

TOWN COUNCIL OF LEO-CEDARVILLE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2011

ATTENDANCE:

John Clendenen – Council President
John Eastes - Vice President
Paul Steffens
Gordon Liechty, Jr.
Timothy Richards

7:00 – The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Cub Scout Pack 3049.

OATHS OF OFFICE – Mr. Clendenen took the Oath of Office representing his 3rd term as a Leo-Cedarville town councilman; Ms. Spannuth attested. Mr. Paul Steffens and Mr. Tim Richards took their Oaths of Office prior to the meeting. This begins councilman's Steffens 3rd term and councilman Richards 1st. These three councilmen will serve on the Leo-Cedarville town council for the four year term 2011-2014.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Mr. Eastes nominated Mr. John Clendenen as council president. Mr. Liechty, Jr. seconded; the nomination passed by unanimous vote.

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT – Mr. Richards nominated Mr. John Eastes as vice-president. Mr. Clendenen seconded; the nomination passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA – The council accepted the agenda with flexibility by unanimous vote.

MINUTES – The December 21, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved with amendments.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The council agreed that the financial report is necessary at only one of the two monthly meetings. Ms. Spannuth will provide this report at the second monthly meeting.

RECYCLING – Ms. Garton discussed the status of the recycling center. As of November 22, 2010, the Leo-Cedarville recycling site has accepted over 9.58 tons of recyclables which exceeds the expectations of the Allen County Solid Waste District by two times. She discussed the solutions that the district is considering to accommodate this quantity.

ANNUAL TOWN BROCHURE – Ms. Garton stated that the town flyer usually goes out in January with the stormwater bills. Since the annual bills were mailed mid-year, Ms. Garton sought permission to send out the flyer independent of the billing cycle. The council supported her request; the flyer will be independently mailed once updated.

TOWN TRUCK – Discussion ensued regarding the condition and status of the town truck which is failing. Ways on how to best address the town’s vehicle needs were briefly discussed. Mr. Eastes suggested the concept of reimbursing the maintenance employee for mileage on a personal vehicle for light duty uses. Different options will continue to be discussed and considered as the longevity of the existing truck is questionable.

CONTRIBUTION TO ACPWQ – Mr. Richards discussed the request by the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality for a contribution of approximately \$4,500.00 as a participant in this partnership. The town of Leo-Cedarville is one of the co-permittees with Allen County on the mandatory NPDES Phase II IDEM permit. Ms. Spannuth suggested that this cost be funded from the stormwater utility funds as compliance with public education and awareness is one of the responsibilities of the town’s Stormwater Utility. Brief discussion ensued regarding why the Town of Leo-Cedarville is required to comply with these federal guidelines as other communities are not held to the same requirements.

STORMWATER RATE AMENDMENT DISCUSSION – Mr. Clendenen opened the topic of the proposed stormwater rate amendment. If the council chooses to provide a reimbursement, the proposed rate ordinance will have to be changed to allow for reimbursements and the public notice process will have to be repeated. Mr. Clendenen stated that he would caution the council from making an ordinance change retroactive which would effectively be reversing a decision that prior councils have made. Mr. Liechty, Jr. suggested that if the ordinance isn’t rewritten to make the change retroactive; the council can choose to provide a rebate or donation equal to the fees paid. Mr. Richards feels that if the council does not choose to make an ordinance change allowing for reimbursements, other ways to rebate the money shouldn’t be considered. Mr. Richards feels that the council should adopt the proposed ordinance without an amendment to rebate any fees collected to date as the fees have been established by ordinance; Mr. Eastes supported this position as he believes it’s unwise to reverse policy or procedure that has been established by prior ordinance. He further believes that the council’s decision to adopt the proposed amended ordinance will provide the intended financial relief in the future. Mr. Clendenen suggested that this ordinance should be on the next agenda for further discussion and/or adoption. Mr. Lengacher from Leo-Cemetery will be notified that this is on the next agenda.

FUTURE PLANNING – Council President Clendenen suggested that the council begin discussing 2011 capital planning. Topics mentioned were Amstutz Road improvements, a maintenance/community service/Fire/EMS, sidewalk/trail planning, mid and long range capital improvement planning, stormwater capital planning, public water, splash pad, capital downtown improvements, annexation, and commercial district planning.

PARK BOARD VACANCY - Council President Clendenen also stated that there is a vacancy on the Park Board which needs to be filled; appointing a new member is the responsibility of the town council. This vacancy will be advertised on the park sign and placed in the Courier.

MEETING WITH LOCAL BOARDS – Discussion ensued about having annual/semi-annual meetings with the other local entities such as the sewer district and the fire department to keep an open line of communication. Mr. Richards mentioned the importance of getting politically involved with the local schools, specifically relating to the financing issues that East Allen County Schools are facing was discussed.

Mr. Clendenen recommended that the individual councilmembers consider choosing a specific topic(s) of interest that they would focus on outside of meetings as well as serving in the capacity as an active liaison when applicable.

VOUCHERS – The council signed the January 3, 2011 line item voucher forms presented at the meeting.

ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned until January 18, 2011.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

JOHN CLENDENEN
Council President

PAMELA SPANNUTH
Clerk-Treasurer