

TOWN COUNCIL OF LEO CEDARVILLE
MEETING MINTUES
JANUARY 8, 2008

ATTENDANCE: John Clendenen, Paul Steffens, Michael Young, John Eastes, Gordon Liechty, Jr., Pam Spannuth – Clerk-Treasurer

7:00 – Mr. Clendenen called the meeting to order.

MINUTES – The December 18, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as written.

OATH OF OFFICE – Mr. Gordon Liechty, Jr. was sworn into the office of Town Council Member at Large. Mr. Eastes took his oath of office prior to the meeting.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT – Mr. Steffens nominated Mr. John Clendenen as council president. Mr. Liechty seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Young nominated Mr. Steffens as vice; Mr. Clendenen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

TREASURER REPORT – Ms. Spannuth passed out the December 31, 2007 financial report. Since invoices are still coming in for the 2007 budget year, the report is not considered final.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR – Ms. Garton provided an update regarding the snowplowing service during the last major snowfall. She discussed a complaint that has been given to the office multiple times regarding snow wash onto a driveway on Michael Drive. Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of the town clearing every driveway apron during snow storms. Mr. Eastes will speak to the resident in person to further discuss the complaint.

The home that is in violation of the town's nuisance ordinance did in fact receive a letter via certified mail. They will be notified of an impending fine if the property is not brought into compliance.

Ms. Garton brought to the council's attention the problem of southbound drivers on State Road 1 passing cars turning east onto Clay Street. The town officer has made it clear that this is an illegal action as there is no passing lane and drivers are subject to ticketing. There have been several accidents at this intersection due to this behavior.

GOALS & VISIONS FOR 2008 – Mr. Clendenen discussed the need to examine the goals and visions for 2008. The construction of a maintenance facility on the town's Schwartz Road property to house the larger town equipment and a possible recycling center was mentioned. Mr. Young expressed that he would like to see the town continue paving streets throughout the town on a regular basis. A list of roads in need is being compiled in the town office. Mr. Eastes mentioned the Indiana Downtown project and looks forward to their feedback and recommendations for the promoting a healthy business community. He also would like to see sidewalk plans that would connect walkways throughout the

town and that would connect the Leo-Cedarville Park to the northern parts of town. He would like to urge the stormwater utility board concentrate on the Witmer Park area due to their extreme flooding issues. Ms. Garton mentioned the stormwater improvements that have been made in certain areas although there is definitely a significant amount of stormwater work that needs to be done throughout the town. Discussion ensued regarding the drainage problems in the Witmer Park area and specifically regarding the stormwater utility master plans in this area. Mr. Liechty would like to see the council continue to examine annexing for the purpose of promoting industry. He would like to see the town extend water utility lines and add hydrants throughout the town. Mr. Steffens discussed the need to move forward on capital improvement plans for Amstutz Road. The council discussed the reasons why Amstutz Road needs repaired or upgraded. He also discussed revisiting the current town master plan. Ms. Garton discussed the needs of the maintenance department and that additional manpower will be needed in the near future. The council agreed to close the meeting agenda the Thursday prior to the meeting for any topic requiring a decision. New business will be advertised in the Courier. The unapproved meeting minutes will be published the week following a council meeting. The minutes will continue to be posted on the website.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – There is a vacancy on the Planning Commission. According to Indiana Code, two council members must sit on the Planning Commission. Discussion ensued regarding this requirement. Mr. Young expressed his willingness to serve on the Planning Commission. The council supported his appointment to the board.

INDIANA PARK & REC ASSOCIATION – Mr. Steffens discussed the support and service provided by the Indiana Park and Recreation Association. Mr. Steffens made the motion that Leo-Cedarville joins the Indiana Park and Recreation Association for a \$300.00 annual fee. The motion was supported with a unanimous vote. The council approved sending Ms. Kimm to the IPRA State Conference.

STORMWATER UTILITY – YOUNG – Mr. Young read his submitted written opinion regarding how the town should fund the stormwater needs through general tax dollars and not a fee. Discussion ensued regarding this topic. Mr. Eastes also supported the reduction of the fee or removing it all together. Mr. Liechty discussed the fact that he ran on the platform of budget reform issues as well as removing the stormwater fee; however he recognizes that there is a lot more to be learned about the increasing federal mandates as well as the town's general stormwater needs. Mr. Steffens agreed that the town bears a responsibility due to the current stormwater regulations and stressed that the regulations will only continue to get tighter. Ms. Spannuth advised the council that they consider the impact of removing the stormwater utility fee in its entirety prior to making a decision. She advised that they examine the benefits and the problems of the utility fee. It has not been popular and many residents feel entitled to immediate stormwater relief due to their payments. It is also a way for

the town to receive revenue for a specific purpose and would enable the utility to obtain a revenue bond for a large project versus the town obtaining a general obligation bond that would raise property taxes. Mr. Clendenen expressed his support of the utility as it is because of the federal mandates and stormwater maintenance needs that require larger sums of money than the town's general property tax dollars can support. Mr. Eastes discussed how he supports the purpose the utility and would like to find a way to fund the needs of the utility within the towns existing tax structure. He discussed how it's still the taxpayer that pays when churches and schools are charged fees. Mr. Clendenen expressed that the revenue base for the churches and schools are much larger than the incorporated limits of Leo-Cedarville. Further general discussion ensued regarding this subject including the need for the utility to focus on public information and awareness.

POLICE SATELLITE OFFICE – The Allen County Sheriff's Department has requested office space in the town hall for a police satellite office. This will be on the next agenda for discussion.

RESOLUTION 2008-01 – RE: THIS ADOPTING ORDINANCES – Mr. Eastes distributed and introduced a resolution regarding the procedures for adopting proposed ordinances. Several concerns and proposed revisions were discussed. This resolution will be on the next agenda for further discussion or adoption.

VOUCHERS – The January 8, 2008 line item voucher form was approved for expenditures from January 1, 2008 through January 8, 2008. The December 31, 2008 line item voucher form was approved for listed expenditures from the 2007 budget year.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

John Clendenen
Council President

Pamela Spannuth
Clerk-Treasurer