

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

January 21, 2025

**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 Vice-President	At-Large
Present	Julie Rivera Board Member	Ward 2	Present	Richard Thiel Board President	At-Large
Present	Nicholas A. Recupito Board Member	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	

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Utility Board President

Mary Joan Dickson nominated Richard Thiel for President. A second was made by Chuck Becker. No other nominations were made. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Parker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

2. Utility Board Vice President

Julie Rivera nominated Mary Joan Dickson for President. A second was made by Nick Recupito. No other nominations were made. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Parker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2024

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

2. Y2025 Professional Services Agreement NIES Engineering

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

3. Direction to attorney to draft SRF letter for IDEM permits

Mr. Kubiak stated his understanding was Sue and Don needed a letter clarifying that the Xylem pump skid was sourced from a specialty vendor to clarify the purchasing rules. Mr. Austgen stated he got that and it is exactly right. He stated he was working on it. Mrs. Haase stated Brandi Rodriguez has asked that they have an attorney letter stating that they followed the bidding rules. In this particular case, it would be the exception to being specialty equipment. Mrs. Haase stated she was working with David for language in the letter.

A motion to direct the attorney to draft the letter for the IDEM permits to show they are following the bidding rules was made by Nick Recupito with second by Chuck Becker.

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

Mr. Austgen asked to clarify. He stated they are not following the bidding rules because it is a special purchase. Because it is a special purchase there is an exception proceeding Title Five that permits unique, non-compliant bidding and purchasing to occur. Mr. Recupito stated he would amend his motion to include the verbiage that Mr. Austgen just gave. Mr. Becker concurred. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Parker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

4. Direction to proceed with the design of WPM pump house

Mr. Kubiak stated they want to begin the process of getting drawings and paperwork together for the property. They have a survey for the property and an idea of where the building will go. He stated they want to get plans on paper so they have something to submit when it is time to permit. Mr. Recupito asked if the funds were coming from the ARPA money. Mr. Kubiak stated from the east side county money.

A motion to approve proceeding with design of WPM pump house was made by Nick Recupito with second by Chuck Becker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Parker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

5. Current Water Capacity Needs Planning Discussion

Kevin Baldwin, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, reported the original permit engineer at IDEM has retired. Ian Caig is the new reviewer of the Town's permits for everything current. Mr. Baldwin stated he spoke with Ian and the Robin's Nest booster pump upgrades and permit application is completed. It will be officially up for public comment tomorrow. There is a 30-day period for public comment. Robin's Nest will be up and ready near the end of February to proceed. He stated the Paradise Cove wells and chemical edition were discussed as well. He stated he was working on clarification of a few things. He stated he is trying to get it submitted tomorrow. He reported there were clarifications needed to Stan Diamond's original comments. He was looking at the ultimate condition and they are trying to fix the current condition. He stated he is trying to make that very clear of the multiple steps that the town has already presented as well as the needed steps on the east side. He stated that has helped with the visual. Mr. Baldwin discussed their memo and previously presented information. He stated all of the pieces that will be exhibits for the current applications will be the exhibits involved with the PER. He stated he was aiming for the end of the month for submittal. Mr. Carnahan stated he was in contact with Matt Prater. Mr. Prater told him they would be getting the permit from Robin's Nest. He also stated he was waiting on the information that Mr. Baldwin had to submit for Paradise Cove. Mr. Baldwin discussed the memo sent to IDEM and the quick turnaround. He stated they are trying to make sure everything is clear for the process for Paradise Cove. Mr. Carnahan stated there have been negative comments. Comments saying they are not doing anything. He stated they are doing things and they are moving forward to the best of their ability. Mr. Recupito asked about the upgrades at Robin's Nest and what the biggest benefit is to the east side water utility is. Mr. Baldwin stated that project ensures that the elevated water tank at Krystal Oaks can actually work at full capacity. The original pumps were not able to pump to the level that was designed. It will also increase fire flow protections.

6. Written Report

- a. Fund Report – Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg reported the cash and expenditure reports were previously sent out. She stated she talked with Sue Haase and they are planning to move forward with budgets for the utilities. Other items have taken priority. It is still in the queue to be done. Hopefully, something within the next meeting or two.

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

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

- a. Engineer - NIES
 - i. Sanitary Update – Mr. Simstad reported the permit was submitted to IDEM in December for the West Side Sanitary Sewer Project 2. They are awaiting review and approval.
 - ii. Water update – Mr. Recupito and Mr. Baldwin to stick around for the Town Council meeting. Mr. Carnahan asked Mr. Baldwin about the master plan and when they would see a draft. Mr. Baldwin stated he anticipated to have the draft ready by the end of the month.
- b. Director of Operations
 - i. Operation & Maintenance Report – Mr. Kubiak reported Lift Station #1 should have the pump back next week. It has been running fine on one. They are waiting on a part and hope to have it back next week.
- c. Town Attorney – No report.

8. Update/Discussion

- i. West Side Sewer Interceptor Phase 2
- ii. Lake County JICA for East Side Water development \$650,000

9. JMOB Report

Mr. Thiel reported they received an email from Mr. Hendrix. They are looking to schedule a meeting to answer the questions on the 2022 and 2023 true up. They asked to meet after February 13th. They also want to plan on when the meetings will be and to discuss the 2025 budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT President Thiel adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:08 PM.

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

TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA UTILITY BOARD

Robert Carnahan, Ward 1

Julie Rivera, Ward 2

Nicholas A. 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.