

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

December 17, 2024

**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	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, IAMCA, 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. Resolution No. 1363

Mr. Recupito stated this was an item that was recently approved by the Town Council and needed approval as well by the Utility Board. Mr. Recupito asked Mr. Austgen if he needed to elaborate on that. Mr. Austgen stated no as it was referred to the Town Council. Mr. Recupito stated this was pertaining to the permits being released for Railside and Lakeview Business Park. Mr. Thiel stated yes.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 1363 was made by Mary Joan Dickson with second by Chuck Becker. Mr. Carnahan asked where the resolution was. Mr. Recupito stated they recently approved it. Mr. Carnahan asked if it was in the packet. Mr. Parker stated it was the last item on the iPad. Mr. Carnahan stated he did not have that. He had three different utility packages. Mr. Recupito stated this was the one they approved back on... Ms. Sandberg stated it was November 19th. Mr. Parker asked if it needed to be read by title only. Mr. Recupito asked Mr. Austgen. Mr. Austgen stated they should. Mr. Parker read Resolution No. 1363 by title only. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

2. Approval of Minutes – November 19, 2024

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

3. West Side Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project 1 Change Order No. 1 – Final – In the amount of \$3,863,634.08

Mr. Simstad stated this is the final change order for the West Side Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project 1. It is a balancing of quantities from the contract amount versus what was actually installed. It is a reduction of \$31,216.37. Mr. Carnahan stated it started out at \$3,894,850.45. It is good to hear it is a reduction. The next one will play a different part.

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

4. West Side Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project 1 Pay Request No. 11 – Final – In the amount of \$125,000.000

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

5. Current Water Capacity Needs Planning Discussion

Mr. Recupito stated he is not sure they have too much more to report. Mr. Carnahan stated they are working on a master plan. Mr. Recupito stated they are. Mr. Carnahan asked what the timeline is for that. Mr. Recupito stated the last he spoke with Don; he stated it would be after the first of the year sometime. Kevin Baldwin with Christopher B. Burke Engineering stated the idea is to have it at the beginning of the year. Mr. Carnahan asked if they have to turn that in to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Mr. Baldwin stated that is correct. Mr. Baldwin stated they met with Stan Diamond and representatives from IDEM to check in and give status reports on all three of the permits involved with Paradise Cove and Robin’s Nest. They are aware they are trying to finalize those pieces and trying to get Robin’s Nest discussions finalized by the end of the week. They found out the contractor on board is one they have worked with in the past. They sat with them today to try and get sketches of the proposed improvements for Robin’s Nest. That is one of the requests from Stan Diamond at IDEM. That information is to be submitted with the permit for Robin’s Nest. Mr. Carnahan stated he heard they want them to submit a new permit. Mr. Baldwin stated that is true. It is because of the wells for Robin’s Nest that are already at 25 horsepower. Officially, they are submitting after the fact. It is the same permit twice. Some of the details just so they have it in their records. Also, so they have the information for Paradise Cove too. Mr. Baldwin stated it is a permit that they have already filled out. Mr. Carnahan stated it seems like they keep submitting things and they keep asking for more. He stated it does not seem to please them. Mr. Baldwin stated hence the meeting this morning. They wanted to get it directly from Stan and verbalize to get official marching orders. Once his requests are done, that should be it. He stated Mr. Carnahan is correct it does seem that things keep coming up. That is why they wanted to meet with him. Mr. Carnahan stated once the permit is approved, they will have a forty-five-day waiting period. Mr. Baldwin stated that is his understanding, for public comments. Stan is aware of all of the discussions already had and what is coming up in the preliminary engineering report for the whole system. He is aware of all the sequencing pieces happening. It is really just the finalizing of the paperwork.

6. Written Report

- a. Fund Report – Clerk Treasurer Sandberg stated she previously sent out the cash and expenditure reports.

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

- a. Engineer – NIES – Mr. Simstad stated the sanitary sewer was previously discussed.
- b. Director of Operations/Superintendent – No report.
- c. Town Attorney – No report.

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8. Update/Discussion

i. West Side Sewer Interceptor Phase 2

Mr. Simstad stated since they last meeting, they have submitted the permit to IDEM. They are waiting on Lowell to sign the capacity letter. He stated he spoke with Rich earlier today and spoke with Don Woodard, the operator for Lowell, he is going to take care of that and send it back to him. Essentially, the capacity letter says there are zero gallons going into the interceptor because there are no connections to serve areas upstream. All of the potentially effected persons list, the IDEM permit signed by Jeff and himself, the plans, and specifications, as well as the fee, have been submitted to IDEM as of last Wednesday. They expect the initial review within the next few weeks. More likely early January due to holidays.

ii. Lake County JICA for East Side Water development \$650,000

Mr. Recupito asked Jennifer if there was anything she needed from them on this item. Ms. Sandberg stated it is moving as they are waiting on final responses from IDEM regarding Robin's Nest and Paradise Cove. She stated she is sure Mr. Kubiak has plenty of uses between those two facilities for the entirety of the funds. Mr. Recupito asked if they needed to have it on the agenda. Mr. Kubiak stated he thinks so. There were some other monies left over from the water main extension also. They are trying to figure out the best way to do it. They are still trying to get some of the Xylem billing straightened out. He stated it is probably not a bad idea. Mr. Recupito stated it is not hurting anything they can keep it on. Mr. Carnahan asked if there was a time deadline on it. Ms. Sandberg stated as far as she was aware, no. The JICA did not stipulate a deadline.

9. JMOB Report

Mr. Thiel stated they received the agenda for the meeting this Thursday at 6PM in Lowell. He stated he had a couple of concerns. He does not know if they need to reach out to Craig Hendrix before the meeting. He stated all of the requests from the last two true-ups did not make it to the agenda. He stated he was not surprised. Mr. Thiel stated he does not know if they make the request or make the request and also bring it up at that time. He stated he definitely thinks they need to bring it up at the meeting. He voiced concerns with it not being on the agenda. Mr. Carnahan said to bring it up. Mr. Recupito stated to request through email. Mr. Thiel stated he can shoot an email back to Mr. Hendrix asking for information as to why. Even if it does not make its way on there, he is sure it will be discussed. Mr. Recupito stated it should be. Mr. Austgen asked Rich if he was copied on the agenda topics. Mr. Thiel stated they received the agenda. Mr. Austgen stated so they did not receive the documentation that backs up each point. Mr. Thiel stated nor was there a JMOB pre-meeting. His understanding was that usually happened in the past. Mr. Austgen recommended he ask for the backup documentation for each agenda item. Mr. Carnahan asked if they all got copied on the agenda. Mr. Thiel stated no. It was quite odd as he forwarded it on to Mr. Simstad and Mr. Austgen as they were not copied but Lowell's attorney was. Mr. Carnahan asked him if he would copy all of them. Mr. Thiel stated he would forward it to them as well. Mr. Recupito confirmed the meeting is to be held on the 19th of December at 6PM in Lowell. Mr. Thiel stated yes. Mr. Thiel asked Dave to repeat his recommendation. Mr. Austgen stated all the supporting material for each agenda item. A brief discussion continued on future meeting dates.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Simstad stated the SRF did approve the Krystal Oaks Change Order Two for the elevated tower. They are proceeding with close out. Sue is working with them on the funds remaining for not only that project but for the east side transmission main that Tim had mentioned earlier. That will be to reappropriate those funds as they see fit. Mr. Recupito stated he did see that email and

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he apologized for not responding. He saw it was addressed to a past Town Council President. He asked Jennifer if she needed him to forward the email. Ms. Sandberg stated she was copied on it. Mr. Carnahan stated they are trying to locate a well location on the west side. He asked if there was any movement on that. Mr. Recupito stated he does not know if they had any more movement. He asked Don to put together a proposal and timeline with costs. That way they can start moving forward with a little more order. That way the Utility Board can have something to consider. Mr. Baldwin stated that is something they are trying to figure out with the timing. Mr. Carnahan asked if it was part of the master plan. Mr. Baldwin stated yes, it is part of the prioritization.

ADJOURNMENT President Recupito adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:26 PM.

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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, IAMCA, 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.