

**TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA  
MINUTES OF THE UTILITY BOARD**

**December 15, 2020**

**Public Meeting Advertised for 6:00 PM  
Conducted at the Cedar Lake Town Hall  
Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence**



**Roll Call:**

Present	Robert H. Carnahan Board Member	Ward 1	Present	Colleen Schieben Board Member	Ward 6
Present	John Foreman Board Member	Ward 2	Present	Richard Sharpe Board President	Ward 7
Present	Julie Rivera Board Member	Ward 3	Present	Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMC Clerk-Treasurer	
Present	Ralph Miller Board Vice President	Ward 4	Present	Rick Eberly Town Manager	
Present	Randell Niemeyer Board Member	Ward 5	Present	David Austgen Town Attorney	

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2020**

A motion to approve minutes was made by Randy Niemeyer with second by Colleen Schieben. Roll call vote: Robert Carnahan – Yes, Julie Rivera – Yes, John Foreman – Yes, Colleen Schieben – Yes, Randy Niemeyer – Yes, Ralph Miller – Yes, Richard Sharp – Yes Vote: 7 - 0.

**2. Written Report**

**a. Fund Report**

Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg reported on the emailed cash summary as well as revenue and expenditure reports. She also reported on the November billing and revenue report.

**3. Consultant(s) & Staff Report(s)**

**a. Engineer - NIES**

- i. Consultant Appointment – Mr. Simstad stated this is the annual consultant appointment for sanitary and water. This includes a slightly less than 2.5% increase. All terms and conditions are consistent with past year's agreements. A motion to approve the proposal from NIES Engineering with signatures by President was made by Robert Carnahan with second by Julie Rivera. Roll call vote: Robert Carnahan – Yes, Julie Rivera – Yes, John Foreman – Yes, Colleen Schieben – Yes, Randy Niemeyer – Yes, Ralph Miller – Yes, Richard Sharp – Yes Vote: 7 - 0.
- ii. West Side Sanitary Interceptor Project 1 – Mr. Simstad stated there are no updates on Project 1. They are current on the CSX permit. Mrs. Murr checked last week and it is good for five years. The IDEM permit is in place through May 2021.
- iii. West Side Sanitary Interceptor Project 2 - Survey has begun. They've acquired property and plant documentation. NIPSCO has prepared and provided utility locates within the corridor. Completion is still on schedule for the 120 days from the last meeting date.
- iv. East Side Sanitary Sewer Inspection Update – Proceeding on manhole and sewer rehabilitation. Anticipate on bidding that in coordination with

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- a project being done in Highland. These contractors are fairly specialized. Late March to early April is the timeline.
- v. SSES Update – Working on the videos still.
  - vi. Utopia Subdivision Water Main Replacement Design Engineering Update – M.E. Simpson begins this week as they previously approved. They are expanding on the work completed by Public Works. This includes locates and work to find any and all wells, lines, and b-boxes.

Mr. Eberly asked Mr. Simstad for a brief explanation on the water audit. Mr. Simstad stated Howard is preparing the audit and Derek will be the validator for the audit. He understands it to be a four year process. It is done through IDEM and required as well by the IURC. It is due by January 1, 2021. Sue Haase has been working with them as well as getting documentation from Jen's office. Mr. Eberly stated Howard found he was able to recognize both the westside and eastside as one combined utility. One report is sufficient. A brief discussion continued.

**b. Director of Operations/Superintendent**

- i. Operation & Maintenance Report - Mr. Kubiak reported there were a few hiccups at the Robin's Nest Water. This had to do with the controls and a local fire. The pressure dropped too much water too fast out of the water system and caused for a boil advisory. Many others responded to the fire and were using the system. The pumps weren't able to keep up. Camera work continues.

Mr. Carnahan asked when the water tower will go up. Mr. Simstad reported that is dependent on the IURC water rate case as well as the bond issue. It will need to go to bid and some acquisition will need to occur. Mr. Simstad estimated at least a year. A brief discussion continued on capital updates.

- c. Town Attorney – Mr. Austgen reported that a draft water rate schedule has been received from Chris Janak. He is beginning work on the ordinance so they can time it into approval from the IURC with a public hearing to approve the rate ordinance. Land acquisition for the west side sewer continues. He has a letter request from Phil Faccenda soliciting confirmation of engagement from his firm, Barnes and Thornburg, in relation to the bond issue next year. Randy discussed the need for a public forum before the public hearing to discuss the water rates and what comes next. He believes information needs to be shared and questions be allowed. Mr. Austgen suggested having the consultants available for that meeting to answer questions and discuss the rate case.

**4. JMOB Report – No Update.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT – None.**

**ADJOURNMENT** President Sharpe adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:23 PM.

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Richard Sharpe, President

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Ralph Miller, Vice President

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Robert H. Carnahan

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Foreman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Rivera

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Niemeyer

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Colleen Schieben

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMC  
Clerk-Treasurer

The Minutes of the Cedar Lake Utility Board 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 IC 5-1.5-2-2.5.