

TOWN COUNCIL OF LEO-CEDARVILLE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2011

ATTENDANCE:

John Eastes – Vice President
R. Paul Steffens
Gordon Liechty, Jr.
Tim Richards
Pamela Spannuth – Clerk-Treasurer
Patrick Proctor – Town Attorney
Cindy Kimm – Park Board President

7:00 – Mr. Eastes called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA – Mr. Liechty, Jr. made the motion to accept the agenda with flexibility; Mr. Steffens seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES - The January 18, 2011 meeting minutes were approved as written.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT RENEWAL – Mr. Proctor discussed the need to renew the agreement with the Allen County Sheriff's Department for a community resource officer. Mr. Eastes recommended that the town enter into another four-year term agreement. Mr. Liechty, Jr. referenced paragraph 4 regarding office space and supplies for the officer. The council agreed to a revision which clarifies the intended terms of this paragraph. Mr. Proctor will present the revision to paragraph 4 to the Sheriff's Department for approval. Following approval by the Sheriff's Department, the agreement will be presented to the council for signatures.

PARK BOARD ORDINANCE – Mr. Proctor read and explained the purpose of the two proposed amendments to the park board ordinance. He recommends that the council consider adopting the proposed revision #1 that amends paragraph 6, subsection 5, striking the term "to the town council." This revision clarifies the park board's autonomy from the town council. If the council doesn't intend for the park board to be autonomous, he recommends that the ordinance be repealed and an appropriate one adopted. Mr. Proctor reviewed the different statutes that create park boards and departments as well as the statute that the Leo-Cedarville Park's Department has been formed under. Ms. Kimm stated that it is the park board's desire that the council accept the proposed revision #1. She feels that when an employee is hired to service the needs of the park, they should be ultimately responsible to the park board. Mr. Richards asked how this would work as the town's maintenance employee position includes park maintenance duties. Ms. Kimm agreed that that has been the case, but the needs of the park are greater than should fall completely on the town's maintenance department. She further stated that the park department wishes to have more direct control over specific grounds-keeping duties. Mr. Richards stated that he supports the park departments desires to exercise the authority to hire and fire, but does not support a parks department structured in a way that

the board could establish their own taxing authority. Mr. Liechty, Jr. shares that concern as well and stated that it is not necessary that equipment be duplicated or other unneeded expenses be incurred for the purpose of complete autonomy. Discussion ensued regarding the proper way to manage a groundskeeper position yet still have a level of coordination with the existing maintenance department. Ms. Kimm stressed the importance of the park board ultimately having the ability to directly manage this position. Under the current ordinance, the board can levy a tax, but the ultimate checks and balances on managing this risk is that the town council has the authority to repeal the ordinance that created the park board to begin with. The park fund/budget is currently funded under the town's tax levy. Mr. Steffens stated that the verbiage in question was added when the original ordinance was adopted. He supported the striking of the statement in question in paragraph 6, subsection 5. Mr. Eastes recommends that in order to be in compliance with the home rule established regarding on how ordinances are passed, the amended ordinance should be placed on the next agenda for introduction. This will be on the March 1, 2011 agenda for introduction and further discussion. Mr. Steffens moved to table the revised ordinance with the understanding that this was the first reading; Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion to table this ordinance passed by unanimous vote; the amended ordinance will be on the March 1, 2011 agenda.

PONY EXPRESS RUN – Mr. Proctor stated that he will prepare a dedication agreement for the adoption of Pony Express Run as a town road. The agreement will be at the next meeting for further discussion.

STORMWATER BILLING – The council addressed a memo to the Storm Water Utility from the Leo Cemetery Board. Mr. Gordon Liechty, Jr. moved to accept the payment of \$1,386.71 as payment in full of the cemeteries obligation. Mr. Richards seconded; motion passed by unanimous vote.

ALLEN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR WATER QUALITY - Mr. Queckbourner stated that the Stormwater Utility board voted to contribute \$5,000.00 to the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - No report at this time.

NEW ALLEN ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP – The council discussed the benefit in continuing the annual New Allen Alliance membership jointly with the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Steffens moved to reimburse the Chamber of Commerce \$250.00 (50%) for the cost of the annual membership dues; Mr. Liechty, Jr. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CLERK-TREASURER BOND – Mr. Steffens moved to approve the clerk-treasurer bond with the increase in coverage to \$30,000.00 as required by the State Board of Accounts. Mr. Richards seconded. The bond was approved by unanimous vote.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Mr. Liechty, Jr. presented his completed conflict of interest statement regarding his relation to a vendor that the town uses. The council accepted this conflict of interest statement as being filed.

SOCIAL NETWORKING – Mr. Richards discussed the Leo-Cedarville page he has set up on Facebook. He is still looking into the best way to utilize Facebook as a community service.

GARBAGE OPT-OUT POLICY – A proposed garbage opt-out policy will be presented at the next meeting for consideration.

ADDITION BANNERS – Ms. Spannuth will provide a cost estimate for the purchase of an additional set of town banners. Mr. Liechty, Jr. stated that the council also should also consider purchasing banners relating to the fourth of July to be placed by the Riverside Gardens Park.

VOUCHERS – Line item voucher forms dated February 15, 2011 were approved by signatures. Remaining December 31, 2010 vouchers were also approved.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

JOHN EASTES
Meeting Chair – Vice President

PAMELA SPANNUTH
Clerk-Treasurer