

**TOWN COUNCIL OF LEO-CEDARVILLE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2008**

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE:

John Clendenen – Council President
Paul Steffens – Vice President
John Eastes – Council
Mike Young – Council
Gordon Liechty, Jr. – Council

Pamela Spannuth – Clerk-Treasurer, Peggy Garton – Town Administrator

MINUTES – The October 21, 2008 meeting were approved.

AGENDA – Mr. Eastes moved to adopt agenda with flexibility; Mr. Liechty seconded. The November 4 meeting agenda was adopted with flexibility.

2009 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING – Mr. Clendenen opened the public hearing on the 2009 budget. Mr. Bob Beerbower addressed the topic of a proposed budget reduction. He expressed his concern that if the council reduces the proposed budget, the town could be cutting back on services and improvement projects without reducing taxes. A resident present at the meeting expressed his concern that the December 31, 2009 cash balance figure, assuming the proposed 2009 budget is spent, is not readily available. Frustration was expressed relating to the town's budgeting method. Another resident expressed that the public isn't properly informed about the town's annual budgeting process as well as the town's expenditures. Additional concerns were expressed about the proposed salary increase, sheriff services, and the condition of the town corridors. Mr. Steffens thanked those in attendance for their input and moved to close the public hearing for the budget; Mr. Young seconded. The motion to close the public hearing passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Ms. Spannuth reviewed the financial report that was provided to the council.

2009 BUDGET DISCUSSION – Mr. Eastes specifically discussed the line items of snow removal in both the LR&S fund and MVH funds. Appropriations for salaries, fireworks and town improvements were also addressed; Mr. Eastes sought opinions from other councilmen regarding possible reductions in these appropriations. Mr. Liechty recommended that the council not reduce the budget to where there is no flexibility. Eastes expressed his desire to cut at least \$20,000.00 out of the budget and assured the council that a cut would result in higher cash reserves. Discussion ensued relating to the affects of cuts within the budget as well as the process of seeking 'additional appropriations' from the Department of Local Government Finance. Ms. Spannuth clarified that budget cuts would not effect the town's tax levy and other miscellaneous revenues.

Discussion ensued on future capital projects specifically pertaining to infrastructure improvements. Ms. Spannuth urged the council to establish a short and

long term timeline for capital projects to aid in budget preparation and financial management.

Mr. Young discussed a cost of living raise for the town employees. He mentioned to the audience that the jobs of Pam Spannuth and Peggy Garton are very important for our town and we would not move forward without what they do. Brief discussion ensued pertaining to the proposed Planner salary increase requested by the planning commission. Several residents present spoke both in favor of the proposed salary increase as well as against.

Mr. Eastes expressed to the council that he would like to reduce the 'capital improvement' appropriation in the general fund by \$50,000.00 and reduce the 'additional salary' by \$15,000.00. He further stated that he has a target goal to cut a total of \$100,000.00 out of the budget. At a minimum, Mr. Eastes recommends reducing the 'town improvements' appropriation by \$36,131, which would effectively maintain the same budget figure that the town had for 2008. He also suggested a reduction in 'additional salaries' by \$6,000.00. Mr. Young suggested the approach of conservative spending versus cutting the budget; Mr. Steffens agreed. Mr. Liechty does not feel comfortable with reducing the appropriation for 'additional salaries', since the 2009 salary ordinance has not yet been determined, but would support reducing 'town improvements'.

RULES AND PROCEDURES – Mr. Clendenen is working on suggested rules and procedures for running orderly and effective meetings. The town council has never formally adopted Robert's Rules of Order.

BRUSH CLEARING – The Allen County Highway Department will start clearing the brush and debris along the Grabill Road Bridge. They agreed to clear 100 feet along both banks on the west side of the river. Quotes will be sought for additional clearing.

NORTH LEO DRIVE SURVEY – Mr. Eastes moved that the town pay up to \$400.00 for surveying the right-of-way that is being adopted by the town located at the end of North Leo Drive; Mr. Young seconded. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

VOUCHERS – The November 4, 2008 voucher form was approved.

AGENDA TABLED – Mr. Young moved to table the remaining agenda items until the November 18 meeting; Mr. Eastes seconded. The remaining agenda items were unanimously tabled until the next scheduled council meeting.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

John Clendenen
Council President

Pamela Spannuth
Clerk-Treasurer