening stated no. He did not write it. Mr. Austgen stated many places have typewriters for a number of reasons. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

2. **Resolution No. 1367 – Transfer Resolution**

Council Member Parker read Resolution No. 1367 by title only. Ms. Sandberg explained this was for total transfers within the General Fund of \$38,800. The transfers requested are as follows:

<u>GENERAL FUND #101</u>	<u>TOTAL TRANSFERS \$38,800.00</u>
Town Council 002	Total Transfers \$ 31,000.00
\$ 1,000.00	To: 119 – PTO Payout
\$ 30,000.00	To: 341 – Prop & Casualty
Parks & Recreation 006	Total Transfers \$ 7,800.00
\$ 5,000.00	To: 213 – Event Supply
\$ 2,800.00	To: 394 – Training

A motion to approve Resolution No. 1367 was made by Chuck Becker with second by Mary Joan Dickson. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

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BZA/PLAN COMMISSION

- 1. Cedar View – Requesting extension of Performance Letter of Credit to expire on (date) in the amount of \$14,047.00**

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

- 2. Summer Winds – Unit 1 – Requesting extension of Performance Letter of Credit to expire on (date) in the amount of \$244,187.85**

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

- 3. Beacon Pointe West Unit 6 – Requesting extension of Performance Letter of Credit to expire on January 27, 2026 in the amount of \$133,733.95**

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

- 4. Beacon Pointe West Unit 7 – Requesting extension of Performance Letter of Credit to expire on January 27, 2026 in the amount of \$309,673.13**

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

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Jager Easement - Connection and extension to the water supply of the property**

Mr. Austgen explained this is for the property at 13416 Cedar Street. It is to permit a water extension underneath the public way for water supply to a home across the street from the water supply. It was deemed appropriate to get water to that property and allow it to be used correctly. Mr. Austgen stated the permanent utility easement is in hand. It has a good legal description that has been reviewed as well as an attached survey. It is ready to go with their action.

A motion to approve was made by Chuck Becker with second by Richard Thiel. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0. Mr. Austgen stated Jennifer will need to gather signatures. Ms. Sandberg asked for someone to send her a clean copy of the agreement as she was not originally copied on it. Mr. Austgen stated he would.

- 2. Shades - Phase 2 Award**

Mr. Recupito discussed the bid tabulation summary as prepared by Christopher B. Burke Engineering for the Shades Subdivision Improvement Project, Phase 2. The final engineer's estimate for the project was \$1,595,840.80. Bids were received from the following:

Unit Cost Bids for Project

Contractors	Bids
Dyer Construction Company, Inc.	\$1,919,220.06
Milestone Contractors North, Inc.	\$1,683,079.60
M&J Underground, Inc.	\$1,591,375.70
Rieth-Riley Construction Company, Inc.	\$1,540,184.18

Christopher B. Burke Engineering recommended the subject contract be awarded to Rieth-Riley Construction Company, Inc. Mr. Recupito noted the lowest bid came in \$55,606.62 under the engineer's estimate for the project.

A motion to approve the award to Rieth-Riley Construction Company, Inc. was made by Robert Carnahan with second by Chuck Becker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

UPDATES/DISCUSSION

- 1. Grass and Weed Notice to Abate**

Chief Brittingham stated he was looking for direction and advice from the Town Attorney based on the email that was sent by Sarah. In the past, they have put out the

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notice to abate in regards to Town Ordinance Nuisance No. 304 for weeds and grass. He stated he does not know if they need to do it every year. Mr. Austgen stated they do need to do it every year but not more than once a year. Mr. Recupito asked what the process would be moving forward. Mr. Austgen stated a notice will be prepared. It is standard. He will go over it with the Chief and his staff.

REPORTS

1. **Town Council** – Mr. Carnahan discussed the Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Mr. Bunge attended and it went well.
2. **Town Attorney** - None
3. **Clerk-Treasurer** – Ms. Sandberg stated she is continuing with annual reporting.
4. **Town Manager** - None
5. **Director of Operations** – Mr. Kubiak reported the rebuilt truck that was approved last year is back on the road. It is doing a good job. He reminded folks to stay off the roads when it snows so they do not have to plow around. Mr. Carnahan discussed moving vehicles off of the road.
6. **Police Department** – Chief Brittingham stated they did issue warnings related to vehicles not moved during the snow event. The vehicles that were approved for purchase are already built and shipped. He reported on the monthly calls for service report for January.
7. **Fire Department** – Chief Wilkening reported on the monthly calls for service report for January.
8. **Parks Department** – Mrs. Ray reported there will be a meeting on the 5-Year Master Plan at the Clubhouse on March 13th at 6:30PM. Drafts of the master plan will be available for review. They are having a call-out meeting for community garden volunteers. That meeting will be March 27th at the Clubhouse at 5:30PM. They are planning a teen advisory group. A call-out meeting is scheduled for March 31st at the Clubhouse at 5:00PM. The focus will be teen programming.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

1. **Building Department Report** – Mr. Bunge reported on the annual building report. He noted in 2024 new permits issued were over 1,040 and of those only 198 were for new construction. A brief discussion continued.
2. **Christopher B. Burke Report** – Mr. Bunge discussed the monthly report from Christopher B. Burke Engineering with highlights on the current legislative session.
3. **YR2025 Summer Fest Agreement Update** – Mr. Austgen stated he sent over the proposed draft for the committee and Council to work with.
4. **Summer Fest Tourism Letter** – Mr. Recupito stated they received a letter dated January 17, 2025 requesting tourism funds. He asked Ms. Sandberg about the tourism funds. Ms. Sandberg stated the Town traditionally receives \$4,725 in mid to late July. A brief discussion continued on adding it to a future agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Prunsky, 15222 W. 133rd Avenue, stated she came to talk about privatizing the EMS services. She stated she was asking for more transparency. She asked them if they were currently happy with the EMS services and how things are staffed. She asked if they knew if everyone was up to date on required certifications. Mr. Recupito stated he knows things are challenging now in the line of work to find folks to do the work. He stated he does not know what the private sector looks like as far as money and quality. Mr. Thiel stated he knows they will have staffing issues once the new building is open. He stated he received an email as far as setting up a meeting with Superior. They would like to talk with them. The meeting was supposed to happen Thursday at noon but there is a schedule conflict. The next available date is March 3rd. Mrs. Prunsky stated she asked because of the residents of Cedar Lake and the tax dollars. She stated she was looking for more transparency when it comes to EMS. She asked if the residents needs could be met. She asked if the Town could afford to run two fire departments. Could it be appropriately staffed? Do they have the money to buy new ambulances? Are they training staff? She discussed prior discussion on lift assists. She stated it would never change. She stated she travels across the State for work. She discussed the Parks and programming. She asked why there was not more programming. She discussed the possibilities for programming. She voiced concerns with money spent on staff members. She voiced concerns with the Farmers Market and asked about it being done by the Parks Department. She asked why are they doing it if they are not capitalizing on it. She voiced concerns with insurance and staff. Mr. Recupito deferred Mrs. Prunsky to the Park Board to discuss Park programming and concerns. A lengthy discussion continued on the Farmers Market and EMS services and concerns presented.

Pam Howard, 10013 W. 141st Lane, stated she lives in Rose Garden. She stated the subdivision is hearing there is a big bond still held by the Town until the punch list is taken care of. She asked what input the homeowners have. She voiced concerns with plumbing problems in her new home. She has been going back and forth with them since last September. She stated she was curious about what the Town will do and what course of action will be taken. Mr. Parker stated they

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would not get their money back until they complete their obligations to their performance bond for the subdivision. He stated they are leaning on them a lot harder than in the past. A representative from Lennar is supposed to be making regular appearances at the Plan Commission meetings. There is one tomorrow night. Mr. Bunge stated he would reach out to the representative. Mr. Parker stated the Plan Commission meeting would be a good place to ask him those questions. A lengthy discussion continued on Mrs. Howard's concerns and recourse available.

Mark Beyer, 14029 S. Annapolis Ct., discussed privatization of the EMS service and bringing Superior in. He stated the price would be exorbitant not only for ALS or BLS services but lift assists. Currently, they do not charge for lift assists. Mr. Thiel stated they were discussing starting to. Mr. Beyer discussed Southcom. He stated the Council previously discussed how they liked their knowledge of the Town and community. He voiced concerns with bringing outsiders in to take care of the community. He discussed billing and looking at keeping it within the department. He stated there are areas to improve. He cautioned looking at a private EMS service. He discussed training and knowledge. He stated bringing in a private service would decrease the knowledge base. He did not think it was a wise option.

Chief Wilkening stated a private service would take away firefighters as well. He asked how they would staff the fire department with firefighters without having cross trained personnel. He stated he was not aware of the meeting with Superior. He stated he could have answered some questions for them. They rely on the EMS people to also fight fires. He stated he did not understand where Mrs. Prunsky was coming from. He discussed the overall process. They charge three or four times as much to the residents of Cedar Lake. A person may go from a \$800 ambulance bill to a \$2,800 ambulance bill. He stated he spoke from experience. He stated they will cut the fire protection in half by privatizing the EMS service. He stated he wanted it on the record as he was not consulted. He stated their certifications are all documented in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office every year.

Jerry Conner, 10330 Paramount Way, stated he used to live in a city with a private ambulance. He discussed being transported by them. He stated he was transported by Cedar Lake last year. His bill was a third of what he was charged by a private company. He stated if they wanted to take care of the citizens and Town, they need to keep the fire department. He stated they are doing their job. He stated they are struggling and there are a lot of budget issues and stuff causing that. He stated they are fully certified and he has no problem with it. He stated it is something to really consider if they are to protect the citizens of the community.

Dean Wilkening, 15011 Euclid St., discussed his wife's death in 2020. He stated Superior charged him \$25,000 to transport. He asked them to think about what they would do to the people in town. He stated it is all about the dollar signs. He asked them to let the professionals do the work. He continued to discuss his personal experience.

Cheryl Parker, 7227 W. 136th Ct., thanked Public Works with the ice storm and two snowstorms. She stated they did a really great job.

Mr. Thiel commented that Department Heads would only be required at the meeting on the third Tuesday of the month unless there was a business item or topic that required their presence.

ADJOURNMENT President Recupito called the meeting to adjournment at approximately 8:28 PM.

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

Robert Carnahan, Ward 1

Julie Rivera, Ward 2

Nicholas A. 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