

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT
& BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER
HELD AT THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CENTER,
30200 TOWN CENTER ROAD, BEECHER, ILLINOIS
DECEMBER 14, 2009 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Lohmann called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: President Lohmann and Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Nelson Collins and Public Works Superintendent Bud Cowger.

GUESTS: Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Edward Zak, Scott Creech, George Schuitema, Katie Bonnan, Staci Biesterfeld, Luke Messing, Ally Meyer, Bob Carter, Saul Salamanca, Gerald Gabris, Ronald Bol and Kim Koutsky.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 24, 2009 workshop meeting and the November 23, 2009 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Bills were presented for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission (\$869.47) and the Beautification Commission (\$179.32). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment of the bills totalling \$1,048.79 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Clerk Conner read aloud a Christmas card from Esther Newberry from Dallas City, IL.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Bob Carter read a statement about new taxes being imposed by the government and issues related to the proposed third airport.

Katie Bonnan, Ally Meyer, Staci Biesterfeld and Luke Messing representing Beecher High School's National Honor Society (NHS) asked the Board permission to hold a 10K walk-a-thon for breast cancer research on April 30, 2010 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Beecher. A map of the route was provided and the NHS representatives asked for help with crowd control. It was the consensus of the Board to approve the request, pending Chief Weissgerber's approval of the route.

Edward Zak and Scott Creech from SEC Group came to introduce themselves to the Board and thank the Board for giving their firm a chance to do work for Beecher. They were also available to answer questions regarding engineering items to be considered later in the meeting.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review and the Treasurer was present to answer questions.

A list of bills totalling \$74,047.71 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Results from the November 24th workshop were provided in the packet for review. The next workshop is scheduled for January 12, 2010. The strategic plan will be discussed.

RESOLUTION #2009-20 - A Resolution adopting a five year strategic plan for Fiscal Year 2010 through Fiscal Year 2014. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-20. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann complimented the department heads for controlling spending.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber introduced Saul Salamanca as the new full-time Police Officer to replace Russell Ledezma.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an agreement with SEC Group for engineering observation services in the amount of \$9,649.00 for the Church Road east road improvement project. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an amendment to an agreement with Strand Engineering in the amount of \$10,003.20 for design completion of the Chestnut/Dixie Highway traffic signal. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski preferred continuing with Baxter and Woodman for bid letting for projects up until May 1st. Administrator Barber commented that he would like to have one engineer for all bid letting so the projects can be bid as one. Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an agreement with Baxter and Woodman for the design of Route #1 for \$250,000 in emergency repairs using state funds. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an agreement with SEC Group in the amount of \$10,000 for engineering observation of Route #1 for \$250,000 in emergency repairs using state funds. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed traffic safety issues at Eagle Lake Road and Route #1 and felt a left turn lane is needed. There has been a fatality at that intersection. Some Board members also expressed a need for a street light at that intersection.

The Board considered a proposal to share in the cost of installing a battery backup on the Church Road and Chestnut Lane L.E.D. traffic signals. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is willing to fund 50% of the project cost, but the Village must agree to fund the other 50%. The Board expressed concerns if the 50% funding from IDOT would be available at a later date. Trustee Szymanski recommended approval of this proposal feeling that this was a safety issue. The Board discussed if Will County would provide 50% matching grants for the Indiana Avenue traffic signal and if they should wait for that. The matter was deferred until the January 12th workshop meeting.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the letting of bids for the joint purchase of fuel for the period of February, 2010 through December, 2010. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The Water and Sewer Department monthly reports were included in the packet for review.

Watermain break season has arrived and the public was urged to be patient if there are any temporary losses of service.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve payment of bills from the Bond Redemption Account in the amount of \$223,880.50 and add an additional bill to Bond Trust Services for \$350, therefore making the total \$224,230.50. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the award of alternate bids and authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign contracts to contractors based on alternate bids provided in the spring, 2009 in the amount of \$48,553 (total contract amendments minus L & H Services alternate contract in the amount of \$5,090). Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the second lowest alternate contract to L & H Services of Beecher for HVAC in the amount of \$5,090, since the base bid contractor refused to honor its' alternate. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a contract with Thornel Associates, Inc. of Lisle, IL in the amount of \$5,163 to furnish and install wire mesh room partitions for the tool room, repair shop and water meter room. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing the purchase of concrete divider blocks for the materials storage area in an amount not to exceed \$5,520. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing the purchase of a steel guard rail for the three exposed interior walls of the Public Works facility in an amount not to exceed \$5,998. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger provided a report on the new Public Works facility. The curb cut will not be done until spring.

Trustee Wehling reported that the Ehlers Bequest Committee will meet after the first of the year to discuss a memorial.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Board considered an engineering services agreement with either Baxter and Woodman in the amount of \$25,000 or SEC Group in the amount of \$26,410 to take Church Road east, Nantucket Cove and The Preserve at Cardinal Creek to bid award for the road improvements only. Administrator Barber explained that the Village wants to get all curb work and resurfacing done with the letter of credit money and worry about bent b-boxes, valve vaults, etc., later when the properties develop. President Lohmann asked engineers from SEC Group what is involved in this project since both Baxter and Woodman and SEC Group bid the same price. This money will come out of the letter of credit. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve an engineering services agreement with Baxter and Woodman in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to take Church Road east, Nantucket Cove and The Preserve at Cardinal Creek to bid award for road improvements. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an agreement with SEC Group in an amount not to exceed \$42,000 for construction observation for the letter of credit work on the roadways and curbs only in Nantucket Cove and The Preserve at Cardinal Creek Subdivisions. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the Village Attorney and Code Enforcement Officer to pursue demolition of a lean-to in the rear of the old Wehmhoeffer's Hardware building on Gould Street owned by Bob Tully. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered extension of the building permit for 752 Penfield Street to Michael and Joanne Buchmeier. Trustee Ahrendt questioned whether an extension should be given because she has not been able to get a hold of Buchmeiers to get in and see what has been done to the building. President Lohmann said some progress has been made recently. Buchmeiers need to be told that this will be the last extension to get the building done. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to extend the building permit for 752 Penfield Street (Buchmeier) until July 1, 2010. The letter of extension will also request Buchmeier's attendance at the January 25th Board meeting to give a status report. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2009-21 - A Resolution of support for the continuation of the General Motors franchise to R. L. Reising Sales. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-21. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Building Department monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Economic Development Coordinator monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to accept subdivision improvements and a one year maintenance bond and the release of the letter of credit for Prairie Crossings South Unit III upon receipt and approval of the maintenance bond. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A letter of commitment was received from Castletown Homes not to build any more raised ranches as was constructed at 1519 Saddle Run Lane. This was done at the request of the Board after discussion regarding this matter in a workshop meeting.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing payment from the MGM Escrow Account in the amount of \$849.37 to NICOR Gas for past due natural gas use on the standby generator at the Cardinal Creek lift station. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann contacted the Superintendent of Schools about the *Teen, Partying and the Law* booklet he got at a liquor summit he attended a few weeks ago. There was good information in the book that he would like distributed in the high school so parents can know the law.

President Lohmann received a request from Mark Thompson for putting poles between the depot and the caboose. He wants to run a telegraph to the caboose. This is on railroad property. Mr. Thompson needs permission from the railroad and the Village to put poles up and Public Work's assistance to erect the poles. There were no objections to Mr. Thompson's request.

A public officials forum is scheduled for the January 11th Board meeting.

President Lohmann reported he and Administrator Barber had a meeting with Roy and Don DeGroot about problems with drainage off of Hunters Chase East Subdivision. The Degroofs received a price of \$38,340.63 from ADI Excavating to put a pipe in to alleviate drainage problems in their farm fields. The Village originally considered their drainage complaint approximately 3 years ago and did the engineering and committed to putting a line in at an estimated cost of \$24,000. The cost was to be paid at that time by developer John Lotton but the proposal was rejected because the property owners couldn't agree. DeGroot's proposal to have the work done increases the size of the pipe from the Village's previous proposal. The Village could offer to provide \$24,000 as was offered on the original proposal. However, the money would have to be paid by the Village and not the developer this time. This matter was for information only at this time. It was noted that the Village is currently in compliance with the Will County Stormwater Ordinance. Other adjoining property owners that will be affected may still not approve DeGroot's plan. President Lohmann recommended if the Board wants to do this that we only pay \$24,000. Questions were raised as to who caused this problem. The Board also wants to make sure we will not be sued for this in the future if we give Degroofs \$24,000. Much discussion followed. Much of the problem is felt to be due to broken field tiles in the farm fields. If the Village approves to give them money it will be to reimburse the contractor once work is done. The money will not be provided up front. No one from the Board wants to pay more than the \$24,000 if we have to pay anything at all. The matter was referred to the Village attorney to review and provide a legal opinion.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Gerald Gabris, Director of Public Administration Graduate Program at Northern Illinois University provided a presentation on surveying local elected officials. Board members then

completed a survey and returned it back to Mr. Gabris.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:25 p.m. to consider approval and release of executive session minutes and destruction of audio recordings of closed sessions. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 9:49 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2009-22 - A Resolution releasing certain closed session minutes and approving closed session minutes with one correction on March 9, 2009. Trustee Cleary made a motion adopting Resolution #2009-22. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2009-23 - A Resolution authorizing the destruction of audio recordings of closed sessions from June 14, 2005 to April 14, 2008. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-23. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk