

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



**April 16, 2024**

**Public Meeting Advertised for 6:30 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	Mary Joan Dickson Board Member	At-Large
Present	Julie Rivera Board Member	Ward 2	Present	Richard Thiel Board Vice-President	At-Large
Present	Nick Recupito Board President	Ward 3	Present	Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMC, CMC, CPFIM Clerk-Treasurer	
Present	Chuck Becker Board Member	Ward 4	Present	Jeff Bunge Town Manager	
Present	Greg Parker Board Member	Ward 5	Absent*	David Austgen Town Attorney	

**\*Ryan Deutmeyer was present.**

Mr. Recupito started the meeting by letting the public know that Mr. Bunge has passed out a report. It is the Wessler Engineering Technical Memorandum. What they call the Lowell Wastewater Treatment Plan flow projections. He stated there is a lot of useful information. He stated there is a lot of not so useful information going around Town. He stated they wanted them to have all the facts. Questions may be asked under public comment.

Mr. Carnahan stated they took \$2 million dollars out of the wastewater fund. Out of the supplemental wastewater fund they took \$2,241,153. The RDEA Lease Rental Bonds were \$3.9 million. He stated with all the money out of the different funds that totals \$9,250,953. They are taking \$2.1 million out of the fund and putting it back into the sewer fund. That leaves them spending \$7,150,953 on dredging. The plan was for 20% of the lake not 100%. So far, they have dredged 64.7% of that 20%. He stated a lot of people are saying that they do not care about dredging. He stated this Council does care about dredging. He stated Kirsten Smith is looking everywhere she can. He stated he was told by a resident there was \$450 million available through the Northwest Indiana Forum. She called about that and found the deadline was March 29<sup>th</sup>. He stated the Town Council is doing everything possible to try and get money to dredge the lake. He stated they do not want to see it stopped. They have other obligations they need to take care of.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Approval of Minutes – March 19, 2024**

A motion to accept and waive the reading of the minutes was made by Greg Parker with second by Chuck Becker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Parker – Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 - 0.

**2. Approval of Final Pay Request for Lift Station #19 Rebuild payable to Reichelt Plumbing, Inc., in the amount of \$75,000.**

Mr. Kubiak reported this is for the ground work at Lift Station #19. This is for the underground portion of the rebuild. They changed the check valve vault, rails, new piping out of the lift station, and two new bypasses. They needed to put in a double bypass. The bid they had was \$87,000. It came in at \$75,000. Mr. Carnahan stated he saw they removed the generator and he saw stone by the catch basin. He asked if they would pour concrete. Mr. Kubiak stated yes. They have to move a little electric pipe into the new panel and then they will pour the concrete. They are close to completion.

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

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

**3. Future Water Capacity Needs Planning Discussion**

Mr. Recupito asked Tim or Neil if they had any updates. Mr. Simstad stated they submitted a report on March 18<sup>th</sup> with some recommendations on the west side for them to consider. He knows Tim and Jeff have been working with staff to expand those. Mr. Carnahan asked if he would tell them what those were. Mr. Simstad stated the recommendation was the priority of additional production facilities, wells and disinfection. Looking forward, going to additional million-gallon ground storage tank and a million gallon a day high service pump facility. Those items were included in the 2020 PER that was submitted to the Indiana Finance Authority for the State Revolving Fund Loan program as part of the project to extend services on both sides of Town. Mr. Carnahan asked what kind of area the storage tank would take up. Mr. Simstad estimated less than an acre and a half. He likened it to Kennedy Avenue near the Borman in Highland. They have two elevated ground storage tanks of similar size. Mr. Carnahan asked if the location of something like that would be near the water tower of somewhere else. Mr. Simstad stated it could be. The location is less important than the storage capacity of it. They could look at areas where there is Town owned property or amenable developers that would be willing to partner. He stated they would be well advised to have that facility located similar to the new production facility would be where ever the fracture trace analysis from the past and the investigation they have between Peerless and Ortman looking for additional production facilities.

**4. Written Report**

- a. Fund Report – Clerk Treasurer Sandberg reported the monthly cash and expenditure reports were sent out last Friday.

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

- a. Engineer – NIES – Mr. Simstad reported the WSSSI Project 1 is continuing on punch list and restoration items. Projects 2 and 3 were submitted to them in terms of potential routing and estimated costs for both projects. Project 2 is essentially complete. If they so choose, they could move forward with an IDEM permit for construction. Mr. Recupito asked how current the cost estimates were. Mr. Simstad stated they were last months. He stated there are no additional updates on the water.
- b. Director of Operations/Superintendent
  - i. Operation & Maintenance Report – Mr. Kubiak stated they did Lift Station #19. It is complete other than the concrete around the base. They are still awaiting the new pumps and controls for Robin’s Nest. They received a bid for installing the equipment. It will be at the next meeting for them.
- c. Town Attorney – No report.

- 6. JMOB Report** – Mr. Bunge stated he spoke with Craig and they are pushing for a field trip in May on the 14<sup>th</sup>. They want to meet at the facility at 2PM. He is not 100% sure if this is a full JMOB meeting or just a field trip and information gathering session. He stated whatever way the board chooses. He discussed having a true meeting some time later next month. Mr. Thiel stated that is definitely how he would like to see it happen.

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

Mr. Carnahan asked if the public could go on the field trip. Mr. Parker stated there is probably liability attached to that. Mr. Bunge discussed limited facility space. Chief Fisher stated he does not know if they can be legally on the property because it is protected. He stated if they want to have something in the form of a true public hearing, they will explore that also. Mr. Carnahan asked what they would do. Mr. Recupito asked the JMOB members. Mr. Thiel stated he expressed his concerns to Jeff just before the meeting. He stated they still have so many questions not answered yet on expenses and other stuff. Mr. Recupito stated they need to work on scheduling the next meeting. The Town of Cedar Lake will be the host. It was discussed to have it the same day later in the evening. A brief discussion continued on hosting the next meeting. Mr. Bunge stated he would present that. A brief discussion continued on the Wessler report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cheryl Parker, 7227 W. 136<sup>th</sup> Court, stated she did get a copy of the report a couple weeks ago. She had asked if it was going to be posted on the Town's website. She asked if it would be done. Mr. Recupito stated they will get it posted. Mr. Bunge stated they'll get it done.

**ADJOURNMENT** President Recupito adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:01 PM.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
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, IAMC, CMC, CPFIM  
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 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.