

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

**June 18, 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	Present	David Austgen Town Attorney	

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Approval of Minutes – May 21, 2024**

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

**2. Review and Approve the Public Safety Buildings Meter Fees**

A motion to defer 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.

**3. Future Water Capacity Needs Planning Discussion – No update**

**4. Written Report**

- a. Fund Report – Clerk Treasurer Sandberg reported the cash and expenditure reports were sent out to them. She reported on the lead service line inventory that is required to be done by October 2024. She stated in mid-May her office began working on the preliminary inventory review with 120Water. Her office met with 120Water to go through the platform and how to utilize it for the inventory. At that time, there were approximately 1,100 unknowns. They either had no build date or were unable to confirm if they were after the 1987 date for concluding an area is non-lead. She stated staff started digging through whatever records they could find and she commended Gayle and Stephanie for their extraordinary efforts. They were able to find the information necessary to whittle down the unknowns to 104. They are on to the next stage of the process now and will work with 120Water to send a survey to the 104 property owners. They hope to gain information directly from the property owners regarding their service lines. She stated her understanding is if no response is received from the property owners, that is when they will work with water utility staff to start completing field inspections to ensure they are in compliance by the October deadline.

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

- a. Engineer – NIES – Mr. Simstad reported on the west side sanitary sewer interceptor project. He stated the punch list items are proceeding. Punch list items

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do take some times. Design is complete for project 2. They have acquired all easements through David and his staff. The concept for project 3 is complete and he is awaiting direction to move forward as they see fit. The water tower project is approximately 75% complete with the tower fencing. Mr. Carnahan asked if that was at Krystal Oaks. Mr. Simstad stated that was correct. The rest of the site work is substantially complete. He stated he received the O&M manuals this week and is in the process of reviewing them. He stated he will submit them to staff for their records. Mr. Simstad discussed the lead line inventory unknowns. He stated they have all of the records for Utopia. They are reviewing and will provide them to staff and 120Water the information on the lines in Utopia. Being on the west side and one of the older areas, it may be one area that potentially has that. He stated from the initial survey over the last few days, they have not seen any lead lines. They will complete the project and submit to staff to review. Mr. Recupito asked for an update on curb repairs and landscape berm restoration in Utopia. Mr. Simstad reported the berm restoration is being completed by the resident's contractor and the general contractor for the Town is paying for that work and coordinating it. There were two curb sites and one has been completed. He has not received confirmation on the second site. Mr. Recupito asked Mr. Simstad if he has to inspect the projects when they are done. Mr. Simstad stated yes. Once they are done and they receive confirmation both are completed, they will send an inspector out and submit documentation to the FTP site for staff. Mr. Carnahan asked Jen if the 1,100 she mentioned as unknown, could be Utopia. Ms. Sandberg stated it is a possibility but the 1,100 is what they started with. They are down to 104 unknowns at this time.

b. Director of Operations/Superintendent

- i. Operation & Maintenance Report – Mr. Kubiak stated Gatlin did send a letter stating that all the service lines that were connected in Utopia were either plastic or copper. Mr. Simstad stated they did find some that were a slight discrepancy from that. They have not seen any that would indicate lead. Mr. Kubiak stated there was a letter sent. He stated on Monday morning the water pressure on the west side dropped down to 37 PSI from all of the irrigation and hot weather. He stated he contacted Olthof and Schilling and told them to adjust the sprinkler systems so they all did not turn on at the same time. He stated today was good and it did not get below 45 PSI. He stated they hope to get people to spread out the use of irrigation/sprinklers as well as the odd and even rule, to help make a difference.

c. Town Attorney – No report.

**6. Update/Discussion – Morse Street Water Line Extension**

Mr. Recupito asked if there was an update on the item. Mr. Bunge stated there is a blurb in the Christopher Burke report about east side water. Mr. Recupito stated the last he spoke with Don; he was getting ready to submit something to IDEM. Mr. Kubiak stated they sent everything in to IDEM for the preliminary construction permit. They are waiting to hear back. Mr. Bunge stated all of the permitting information and supporting documentation went down to IDEM on June 12<sup>th</sup> for review.

- 7. JMOB Report** – Mr. Thiel stated they have still not received the true-up for 2023. It is due in March and each year it is not received until June. Ms. Sandberg reported in 2022 it was the end of May and in 2023 it was the beginning of June. Mr. Thiel stated he knows

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when they do receive the true-up, that Lowell will be expecting payment right away because of the agreement. He voiced concerns with only part of the agreement being followed. He stated he does not know where they sit. At the last JMOB meeting, Craig Hendrix was handed a list of emailed questions from Sue Haase. He was made aware that they still needed them answered. He stated he has not received any response. He asked Jeff if he had. Mr. Bunge stated no. He stated at this point he is not sure what they are to do. They have an agreement that is half listened to and half agreed upon. He stated he is at a loss for what they are to do. He questioned if they are to have Dave look into it. Mr. Austgen stated there is not much to look into. The fact pattern is what it is. It is a breach of contract and selective enforcement by them. It does not relieve them of liability or responsibility. Mr. Carnahan asked about the questions they have asked. He asked how many of them there were. Mr. Thiel stated there were five pages and some of them are lengthy. He does not have the total number. He added that these were related to the 2022 true-up. Aside from that true-up, there were expense report questions from 2023 that were asked. He stated he personally emailed the Clerk-Treasurer down there to see what the expenses were on a vehicle of around \$40,000 made out to Terry's Ford. He asked if the vehicle was to replace another unit or an addition to the facility. He stated he has not received a response back. He stated each time he sees them he makes sure to tell them it has not been answered. Mr. Recupito stated this is going back to 2023 for correspondence in regards to the 2022 true-up. He asked Jennifer if she or Sue ever got an answer. Ms. Sandberg stated shortly after receipt of the 2022 true-up, there were questions. The Town Manager, Mr. Salatas, had been funneling the questions back and forth with Mr. Hendrix. She recalled one email where a couple of the questions had been answered but not all. She stated in December, Sue and her had been discussing some of the items. Ms. Sandberg stated she asked for Sue's help in creating a memorandum to get to Judy, the previous Clerk-Treasurer. Ms. Sandberg stated Judy had reached out in October/November requesting to get everything cleared up before she finished her term. Ms. Sandberg stated they worked on the memorandum and sent it to her. No response was received. A lengthy discussion continued on the true-up.

Mr. Thiel discussed a meeting Greg and he had with Senator Niemeyer and Representative Aylesworth. They were made aware of potential funding for water and sewer. Mr. Thiel stated he contacted Camille Miner and she contacted Neil. They gave her a rundown on the west side sanitary sewer interceptor project 3A and 3B. She stated they could potentially help with financing for project two. Mr. Thiel stated he spoke with her today and she would be willing to set up a meeting with them. The grant portion was due by the beginning of April. They will not be eligible for that for project two. Project three needs to be kept on the forefront. As far as project two, it is approximately \$3 to \$4 million dollars. She told them that is due by the end of the month. If they wish for additionally assistance for funding, they need to jump on it. Mr. Thiel reiterated that Mrs. Miner would be willing to work with them to discuss next steps for applications.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ken McAllister, 10501 W 133<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, stated badger was renting space from him. They do water excavation. They asked him to talk to the board and he spoke with Jeff about getting some water that they could use. Mr. McAllister suggested getting a water meter and putting it on the end of the line that he put in years ago. He stated he believes it is an eight-inch main. It is in Industrial Park at the end of the road. He stated they spoke of approximately 500 gallons a day per truck and they have three trucks. He stated all the Town has to do is have a meter for it and then they read the meter at the end of the month and bill them. Mr. McAllister stated he spoke with Jeff and he is not on the meeting agenda tonight but he thinks maybe the next one if need be.

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Mr. Recupito stated he spoke with Jeff about it and it may be on the next agenda. They spoke about it a little bit. He stated they will wait to see what the proposal is and go from there.

**ADJOURNMENT** President Recupito adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:07 PM.

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Robert Carnahan, Ward 1

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Julie Rivera, Ward 2

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Nick Recupito, Ward 3

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Chuck Becker, Ward 4

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Greg Parker, Ward 5

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Mary Joan Dickson, At-Large

ATTEST:

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Richard C Thiel Jr., At-Large

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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.