

TOWN COUNCIL OF LEO-CEDARVILLE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 20, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

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

7:00 – Council President Steffens opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA – The October 20, 2009 agenda was unanimously approved with flexibility.

PUBLIC SPEAKS – Ms. Amy Amstutz Allen was present to speak about Amstutz Well drilling. She talked about the history of their business and their contribution to the local community. She stated that the business family is deeply disappointed that they were not awarded the work of drilling the well at the Riverside Gardens Park. Ms. Spannuth acknowledged their disappointment and stressed that there was no ill intent and that the town is bound to public purchasing laws. The suggestion was made that the well bid should have been a separate bid. Discussion ensued relating to this suggestion. Mr. Jim Lauer addressed the bidding process and the purchasing laws that apply to all public projects. Mr. Clendenen also addressed this and stated he assumed that Amstutz Well Drilling submitted bids to all those who bid as contractors. Ms. Amstutz Allen wished to state that this situation personally hurt them and hopes that the town council makes a better effort in the future to support local businesses.

MANNING STREET CHANGE ORDER – Mr. Lauer presented a change order reflecting an increase of \$2,250.00 relating to the storm sewer work on Manning Street. He discussed the cause of the problem that made the change in storm water plans necessary. Mr. Eastes moved to approve Change Order #1 for the amount of \$2,250.00 payable to Wayne Asphalt. Mr. Young seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Lauer further stated that an independent soil scientist has determined that the soil underneath the stretch between Elsworth to Ewing is substandard, making additional reinforcement necessary. He conveyed the recommendation that an extra inch of soil be removed, and geogrid be placed prior to continuing. Mr. Liechty asked if soil testing was done to determine the depth of the topsoil present; Mr. Lauer was unaware of the manner of testing used, but was confident that the use of geogrid is becoming more common and will significantly strengthen the foundation. Mr. Lauer expects that this additional cost can be approximately \$9,000.00. The council all agreed to proceed with the recommendation of the use of geogrid in this area with an estimated cost of \$9,000.00.

RESTROOM UPDATE – Mr. Lauer discussed the details of the additional foundation work that was necessary at the Riverside Gardens Restroom facility due to the

substandard soil quality. He presented change order #1 reflecting an increase of \$3,385.50. Mr. Eastes moved to accept change order #1. Mr. Clendenen seconded; the council approved the change order by a majority vote with Mr. Young abstaining.

SIP-2009-03 – Mr. Lauer stated that Brooks Construction would be beginning their resurfacing work in about two weeks.

POTENTIAL TOWN IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS – Mr. Lauer presented a list of potential capital improvement projects that should be considered in the short and long term. This list will aid in the preparation a town capital improvement plan as well as future budget discussions. The list specifically includes town hall remodeling, a maintenance building, community center, park improvements, sidewalk improvements, street improvements and storm drainage improvements. In addition to the specific items on the list, Mr. Lauer provided a list of potential funding sources. Discussion ensued relating to bond issues, grants and other forms of financial aid. Mr. Lauer briefly discussed the availability of rural development bonds carrying low interest rates and which are available only to communities with stormwater utilities. Unfortunately, rural development bonds also have significant upfront costs; the advantages and disadvantages of using bonds were briefly discussed. Mr. Young suggested that Mr. Lauer's recommendations should be prioritized and performed only within our yearly budgets and bonds should be discussed solely if and when they are ever needed. Mr. Liechty stated that the list is very inclusive and prioritization needs to be done. Mr. Lauer stated that the council, along with the town boards and office staff should be consulted regarding the proper prioritization of the specific items. Mr. Lauer does urge that the council consider the remodeling of the town hall as a priority to better adapt the existing structure to more efficient office space. Mr. Eastes discussed specifics regarding bonding as an option and provided sample loan figures and payback amounts over various years.

2010 BUDGET ADOPTION – Mr. Clendenen moved to adopt the 2010 budget with a change in the budget figure total for Local Roads and Streets increasing from \$35,000 to \$50,000. Mr. Eastes seconded. Discussion ensued regarding the previous budget reduction in the Local Roads and Streets Fund. Ms. Spannuth explained the reduction is a reflection of the current spending on road projects. The budget was unanimously adopted with an increase in the Local Roads and Streets Fund.

RESOLUTION 2009-02 – 2009 UNSPENT APPROPRIATIONS – Mr. Eastes moved to adopt resolution 2009-02, a resolution to not spend the approved budgets in the 2009 CCI fund, Rainy Day fund and Cumulative Fire Fund. Mr. Liechty seconded; the resolution passed unanimously.

SATURDAY NIGHT SPOTLIGHT – Ms. Garton provided a summary of the first downtown attraction, Saturday Night Spotlight, which had a great community turnout. She also stated that the park's recent Fall Festival was also a huge success.

WAL-MART GRANT – Mr. Steffens announced that the town received a grant from Wal-Mart for \$20,000.00 for the purchase of rain barrels to be placed throughout the town. Mr. Young expressed some concerns about the rain barrels and mosquito problems

if they aren't maintained and cleaned regularly. Mr. Steffens stated that there are lids on the barrels; he further stated that people would need to document the details of the usage of the barrels.

OCTOBER 6, 2009 MINUTES – The council adopted the October 6th minutes with corrections.

2010 SALARIES – Ms. Garton addressed the topic of the 2010 salaries. Ms. Garton suggested that even a small increase in line with the poor economic conditions would be appreciated. She asked that the council consider an additional week of vacation per year vs. a significant raise. Mr. Young complimented Ms. Garton and Ms. Spannuth on their hard work and work ethics. Mr. Eastes moved to approved a 1% wage increase for all employees across the board and provide Ms. Garton with an additional week of paid vacation per year with a one-week carryover. Mr. Clendenen seconded; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Eastes moved to increase the Clerk-Treasurer's salary by \$1,000.00 including a match of up to 10% to a retirement account. Mr. Liechty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VOUCHERS – The October 20, 2009 line item voucher forms were approved.

ADJOURNED - The meeting was adjourned until November 3, 2009.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

PAUL STEFFENS
Council President

PAMELA SPANNUTH
Clerk-Treasurer