

TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL



September 2, 2025

Public Meeting Advertised for 7:00 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
	Council Member			Council Member	
Present	Julie Rivera	Ward 2	Present	Richard C. Thiel Jr.	At Large
	Council Member			Council Member	
Absent	Nicholas A. Recupito	Ward 3	Present	Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMCA, CMC, CPFIM	
	Council Member			Clerk-Treasurer	
Present	Chuck Becker	Ward 4	Present	Benjamin Eldridge	
	Council Member			Town Manager	
Present	Greg Parker	Ward 5	Present	David Austgen	
	Council Member			Town Attorney	

PRESENTATION – RECOGNITION OF OFFICER ALEXIS DILLS

Chief Gruszka presented Officer Alexis Dills with a Life Saving Award. He stated the award is not one to be taken lightly. They all strive to receive the award. Within an hour, Officer Dills responded to a medical assistance call and a domestic disturbance with a shooting call. Her response and effort at both calls saved two lives that day. Chief Gruszka stated he would always remember this and commended Officer Dills.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Teri Cox, 8505 W. 139th Ave, stated they have been doing a lot of research and found some interesting documents. One item is a document from 1871 showing where the railroad originally bought the land. They will be giving that to the museum. More research discovered two different outlots. She stated she gave the attorney the plat which shows an Outlot B and Outlot C. Outlot B is where Dolder and the other two homes were vacated. She stated one of the things Rago said was that he wanted the same thing that Dolder got and Conroy. She stated Outlot C is different from Outlot B. Outlot C is actually the lakefront. She stated now they need to find the underlying documents. She stated it is another deed that covers the easements, restrictions, and everything that goes along with it. She stated Outlot C reads that if everybody in the subdivision decides that they do not need the lakefront anymore, it cannot be sold. It can only be given back to the original heirs of the developers. Mrs. Cox stated the walkway is also considered an easement. They are trying to find that document. If that document reads the same, they cannot sell it. She stated if they do that means they will lose the lakefront, even Mr. Rago. She stated as it unfolds, more is coming up. She understands a lot has happened over the years. They are trying to maintain what they purchased. She stated they do not want to lose their lake rights. That is what they are fighting for.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Claims:** All Town Funds: 291,702.70; Wastewater: \$70,827.98; Water Utility: \$86,114.87; Storm Water: \$36,124.56; Payroll (08/28/25 & 08/29/25): \$318,838.48

A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Chuck Becker with second by Julie Rivera. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

1. **Ordinance No. 1517 – Rago Public Way Vacation**

A motion to defer to the September 16th Town Council meeting was made by Richard Thiel with second by Julie Rivera. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

2. **Resolution No. 1379 – Transfer of Funds**

Mr. Thiel read by title only. Ms. Sandberg explained this is for a transfer of funds within the General Fund totaling \$14,500. That is for \$11,000 within the Planning, Zoning, and Building Department from line 317 – Unsafe Building to line 399 – Facilities. It is also for \$3,500 within the Parks and Recreation Department from line 115 – Part-Time to line 116 – Overtime. Within the Lake County Solid Waste Fund, it is \$7,500 from line 112 – Full-Time to 231 - Repair Parts.

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

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NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Approval of Verizon Cell Tower Contract

Mr. Eldridge reported the redlined contract was received from the attorney on Friday. He turned it over to Verizon. They are making the necessary changes. He recommended deferral to September 16th.

A motion to defer was made by Julie Rivera with second by Chuck Becker. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson- Yes, Thiel – Yes, Parker – Yes. Vote 6 – 0.

REPORTS

- 1. Town Council** – Mr. Thiel stated he believes they need to direct staff to put out the application process for boards and commissions. He discussed having a deadline of October 31st. Mr. Thiel stated this would be 2026 boards and commissions that are expiring. This way they can make a decision sooner than in the best. With year end finances and budgeting, the Clerk-Treasurer's department gets pretty overwhelmed. They have a lot of other stuff going on as well. He discussed getting interviews and such set timely. Mr. Carnahan stated the Chamber of Commerce is taking applications for Christmas Trees. Individuals can stop in at the Chamber building. On September 10th, there will be an open house at Railside Business Park. It will be from 3:00PM to 6:30PM. Mr. Carnahan stated the Park Department will have a Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 25th from 11:00AM to 2:00PM. Mrs. Dickson stated Mr. Eldridge has been here from six months. She asked if they could direct him to get some times together to meet and discuss goals and objectives. This way they have direction for him to go. They have a lot of things on the plate and it would be nice to prioritize. She asked Mr. Austgen if it would be a work session. Mr. Austgen stated it would depend on the subject matter but probably a work session. Mrs. Dickson suggested sometime in October to discuss direction. Mrs. Rivera reported the Park Department will be hosting Bands, Brews, and Bugaboos on Saturday, September 13th. It will be at the Town Grounds and will be a 21 and older event. It will be from 4:00PM to 9:00PM.
- 2. Town Attorney** – No report.
- 3. Clerk-Treasurer** – Ms. Sandberg reported the State Board of Accounts Audit continues as well as work on the 2026 Budget.
- 4. Town Manager** – No report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shirley Smit, 12811 Lee Court, stated her husband and her were present about two months ago. He spoke on the issue of their street. She presented pictures to the Town Council. She stated the street leads down to the cul de sac. The street is falling apart. They get complaints from Amazon. She stated it is embarrassing when they have friends and family visit due to the state of the street. She stated they want their road fixed. She stated her husband was told there was no money. She stated that was inappropriate to say to a taxpaying resident instead of saying they will look into it. Mr. Parker stated that would be accurate to say. They do not have money to reconstruct the street but they could certainly do something to make it better than it is. Mrs. Smit stated she was told the paver was being repaired. Mr. Parker asked if Mr. Eldridge could keep the pictures. He asked him to follow up with Public Works. A brief discussion continued on Lee Street.

ADJOURNMENT President Recupito called the meeting to adjournment at approximately 7:25PM.

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COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

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 Town Council 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