

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

ATTENDANCE:

John Clendenen – Council President
John Eastes – Vice President
Paul Steffens
Gordon Liechty, Jr.
Tim Richards
Pamela Spannuth – Clerk-Treasurer
Peggy Garton – Town Administrator

7:00 – Council President Clendenen called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA – The council unanimously agreed to accept the agenda with flexibility.

MARCH 1, 2011 MINUTES – The council approved the March 1, 2011 meeting minutes with corrections.

L-C STORMWATER YEAR END SUMMARY – Stormwater Utility chairman Gary Queckboerner, was in attendance at the meeting to present a 2010 year end summary of stormwater activities and projects. This summary will be published in the East Allen Courier. He also discussed the utilities' short and long term project list. Financial and planning coordination from the town may be needed as some projects are beyond the financial scope of the utilities' revenues. He stated that the utility board is discussing the concept of changing the name of the utility to help reduce confusion with the stormwater utility with the Leo-Cedarville sewer district.

PROPOSED GARBAGE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT (ALLOWING OPT-OUTS) – ORD. 2011-01 – Mr. Richards discussed the proposed changes made to the current garbage ordinance which would allow residents to opt out of the garbage service and fee. The council members were given copies of the proposed ordinance changes at the meeting. Mr. Eastes moved to table the ordinance until the next meeting to allow additional time for the council to review. Mr. Steffens seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. This ordinance will be on the next agenda for further discussion and consideration.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Ms. Spannuth presented a current fund and appropriation report dated March 15, 2011 balances.

UTILITY PAYMENT BOX – Ms. Garton discussed the concept of installing a multi-utility payment collection box where residents can deposit their different utility payments at one location. The separated compartments would be locked and individually emptied by the different utilities. Discussion ensued regarding the possible placement locations of the box such as by the curb on Pony Express Run, the post office, or the driveway area at the town office. The different utilities involved will be consulted regarding this proposal.

SIDEWALK REPORT – Ms. Garton discussed the report produced by the engineer as a result of the sidewalk survey. She stated that there are nine sections of unfinished sidewalks within the different subdivisions; there is currently no rule as to how long an unimproved lot can remain without a connecting sidewalk. Damaged areas of sidewalk are also listed on the report. Crosswalks on Amstutz Road also need to be better established with the possibility of using signaling devices. Completed maps were displayed specifying the locations of existing, damaged, and proposed sidewalks. Ms. Garton asked for input regarding where the council wishes to begin with sidewalk expansions and improvements. The council stated that priority should not be given to improve the unimproved lots in the subdivisions. The council will take the report under advisement and will decide on the best direction to begin improvements within the next few meetings. Mr. Clendenen stated that he does not expect that any road projects will be undertaken this year which will free up funds for sidewalk improvements.

TOWN UPDATES – Ms. Garton presented a summary on the upcoming town event dates such as the next unlimited garbage pick-up, scheduled for May 14, and the town-wide garage sale scheduled for May 5, 6 & 7. She also stated that planning for the 4th of July fireworks festivities is underway. The recycling center location clean-up day is April 4th. The recycling center condition was discussed; the capacity of this center is constantly being exceeded. The response to this service has far surpassed what the Allen County Solid Waste District or the town had ever predicted. The bins are currently being emptied twice a week.

4th OF JULY EVENTS – Mr. Clendenen discussed the 4th of July festival and how it is currently operated under the Leo-Cedarville Chamber of Commerce. Other options for how to operate the festival as an independent entity such as the Grabill Fair is currently being considered.

5K-RUN – Mr. Richards is currently looking into the possibility of incorporating a town sponsored 5k run into the festivities.

PARK BOARD ORDINANCE – Mr. Clendenen opened discussion on the proposed changes to the current park board ordinance. Mr. Eastes stated that he feels that the elected officials of the town should maintain the authority established for the purpose of overseeing the hiring and disciplinary action of all town employees including the park employees. He further stated that he feels that the town administrator should have the management duties over park employees as to promote efficiency and organization. Concerns were also expressed regarding the powers that were given to the park board by the current ordinance such as taxing and bonding authorities. He suggested that the council may wish to consider re-establishing this board as an 'advisory' park board as it was originally established. Mr. Liechty, Jr. and Mr. Richards also agreed with Mr. Eastes statements. Mr. Steffens stated that under the current ordinance, there are safeguards established to give the council the checks and balances needed to prevent the park board from taxing and bonding without council approval. Mr. Clendenen stated that he originally supported the ordinance making the park board an official town board although he feels that the council may wish to consider rescinding the ordinance and making the park board an advisory committee again. Since there has been a first reading on the proposed Park Board

Ordinance Revision, the council needs to decide whether to consider the adoption of the proposed revised ordinance or to vote against the revision. Mr. Eastes stated that it is an option for the council to leave the establishment of the board under the current code section but request that the park board turn over the maintenance responsibilities to the town maintenance department. Discussion ensued regarding the benefit that has come from a complete review of the current ordinance. The council agreed that they appreciate the park board's dedication and hard work, but it was stated that the vision of the council may differ from the vision of the park board. Mr. Clendenen recommends that the council request that the park board turn the maintenance duties over to the town's maintenance department. Mr. Eastes agreed with Mr. Clendenen's statements and further suggested that the council review this again in 90 days. Mr. Liechty, Jr. stated that there is a value of maintaining the board under the current code section for the purpose of obtaining grant funds which was the original intention of the council. The council unanimously voted to not revise the ordinance as was introduced at the February 15, 2011 town council meeting which would have allowed the park board to independently hire an employee without town council approval. Mr. Eastes moved that the council request the park board contract directly with the town's maintenance department for all the park maintenance needs. Mr. Liechty, Jr. seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Eastes moved to request that the park board attempt to meet the May 1, 2011 grant application deadline for Recreational Trails as posted on the Department of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Recreation Website. Mr. Steffens seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Clendenen will write a letter to the attention of the park board president stating the directives of the council.

TOWN WIDE WI-FI – Mr. Clendenen discussed the town wide wi-fi proposal which was presented at the last meeting. He suggested that the town not entertain this idea as residents already have internet options. The council also agreed that technology is constantly changing and there would be internet security issues.

TOWN BANNERS – The council reviewed the estimate from Display Sales for the purchase of another set of banners. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of purchasing another set of banners as well as the cost of changing and maintaining them. The council agreed to revisit this next year.

ROUNDTABLE – Mr. Clendenen discussed the roundtable meeting scheduled for April 12th at 7:00 p.m. that he has planned for the local governmental and service entities to meet and discuss current affairs.

VOUCHERS – The March 15, 2011 line item voucher form was approved by signature.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

JOHN CLENDENEN
Council President

PAMELA SPANNUTH
Clerk-Treasurer