

TOWN COUNCIL OF LEO-CEDARVILLE  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

MINUTES – Mr. Eastes moved to either read the minutes from August 19, 2008 aloud or provide copies of the minutes to the audience; the motion was seconded by Mr. Young. Mr. Eastes expressed that the people present should be aware of the minutes under consideration. Mr. Eastes amended the motion stating copies of the minutes should be provided to the audience; Mr. Young agreed. Motion carried and all present were provided a copy of the August 19, 2008 minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Ms. Spannuth provided the council with a copy of the town's current fund balance and budget report as well as a revised 2009 budget calendar. Mr. Eastes addressed the letter provided to the town from the State Treasurer's Office ensuring the safety of the town's funds if funds are held in an approved state depository. He would like written confirmation that Grabill Bank is considered a state insured depository according to the state of Indiana. The state insures over and beyond the \$100,000.00 FDIC insured limit. Ms. Spannuth will provide the council with the proper documentation.

PARTNERSHIP FOR WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT – Mr. Steffens briefed the council on the details of the agreement presented to the town by the Allen County Surveyor. The agreement states that the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality can and will work with the town's Stormwater Utility on compliance measures relating to NPDES Phase II "Rule 13". Mr. Liechty moved to accept the agreement; Mr. Eastes seconded. The agreement was approved with a unanimous vote.

VOUCHER APPROVAL – Mr. Eastes discussed the July invoice from the town attorney. He expressed concerns about the extent of the charges as compared to the value of services provided. Ms. Spannuth will be discussing the option of revisiting a retainer with Mr. Proctor. Mr. Eastes is requesting additional information such as a more detailed breakdown of what the attorney was working on during billable hours as well as contact names and phone numbers. He cautioned the council to be conservative as to when the town attorney is contacted as well as directed to carry out legal tasks.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT CLASS – Mr. Steve Gabot was present to introduce several students from his government class who will be attending the town council meetings.

TOWN GATEWAY SIGNS – Mr. Clendenen conveyed Ms. Garton’s recommendation that the town council consider placing two additional gateway signs to be located on corner of Hosler and Halter Roads and on Schwartz Road. A sign sample from a local vendor was passed around. No decisions were made on this topic.

LOCHNER ROAD SURFACE CONCERN – Mr. Clendenen addressed concerns relating to the new asphalt road surface placed on Lochner Road. Concerns were previously expressed that the base would not be sufficient on this road. According to the town engineer, additional surface may be required in the next few years, but the new surface is appropriate as an initial surface.

STORMWATER UTILITY BOARD MEMBER NEEDED – Mr. Clendenen discussed the vacancy on the town’s stormwater utility board created by the recent resignation of Mr. Tom Kurtz. Mr. Clendenen publicly expressed his appreciation for Mr. Kurtz’s dedicated service since the utility’s inception. The town is seeking names of any Leo-Cedarville residents interested and willing to serve on the board. Interested parties will be interviewed and considered for appointment.

SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT BOARD DISCUSSION – Mr. Eastes reviewed the list detailing the current sewer board members as provided by the Leo-Cedarville Regional Sewer District. He addressed his desire to improve communication and representation with the sewer district. He discussed the importance of having representatives from the town appointed to sit on the board. Mr. Clendenen recommended that Mr. Eastes contact IDEM regarding the process of increasing the number of board members on a sewer board. Mr. Eastes believes that the current board members are dedicated to serving the community, but he also believes that the town of Leo-Cedarville and its residents would benefit by having two (2) Leo-Cedarville town council appointees join the current sanitary sewer district’s decision-making process. If implemented and agreed to by the sanitary sewer district board, board membership would simply increase from a five (5) to a seven (7) member representative board.

DOWNTOWN SUMMIT – Mr. Clendenen reviewed the agenda for an upcoming meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> in Columbia City on ‘Bringing Vitality Back to our Downtown.’

ANNUAL IACT CONFERENCE – Mr. Clendenen highly recommended that the council members attend the upcoming annual IACT conference in South Bend. He specifically recommended attendance at Municipal Day during the conference. Many educational opportunities are available for local government officials during this time. Mr. Eastes opened discussion relating to the potential cost of the conference as well as whom from the town office and boards should attend.

ORDINANCE 2008-07 - NO PARKING ZONE ON MANNING (Cedarville) – Mr. Clendenen read an ordinance prepared for the purpose of establishing a ‘no-parking zone’ on Manning Street in Cedarville. Clarification will be sought from Schnelker

Engineering on a specific way to define the no-parking zone. The ordinance will be on the next agenda for introduction.

ORDINANCE 2008-06 - ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMIT ON LOCHNER ROAD – Mr. Eastes read ordinance 2008-06 for the purpose of introduction. The ordinance establishes a speed limit of 40 mph on Lochner Road between Schlatter Road and SR1. This ordinance will be on the next agenda for adoption.

SIDEWALK PLANNING – The town engineer will have mapping of existing sidewalks within the town available by the next meeting. This map will provide the council a concept of both existing sidewalks as well as areas in need. The engineer will further prepare a proposed master sidewalk plan following the preliminary mapping.

TORNADO SIREN – Mr. Steffens briefed the council on his meeting with the representative from Federal Siren. He recommends that the council wait and see what County Emergency Management does with the county-wide system prior to purchasing an additional siren for the town. It is imperative that the sirens within the town are compatible with the county's emergency management system.

TOWN WEBSITE – Mr. Eastes discussed the status of upgrading the town's website. The proposed web designer will be meeting with Ms. Spannuth and Ms. Garton as well as any interested councilmen to discuss and review the existing site and discuss the proposed new site. A service contract will be presented at the next meeting.

DOWNTOWN ACTION AGENDA – Mr. Clendenen opened discussion relating to the downtown action agenda. He summarized the origin of the downtown agenda for those present and opened the floor to questions. He addressed his intention to notify the public about when this topic is up for discussion although acknowledged that some people present at the meeting were interested in this topic.

A resident of the downtown area expressed concerns about changing the area according to the proposed plan; he stated that he moved there because it was quiet. Mr. Eastes spoke on his opinion of the plan and explained his desire to remove any references to the creation of a riverfront district from the plan. He does not however disagree with improving the downtown area. He wishes that the whole town were considered in the study instead of the limited area used.

Mr. Mark Schlatter asked several individual councilmen who had not spoken on the topic how they would vote on the plan as it is written. Mr. Liechty answered that he would not vote for it as it is currently written due to several flaws in the plan. Mr. Young agreed and stated that he would not vote for the plan as it is presently written. Mr. Schlatter further asked whether the components of concern within the plan could be removed so the essence of the plan can begin to be carried out.

Mr. Schlatter read sections of the plan that propose green space, a riverfront restaurant, additional parking and a town icon to be placed downtown; he expressed

concerns about the footprint that these things would take. Mr. Clendenen addressed the concerns expressed by Mr. Schlatter by assuring him that the council is not interested in acquiring large quantities of land downtown. He further stated that the council would not use eminent domain in the process of enhancing the downtown area.

Mr. Steffens expressed his frustration with the negative public reaction to the proposed plan as he views the plan as a guide, not an actual blueprint. He stated that the council only wishes to enhance an otherwise neglected area within the town; the council is not out to harm anyone in the process.

Mr. Clendenen discussed his willingness to respect people's concerns and not pursue a riverfront district. Mr. Schlatter added that the plan includes items that were not discussed within the planning committee. Mr. Eastes stated that the plan should reflect what the council members and community members would support instead of accepting a plan that encompasses items that are not acceptable to the community.

Mr. Clendenen recommended that the plan be adopted with the addition of verbiage notating that the town council does not at this time wish to consider adopting an enabling ordinance or establish a riverfront district. He does not feel that removing the consultants recommendations from the plan is wise since the downtown action agenda was their recommendation whether the council agrees with the elements of the plan or not.

VOUCHERS – The September 2, 2008 line item voucher form was approved via signatures.

ADJOURNED – Meeting adjourned until September 16, 2008.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

John Clendenen  
Council President

Pamela Spanuth  
Clerk-Treasurer