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

**September 16, 2025**

**Public Meeting Advertised for 6:30 PM**
**Conducted at the Cedar Lake Town Hall**
**Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call:**

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| Present | Robert H. Carnahan<br>Board Member | Ward 1 | Present | Mary Joan Dickson<br>Board Vice-President | At-Large |
| Present | Julie Rivera<br>Board Member | Ward 2 | Present | Richard Thiel<br>Board President | At-Large |
| Present | Nicholas A. Recupito<br>Board Member | Ward 3 | Present | Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMCA, CMC, CPFIM<br>Clerk-Treasurer | |
| Present | Chuck Becker<br>Board Member | Ward 4 | Present | Benjamin Eldridge<br>Town Manager | |
| Present | Greg Parker<br>Board Member | Ward 5 | Present | David Austgen<br>Town Attorney | |

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2025**
   A motion to approve was made by Greg Parker with second by Nicholas Recupito. Mr. Carnahan asked Mr. Simstad about Phase 3 of the West Side Sanitary Sewer Interceptor. He stated Phase 3A was \$3.3 million and 3B is \$1 million. He asked if it was correct the total of \$4.3 million. Mr. Simstad stated yes. The estimates were from March 2024. At that time, he was directed to give an update at that time on the projects. Mr. Carnahan stated it was in the minutes and he wanted clarification. Roll Call: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Becker – Yes, Dickson – Yes, Recupito – Yes, Parker – Yes, Thiel – Yes. Vote 7 – 0.

2. **Instruction on moving forward with WSSSI Phase 3**
   Mr. Thiel stated those questions are quite outdated. He spoke with Neil on project 2 and it is approximated at seven to eight months. Mr. Simstad stated yes. Once they get started, the material is ordered, construction will begin following the harvest to not disrupt the fields. Mr. Thiel asked about updated numbers and what percentage is completed. Mr. Simstad estimated about 25% complete on the phase 3 project. It was a 2023 project and towards the end of 2023 they were given direction to stop work on the project as a new Council was coming in. They stopped work on the design. They do have conceptual routings. If they provide direction to move forward, they will continue and update costs. He would provide a cost benefit analysis on proposed routes. Additional would have to be done on the 3B routing to connect the area directly northeast of Parrish and 155th. That is approximately 40 acres undeveloped. There are benefits and detractions from each. They would work with staff and Ben to move forward if they see it as prudent. Mr. Thiel stated that is why it is on the agenda so they can start the process sooner than later. Mr. Recupito stated he thinks they ought to. Mr. Thiel asked if everyone was good with that. Mr. Parker stated yes, they need to get it done. Mrs. Dickson asked if it needed to be in the form of a motion. Mr. Thiel stated he did not believe so. Just direction to Mr. Simstad to continue forward. Mr. Simstad stated they can do that and work with staff. They will provide monthly updates.

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

4. **Consultants & Staff Reports**
   a. **Engineer**
      i. **Sanitary Update – WSSSI Phase 2 -** Mr. Simstad reported they have all of the permits from IDEM and Lake County. They needed a road cut and occupation of a county right of way. Even though the project is within the Town's utility service district, it is outside the corporate limit. Those permits were submitted and approved by the county. They are ready to move forward once the contractor has all of the materials and the harvest is complete. Letters have been sent to all of the adjoining residents with the contractors contact information as well as Mr. Simstad's. They are working with the impacted residents to minimize disruption.
      ii. **Water Update – WPM Pump House –** Mr. Baldwin reported the system is up and going. He has not heard of any issues. The SCADA control system for the Krystal Oaks tower has been up. Everything on the east is looking okay at the moment. He discussed the conceptual drawing for the well house at Paradise Cove. He stated it was highly dependent on the lakeside south development. The next step is to get upgrades at Paradise Cove to get that on the system. A proposal has been started. On the west side, further site investigations for well locations. In coordination with IDEM for the NOI submission application process. A response is ready. They have a 30-day response time. A draft has been reviewed by the water department. They are ready to go and have made sure everyone is on the same page.

   b. **Director of Operations -** Mr. Kubiak reported the guys were out at Lift Station #3 doing the valves that were approved at the last meeting. They have a few more days to get that done and then they will put in line stops as well as change one valve so they can get the pump out and get it rebuilt. There was another break on the force main yesterday. It was in the stone and created a little sinkhole. They have all the numbers for doing the force main. Unfortunately, they have called for locates multiple times and it has been unsuccessful. Reichelt was trying to get fiber optic specific locates. It has been unsuccessful. They have the new panel and parts for the upgrades at Lift Station #1. They are working on scheduling. Mr. Carnahan asked about the process on getting Lakeside South hooked up to the wells. He asked for a status update. Mr. Kubiak stated they are waiting for Schilling to run the watermain through their property to 141st. It will be a 12-inch line going down the middle ending at Lakeside now. It will go south to 141st and west to their property boundary. That is where it will tie into the 12-inch line. Mr. Thiel stated that is currently a corn filed as well just like the issues with phase 2. Mr. Carnahan asked if they are working on it. Mr. Thiel stated he assumes after the harvest. Mr. Carnahan asked about he pipes sticking out of the ground across from the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Kubiak stated that is Surf Internet. It is the main terminal. It will eventually become a cabinet. That is the central location and should not look like that when it is done. A brief discussion continued.
   c. **Town Manager –** Mr. Eldridge asked them to check their email. They have developers that would like to meet to discuss helping out with infrastructure. He asked them to see if the date proposed works for them.
   d. **Town Attorney –** Mr. Austgen stated they have been in preliminary communications with Lowell. They are looking for a meeting. He will coordinate with Mr. Recupito and Mr. Thiel. Mr. Carnahan asked if they would meet with anybody else besides him and Nick. Mr. Austgen stated no. They asked for a representative meeting. Mr. Carnahan asked about the Town Manager. Mr.

Austgen stated he was not named. The letter was received from Lowell. Mr. Austgen stated on October 21st the AIM Conference would be going on. He will not attend the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Update – Sewer Rate Increase –** Mr. Thiel asked Mrs. Haase if she had an update. Mrs. Haase stated she did not have anything further to update. She owes Mr. Eldridge a conversation on a question he had. Nothing to report as of yet.
2. **JMOB Report –** No further updates.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**
None

**ADJOURNMENT** President Thiel adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:56 PM.

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

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| ______________________________ | ______________________________ |
| 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 |

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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.