

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

**February 18, 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	Ward 1	Present	Mary Joan Dickson	At-Large
	Board Member			Board Vice-President	
Absent	Julie Rivera	Ward 2	Present	Richard Thiel	At-Large
	Board Member			Board President	
Present	Nicholas A. Recupito	Ward 3	Present	Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMCA, CMC, CPFIM	
	Board Member			Clerk-Treasurer	
Present	Chuck Becker	Ward 4	Present	Jeff Bunge	
	Board Member			Town Manager	
Present	Greg Parker	Ward 5	Present	David Austgen	
	Board Member			Town Attorney	

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Shades Sewer Lining/ CIPP Project Award**

Mr. Carnahan stated looking it over it looks like Insituform is the low bidder at \$60,115.92. He made a motion to approve with second by Nick Recupito. Mr. Kubiak reported this is sewer rehabilitation in the Shades Phase 2 Project. There were cracked pipes and problems in the area. They are trying to get it taken care of before the road project. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker – Yes, Parker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

**2. Lift Station #1 Pump Replacement**

Mr. Kubiak noted it is a pump replacement. Mr. Thiel discussed moving forward to bring the lift stations to the same standard with equipment and controls. Mr. Carnahan stated he discussed with Mr. Kubiak and this is for 60HP in there. He stated they previously rehabbed one at a cost of approximately \$17,000. He stated they may have to do the other and at this point it is better to replace them. He stated that is at a cost of \$153,892.40. He asked Tim if that was correct. Mr. Kubiak stated he had a total of \$150,664.81. Ms. Sandberg clarified it is \$125,003.40 for the pumps, \$1,655.00 for start-up for the pumps, and \$25,661.41 for the control panel. That is a total of \$152,319.81. Mr. Recupito questioned the price of the quote being greater than \$300,000. Mr. Kubiak explained they priced a quote for both the 60HP and 80HP pumps. The quote reflects four pumps. They need half of that. Upsizing the pumps does not gain much volume. Mr. Recupito asked where the funds would come from. Ms. Sandberg stated it would be the WWTP Special Fund #633. Mr. Thiel discussed a conversation with Tim about valves. He asked if that was included. Mr. Kubiak stated no.

A motion to approve was made by Nick Recupito with second by Greg Parker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker – Yes, Parker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

**3. 120 Water Update**

Sue Haase explained last year the SRF offered money to municipal utilities to help with the lead service line inventory. The Town went ahead and received a grant to get the platform and assistance from 120 Water to fulfill the requirement. The requirement was

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completed. Ms. Sandberg added it was completed in October. Ms. Haase stated it is through IDEM and 120 Water to complete reporting. There is a link to the map and inventory on the web page. She stated this is a renewal of the contract. She discussed the final rules from EPA and new requirements related to testing and potential for additional inventory requirements. She stated this renewal would be for one year. They will continue to get assistance from 120Water and it is an approved partner of IDEM. A lengthy discussion occurred on the platform, EPA final rule and requirements. Mr. Recupito asked where the funds would come from. Ms. Sandberg replied this would come from operating and the services line item.

A motion to approve the renewal was made by Greg Parker with second by Robert Carnahan. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Becker – Yes, Parker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Recupito – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

**4. Current Water Capacity Needs Planning Discussion**

Kevin Baldwin, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, reported that the permit application for Robin's Nest was completed and the public notice period ends this Friday. They are anticipating for IDEM to be as quick as they can to issue the permit. This would allow the Town to engage the contractor sometime next week to start the work. That includes updates to the booster pumps and controls to the Krystal Oaks Water Tank. With the weather, they wanted to make sure the temperatures are appropriate. Mr. Carnahan stated he talked with Senator Rick Niemeyer who informed him that Matt Prater informed him the permit was going to be issued on Friday. Mr. Baldwin stated that is his understanding. He stated normal procedure with IDEM has a ten-day notice period before work can start. They would request to have that period waved. A written response will be received with the permit. Mr. Carnahan stated once work is done with Robin's Nest, they will be able to fill the tank at Krystal Oaks. Mr. Baldwin stated that is correct. The main piece of the upgrade to the booster pumps is a higher pressure. Mrs. Haase discussed the excess funds from the SRF. She stated there has not been approval of the PER amendment as of yet. Mr. Baldwin stated there have been emails back and forth. Mrs. Haase stated yes and it appears that it should be forthcoming. She does not anticipate it will not be approved but if they start before approval, sometimes they will not approve the use of funds for a first invoice. Mr. Baldwin stated that was noted. He stated both permit applications for the well upgrade and chemical edition for Paradise Cove have been completed. The public notice started on February 7<sup>th</sup>. That puts them into the first or second week of march for the end of the period. It is anticipated the permits will be issued quickly. Ryan and Brandon are in the process of starting the procurement of equipment and materials for those upgrades. Mr. Carnahan stated it is a preliminary permit. The first or second week of March will see the actual permit. Once Paradise Cove is online, they can add water to the police and fire stations. He asked if that was correct. Mr. Baldwin stated yes. IDEM is aware that is what they are revising into the permits for the official service connections for temporary means until the transmission main and connection with Krystal Oaks in the future. Mr. Baldwin stated they are trying to anticipate future upgrades for Paradise Cove for the well house on the property. They anticipate the next step is the design of the hydropneumatic tank. That way it will be able to connect to the overall east side system. He stated he has been compiling different options for staff to review. Mr. Carnahan discussed conversations on connections. There was discussion on connecting Town Hall in the future. Mr. Baldwin stated when talking to IDEM the four services for temporary mode would be the two public safety buildings, town hall, and the Lighthouse. Those are the four meters that would be put on Paradise Cove. Mr. Baldwin stated Lakeside South was in discussion to move that piece of the transmission forward. He believes it is still in development. Mr. Carnahan asked about the status of the water master plan. Mr. Baldwin

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stated the backtracking of the permit coordination caused him to revise the exhibits He anticipates having a draft before the next utility meeting.

**5. Written Report**

- a. Fund Report - Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg reported the cash and expenditure reports were previously sent out.

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

- a. Engineer - NIES
  - i. Sanitary Update – Mr. Simstad reported that the west side sanitary sewer interceptor project one is substantially complete. For project two, direction was given at the November meeting to submit the permit. That was completed and the permit is in hand for their decision moving forward. All easements have been acquired for project two. Mr. Thiel asked Mrs. Haase to give an update on the funding. Mrs. Haase reported they have in place a reimbursement resolution. That is if they decide rather than using cash on hand or maintaining the loss of the cash on hand, they could reimburse for what they have spent. She stated she looked at the funding analysis. With the payoff of the debt on April 1<sup>st</sup>, they could issue new debt of approximately \$6,785,000. She assumes that at 20 years with a 4% interest rate. She stated they would have to verify that. She discussed the potential for a market issue. She stated they could handle that with the capacity they have in the current rate. That has nothing in it whatsoever on what is happening at the Lowell plant and the debt for that. She stated they do have cash on hand. They could do long-term debt in the future. They could start with cash on hand. She stated they have time and they have the money on hand if they want to award a contract if they go to bid. She stated the issue of \$6,785,000 would give them the project two amount and allow them to reimburse a portion of the project one to themselves. Mr. Thiel asked Neil how long the bidding process would typically take. Mr. Simstad stated sixty days is reasonable. They would work with Jeff's office and Tim and Jen on the calendar dates and meeting dates. A brief discussion continued. Mr. Thiel instructed Mr. Simstad to get to work on the bid.
  - ii. Water update – Previously updated.
- b. Director of Operations
  - i. Operation & Maintenance Report – Nothing further.
- c. Town Attorney – No report.

**7. Update/Discussion**

- i. West Side Sewer Interceptor Phase 2 – Previously discussed.
- ii. Lake County JICA for East Side Water development \$650,000 – A brief discussion occurred on timing of the use of money on the various east side projects.
- iii. WPM pump house – Previously discussed.
- iv. Enforcement of the Water Irrigation Ban – Mr. Thiel sent out an email from Sue regarding clean up of the verbiage in the ordinance. Mr. Austgen discussed waiting on a report from Chris Janak, regulatory attorney for the town, regarding the drafting needed to modernize the language.

**8. JMOB Report**

No update.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT** President Thiel adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:20 PM.

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Robert Carnahan, Ward 1

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Julie Rivera, Ward 2

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Nicholas A. 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, 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.