

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



July 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	Absent*	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	

**Sarah Ely was present.*

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and Approve the Public Safety Buildings Meter Fees

Mr. Recupito asked Sue Haase if this was something she looked over. Mrs. Haase responded it was. There was a slight change as the public safety buildings are on the east side and there are still separate tap fees for east side versus west side. The east side only has a 5/8-inch meter tap fee so by default they can use time and material to calculate it. That is why it is slightly different from what Mr. Kubiak had calculated. Mr. Recupito asked about the refund that is going back and where exactly it would go into. Mrs. Haase stated that is an excellent question. She stated when you use bond funds to pay something and have a refund, the refund goes back into the construction fund. She was not for sure and deferred to Mr. Austgen. Mr. Austgen stated that is exactly what needs to happen. The funds will be used thereafter consistent with what the funds are permitted to be used for in that bond construction fund. Mr. Recupito stated this will dovetail into discussion they will have in Town Council about the preemption contract for the new fire department. They had discussed owner contingency and making sure they had enough money at the end of the project to cover outstanding items. Mr. Carnahan stated the police refund will be \$19,486 and the fire will be \$61,827.85. Mrs. Haase asked for him to repeat. Mr. Carnahan obliged. Mrs. Haase stated those were not correct. The most recent update was from 7/1/2024. It took into consideration the water tap fee. She stated she has it as \$1,141.76 of the amended calculated amount. Mr. Thiel asked if police was okay and only fire was off. Mrs. Haase stated they are both a little off. The police net refund is \$19,344.24. The gross refund for the fire department would be \$64,962.24 but they are netting the amount of the 3-inch meter that was purchased at the developer's direction by the Town to provide to them. The net refund for the fire department is \$61,686.09. A brief discussion occurred on the water meters and the refund.

A motion to approve the public safety building meter fees for police in the amount of \$19,344.24 and for fire in the net amount of \$61,686.09 was made by Richard Thiel with second by Greg Parker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Parker – Yes, Dickson – Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 - 0.

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2. Future Water Capacity Needs Planning Discussion

Mr. Recupito stated they have been discussing internally and in committee about what they are going to do. He stated he thinks it needs to be changed to current water capacity needs planning discussion. He stated he would like to see that changed on the agenda because they have shortfalls in the community currently. He thinks that people need to know that they have work ahead of them to maintain service for the current residents. He stated they are looking at possible well sites and water tower sites. Mr. Thiel stated he spoke with Don Oliphant and he has been sharing information on what he has been discussing with Ryan Kuiper. There are potential well sites they were looking into as well as the fracture trace analysis data. Mr. Carnahan stated he is getting comments from residents on the east and west water systems, that they have low water pressure. Mr. Parker stated they have been having those complaints over and over. Mr. Thiel stated Ryan in the water department did change some of the settings on the sensors. He stated typically every Monday it goes down well below. Mr. Recupito asked where they are at with a plan in regards to the irrigation ordinance and HOA's. Mr. Kubiak stated all of the Schilling Subdivision HOA's adjusted all of there stuff off of the 3AM and 4AM settings. For the last four Monday's, they got down to 38 PSI. He stated that is unusual. He stated it seemed better initial. He stated he has not gotten to the Beacon Pointe Central HOA people. He reached out via email and never received a response back. They were supposed to go out Monday morning and find out what is going on. Mr. Recupito stated he spoke with Don and it is a head scratcher. They do not know what is going on. Chief Fisher reported he would be driving around on Monday morning to see if it is sprinklers causing the water pressure issues. He stated it is Monday that is catching the most issue. He stated maybe they will be able to figure out where it is happening and plan an attack to correct the issue. Mr. Kubiak stated it probably would not be a bad idea to require that all the new sprinkler systems have the rain delay mode. A lengthy discussion continued.

3. Written Report

- a. Fund Report – Ms. Ely reported that Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg sent out updated reports on Friday before she left.

4. Consultant(s) & Staff Report(s)

- a. Engineer – NIES – Mr. Simstad reported on the west side sanitary sewer interceptor project 1. He stated they are working with the contractor to complete the punch list items. Those are progressing and they are working with the residents immediately adjacent to the project to address issues. Design for project 2 is completed with Dave's office acquiring all easements. Once direction is made, he can prepare that IDEM permit for submission for the construction permit. The concept has been prepared for project 3, item 3A and 3B. Later this week, they will be meeting with the SRF on a teleconference to discuss potential funding sources for that project 3. Mr. Carnahan stated someone told him they saw in the newspaper that United States Congressman Frank Mrvan has a project for them. Mr. Parker stated he is working on it. Mr. Simstad stated the SRF will most likely require a PER (preliminary engineering report) and a lot of that work is architectural and archeological. That could take up to six or eight months. They did that with the most recent project on the east side. It does become expensive to try and get free money. That is a requirement. You have to look at all the environmental, architectural, and archeological aspects. Mr. Thiel stated there is a deadline of April for the grant. That is why they need to have the meeting sooner rather than later. Mr. Simstad stated they need direction from them and to make sure it is consistent with Council direction. A brief discussion continued on potential funding.

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Mr. Simstad stated the water tower fence is approximately 75% complete. They are waiting on the gate and decorative security fence. That should be done next week. The tower is substantially complete. He is working with Sue and staff to complete the IFA/SRF requirements to close the project out upon completion.

- b. Director of Operations/Superintendent
 - i. Operation & Maintenance Report – Mr. Kubiak stated they are hoping to have the rest of the controls for Robin’s Nest towards the end of the month. Once received they will get it scheduled to get installed. He stated they have been dealing with a lot of power outages and downed trees. All the lift stations but one maintained power and kept going considering how many things were not functioning.
- c. Town Attorney – No report.

5. Update/Discussion – Morse Street Water Line Extension

Mr. Kubiak stated they are having a pre-construction meeting on Thursday. According to Gatlin they were planning on starting around August 13th or 17th. Things are looking good for that project. The permit is in route and they received the okay to get started. A brief discussion continued.

- 6. JMOB Report** – Mr. Thiel stated Mary Joan and him as JMOB members, issued letters that were sent out today to both the Lowell and Cedar Lake Town Council Presidents. This is in regards to the process that has to take place in order to get answers. They have been going without any communication. Mr. Austgen stated Mr. Recupito has the responsibility under that contract to contact and or connect with the Lowell Council President and Vice-President. Mr. Thiel stated it is under the impasse section of the agreement. Mr. Carnahan asked if they had a date of a future meeting. Mr. Thiel stated there should be one soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Groszek, 14055 Deodor, discussed the water on the west side. He stated on the west side of the tracks, the HOA does take care of that. On the east side, each individual has their own key. He stated he does not water his grass. He discussed the recent rainfalls. He stated when the HOA is paying, people do not really care. He stated you have to figure is it the HOA’s fault or the homeowners. Mr. Kubiak stated this is one of the good things that has come from them stopping with allowing an irrigation system and a home on one water service. McFarland decided to put the irrigation system on each individual homeowner versus paying for the separate water taps for the HOA. He stated that is what has been created. Folks have control of their own water.

ADJOURNMENT President Recupito adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:19 PM.

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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.