

TOWN COUNCIL OF LEO-CEDARVILLE
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 6, 2010

ATTENDANCE:

Paul Steffens – Council President
John Clendenen – Vice President
Gordon Liechty, Jr.
Michael Young
Pamela Spannuth – Clerk-Treasurer
Peggy Garton – Town Administrator
Jim Lauer – Town Engineer

7:00 – Mr. Steffens opened the meeting with the Pledge-of-Allegiance.

AGENDA – The agenda was approved with flexibility.

SIDEWALK COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Garton presented the official sidewalk committee report and stated that there is a copy for public viewing located at the town hall. She discussed the process that was followed from start to completion of the report including the manner of collecting as much community input as possible. A majority of responses prioritized safe sidewalks and trails to the schools first, then connectivity to the parks. The signed copy of the report was presented to the clerk-treasurer for public record.

ROAD PROJECT UPDATES – Ms. Garton stated that the road projects have started although construction will be focused in various areas during the contract period. She reported that Amstutz Road would be closed periodically for approximately fourteen days or less. The State Road 1/Amstutz Road realignment project will be completed prior to the start of school.

TOWN ENGINEER – Mr. Lauer also reported on the status of the ongoing road projects. The contractor has also been hired to perform several repairs for the Leo-Cedarville Regional Sewer District. When the State Road 1/Amstutz Realignment project is sufficiently underway, the elevation will be analyzed for improving the drainage at Ivans Lane. Suggested additional projects for 2010 include Clay Street, Washington Street including additional parking, (he suggested that the residents be invited for input regarding enhancing the parking at the park), Laurel Ridge Place repair, Amstutz Road (north of Hosler), Lockner/Schlatter/Birkey Drive resurface, Main Roads in Pioneer Village (Trading Post Road, Covered Wagon Trail and Pioneer Trail), and the final resurfacing of the Witmer Park addition. The total estimated cost for all these projects is \$287,000.00. Mr. Lauer suggested that the technical service fees be funded out of the loan proceeds. Mr. Liechty recommended that Mr. Lauer prepare the plans for this upgrade. Mr. Clendenen stated that he feels the intent of the motion to seek the \$850,000.00 was to complete as many street projects as possible. Mr. Clendenen moved that Mr. Lauer prepare and advertise the bid package for Clay Street, Washington Street,

Laurel Ridge Place, Amstutz Road, Lockner/Schlatter/Birky, and Pioneer Village (Trading Post, Covered Wagon, and Pioneer Trail). Mr. Liechty seconded the motion. Mr. Lauer provided an estimate of \$45,000.00 for technical service fees on the above projects. Mr. Young stated he is against the \$850,000.00 loan but he is not against paving these roads over time and staying within the \$350,000 budget that the town has been spending annually and keeping the town debt free. Mr. Clendenen stated that the motion to proceed with the loan was already approved at a previous meeting. The motion to prepare and advertise the bid for the above named streets passed by a unanimous vote with the absence of Mr. Eastes. Mr. Lauer recommended parallel parking vs. angled parking on Washington Street due to safety issues. He stated that he feels that the council can consider bids for acceptance by the 1st meeting in August. He recommended that the council adopt a resolution stating that the funds used for road project related expenses such as engineering fees be repaid to the other town funds from the loan proceeds.

MINUTES – The June 15, 2010 meeting minutes were reviewed by the council. Mr. Steffens moved to approve the June 15 minutes; Mr. Young seconded. The minutes were approved as written. Mr. Clendenen abstained since he was absent for the June 15, 2010 meeting.

GARBAGE BILLING DISCUSSION – The topic of billing residents directly for garbage services was opened for discussion. Mr. Clendenen stated that he disagrees that the town should revert back to contracting National Serv-All to bill residents directly. He proposed that the bills should go from quarterly to monthly and feels that the position for a billing clerk/customer service person could be funded from the general fund. He stated that the person could be in the office for additional hours to cover times the office is currently closed. He confirmed with the software company that the billing system could be adapted to bill for additional services such as second bins and recycling. He also stated that the town could start accepting credit cards or create an online billing system.

Mr. Young stated that he feels that this just creates more government. He also brought up the fact that the Stormwater utility board unanimously voted to recommend putting the fee on the property tax bills, which would eliminate the need for the town to bill at all. Mr. Clendenen stated that they do not have the ultimate authority to make that change and the final decision to alter the way the utility collects its revenue would be up to the council.

Ms. Spannuth stated that she feels that the town would be continuing to incur unnecessary expenses and confusion by continuing to bill for the garbage service, and would in fact compound those expenses if the town increased the frequency of billing or provided additional services. She also stated that she would be willing to address the concern about keeping the office open longer by altering the hours she spends in the office.

Mr. Clendenen stated that he feels that putting the Stormwater fee on the property tax bills doesn't have an honest appearance, as many residents may not see the itemized charge on their bill. Ms. Spannuth stated that the monthly fee would remain the same or be potentially reduced, and any fees incurred by the past due collection process would be reduced, as they would be handled by only one entity vs. two as liens currently are. Mr.

Young added the opinion that he is against the stormwater fee and feels it should be eliminated all together.

Mr. Liechty recognized the positive points to all the options brought to the table. He does not feel that we should make the billing position bigger and more costly, and supports allowing National Serv-all to bill the residents directly.

Mr. Steffens stated that Mr. Bob Young from National Serv-all should be asked to the next meeting to confirm the billing options available to the town.

Mr. Liechty moved to table this ordinance until the next meeting for adoption. The council unanimously agreed to table the ordinance until the next meeting.

FIREWORKS – Mr. Mike Young complimented Mr. Clendenen for his contribution to the fireworks. Mr. Clendenen stated that there were many instrumental people involved with making this happen.

GRANT WRITING - Mr. Liechty thanked the council for supporting his attendance at the grant-writing workshop. He stated that utilizing a grant writer is highly recommended, as it is a specialized profession. A professional grant writer is successful approximately 30% of the time in acquiring the funds sought.

VOUCHERS – The July 6, 2010 line item vouchers were approved. Mr. Clendenen moved to approve the release of the retainer/final payment for the Riverside Gardens facility; Mr. Liechty seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and payment will be released to Strawser Brothers Construction.

ADJOURNED – The meeting was adjourned until July 20, 2010.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Paul Steffens
Council President

Pamela Spannuth
Clerk-Treasurer