

**TOWN COUNCIL OF LEO-CEDARVILLE  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 14, 2015**

The town council of Leo-Cedarville met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on April 14, 2015 at the Town Hall of Leo-Cedarville, located at 13909 Pony Express Run, Leo, IN 46765.

**ATTENDANCE:** In attendance were Kevin Veatch, president; Tim Richards, vice president; council members Paul Steffens, Greg Peck and Raymond Pulver, Jr.; Peggy Garton, town manager; and John Eastes, clerk-treasurer.

Mr. Veatch called the meeting to order and led attendees in the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

**AGENDA:** Upon reaching consensus, Council accepted the agenda as distributed with flexibility.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Veatch brought forward the regular session minutes of March 24, 2015 as distributed.

- (**Action:** Mr. Pulver moved to approve the March 24, 2015 minutes as distributed. Mr. Peck provided a second to the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.)

**GUEST PRESENTATIONS or PUBLIC COMMENT:**

INDOT representatives Dirk Schmidt and Jason Kaiser provided a visual presentation and participated in discussion as it pertains to the “State Road 1 Curve at Cedarville Park” section below; Ms. Jane King provided comment as well.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS’ CURRENT BUSINESS:**

- **Utilities:** No update was provided.

**REPORT of the TOWN MANAGER:** Mrs. Garton presented the following, with action as noted therein:

- **Garbage Contract Bids:** The review and possible action on bids recently received for a new town-wide residential garbage service contract was tabled and taken off the agenda pending a conference with the town’s legal counsel.
- **EACS (East Allen County Schools) Traffic Flow:** EACS continues to discuss ideas that have been suggested to improve traffic flow at Leo Elementary and Leo Junior-Senior High School. No further information is available at this time.
- **State Road 1 Curve at Cedarville Park:** An update of information received and action taken was discussed.

- **INDOT Meeting Review:** The following met with INDOT engineering personnel at their location on Hatfield Road in Fort Wayne: Mr. Lauer, Mrs. Garton, Mr. Veatch, Mr. Pulver and Mr. Eastes. The meeting was very productive and involved the following: Mrs. Garton's review of the April 6 field visit by emergency service responders, as noted below; a presentation by INDOT engineers, and discussion of the State Road One corridor with options specific to improving safety at and near the curve area at Cedarville Park. Topics discussed included rumble strips, guard railing, an embedded driver's speed flashing radar-type sign, reduction of speed, additional signage easily visible to the motoring public, optical speed bars, landscaping behind signage, and the possible closing of current public access approaches to State Road 1 from Saint Joseph Street and Main Street.

INDOT engineers noted that speed signs are based upon engineering studies, per state statute, and that the intended purpose of guard rails, when installed, is to protect the motoring public and not private property. Reflective optical speed bars are under consideration as a possible feature that may be added when State Road 1 is resurfaced in 2016.

INDOT is prepared to approve work using their own in-house resources that would begin this year, contingent upon Council's approval to close public access approaches to State Road 1 from Saint Joseph Street and Main Street. If Council chooses to close these public access approaches to State Road 1, additional warning signage would be installed by INDOT for both northbound and southbound traffic throughout the curve. INDOT engineers believe that removal of the current "open" roadway view and installation of additional signage will make a huge difference in slowing traffic as well as an improvement in overall public safety.

Mr. Veatch views improvement of safety at the curve area as a three-phase process. Phase one would require the town to close public access to State Road 1 from Saint Joseph Street and Main Street, thereby meeting INDOT's conditional requirement to allow for the installation of additional signage throughout the curve. Phase two would follow when the town determines a course of action to improve public safety within town right-of-way. Phase three would include the addition of optical speed bars in 2016 when INDOT moves forward with planned resurfacing of State Road 1.

- (**Action:** Mr. Richards moved to accept the first phase as proposed by INDOT, which calls for the closure of public access approaches to State Road 1 from Saint Joseph Street and Main Street, and Mr. Steffens provided a second to the motion. Significant discussion followed.)

Mr. Richards is concerned that enough is not being done to protect the homeowner that has experienced so many crashes. Mr. Peck went on record by stating that he does not agree with INDOT's recommended proposal as an appropriate solution that will reduce driver error and driver inattention; Mr. Peck believes recommendations that he has provided have been ignored by INDOT. Mr. Pulver believes INDOT's proposal is a good first step, but additional public awareness by those most impacted by the potential closure

of public access approaches to State Road 1 from Saint Joseph Street and Main Street should be part of the process. Mr. Pulver believes that if accepting INDOT's proposal is an appropriate action, then it will still stand on its own merit after an informative meeting is held with residents and property owners that are geographically located in or near the area of the State Road 1 curve at Cedarville Park.

- **(Action:** Mr. Richards requested withdrawal of his motion to accept the first phase as proposed by INDOT, and Mr. Steffens, having provided a second to the original main motion, agreed to allow the motion be withdrawn.)
- **(Action:** Council reached consensus to hold a public hearing for the purpose of sharing information and comment regarding the proposed closure of public access approaches to State Road 1 from Saint Joseph Street and Main Street. The public hearing will be held at the Cedarville Park Pavilion at 7:00 p.m. and will immediately be followed by Council's regular session. The Cedarville Park Pavilion is located at 9825 Saint Joseph Street, Leo, IN 46765.)

Ms. Jane King voiced her appreciation for efforts made by the town of Leo-Cedarville to improve public safety. Ms. King is hopeful that a barrier of protection can be installed that will also increase protection for her property and family members.

- **Emergency Responder Meeting Review Notes:** Mrs. Garton has written an email thanking the following for attending an April 6 onsite review of potential safety concerns pertaining to Council's consideration to closing Saint Joseph Street and Main Street public access to State Road One: Officer Ken Litzenburg, of the Allen County Sheriff's Department; Northeast Fire and EMS, Inc. officials; Mr. Lauer, of Schnelker Engineering, Inc.; and Mr. Peck and Mr. Pulver, council members.

Mrs. Garton provided the following information by email for the record: "We all met in the church parking lot at 5 p.m. The fire department showed up in the ladder truck via Walnut, actually traveling the streets in question.

"After explaining again our reason for meeting, for clarification purposes, I asked three times to those representing the Fire, EMS, and Sheriff Departments if they felt that closing the entrances off of State Road One on St. Joseph Street and Main Street would cause any hindrance or hardship when responding to an emergency to that area of town including the church, and if there was access problems on any of the streets in those neighborhoods. Their response was no.

"Tim George went on to explain that they would access via the side streets if there was a church fire as the water would be taken from the reservoir."

- **Cross Walk Bid:** A quote has been received from Three Rivers Barricade to do piano-key road striping on Grabill and Schwartz Roads at Riverside Gardens; other areas in Leo-Cedarville were also identified for work within the quote.

- (**Action:** After council members had discussed the quote, Mr. Steffens moved to accept the aforementioned quote in the amount of \$3,475.00, dated April 8 2015. Mr. Richards provided a second to the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.)
- **Park Board Master Plan Update:** The new five-year master plan final draft was adopted by the Leo-Cedarville Park Board at its regular monthly meeting that was held on April 13, 2015.
- **Zoning Ordinance Violations Update:** No update was provided.
- **Demographer Presentation:** An invitation to the community has been extended by Council to hear Dr. Jerome McKibben's demographic forecast on April 15, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Cedarville Park Pavilion.
- **"Meet the Candidate Night":** Marsha Wulpi, president of the Leo-Cedarville Chamber of Commerce, was in attendance and announced that an invitation has been extended to the Leo-Cedarville community to meet candidates that have filed for the following positions in the May 5 primary: Clerk-treasurer and council member. The meeting is scheduled to occur at the Leo United Methodist Church on April 22 and will begin at 6:00 p.m. All five candidates have agreed to participate in the forum.
- **Comprehensive Master Plan:** Council was provided with Mr. Lauer's "soft cost" estimates and comments pertaining to items contained within each section of the town's "Envision" master plan. No discussion of this updated information occurred at this time.
- **Gift Recognition:** Representative Casey Cox's recent gift of 25 pecan tree seedlings was announced; the seedlings have been made available to the public.
- **Halter Road:** Council was provided with an estimate and the availability of funding for the town to participate in one-half the cost to reclaim Halter Road back to a chip-and-seal surface. The Allen County Highway Department estimate is for work that would be done on behalf of Allen County and the town of Leo-Cedarville, as the road easement is shared by both the county and town. No action was taken at this time.

**REPORT of the CLERK-TREASURER:** The following items were distributed for council member review and possible action: A "Monthly Financial Statement, All Funds, for the Month Ended March 31, 2015—Reconciled" and an "Appropriations Report for the Month Ended March 31, 2015."

All employment taxes for the month ended March 31, 2015 have been deposited with appropriate agencies of the federal and state governments; the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 941 and Indiana Workforce Development employment reports have been filed; the March 2015 Indiana sales tax has been deposited and March 2015 sales tax report filed.

The outstanding balance on an original \$699,709.97, 2.7% loan, due to mature on July 12, 2018 and supported by CEDIT funds, was \$449,937.66 as of April 10, 2015, with the next monthly

payment of \$12,492.52 due on May 12. The loan requires a compensating deposit balance of \$200,000.00 in CREDIT funds be maintained at all times.

**VOUCHERS APPROVED by COUNCIL SIGNATURES:**

- April 14, 2015 line-item form totaling \$69,811.63.

**Summary:** The total amount of all vouchers approved by Council was \$69,811.63.

**Regular Session:** Council is scheduled to meet in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at the Cedarville Park Pavilion of Leo- Cedarville on April 28 and at the Town Hall of Leo- Cedarville on May 12, 2015.

**ADJORNMENT:** Mr. Richards moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Peck provided a second. A unanimous voice vote in support of the motion was received and the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVE:**

**ATTEST:**

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**KEVIN VEATCH, Council President**

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**JOHN EASTES, Clerk-Treasurer**