

**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
APRIL 14, 2008 -- 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, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Engineer Ray Koenig and Attorney Tim Kuiper.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Dennis Sullivan from the Chicago Tribune, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Bob Petersen, Kevin Bouchard and Andrew Ahrendt.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 31, 2008 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction: Page 3, under Finance Committee, third paragraph, add Trustee Szymanski to the list of people to be on the interview committee for the financial selection process. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

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. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$178.96 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Resident Bob Petersen asked to take six parkway trees down and plant four new ones at 531 Pasadena and on the empty lot next door. Petersen stated that the six are old soft wood trees that constantly break. He is only replacing with four trees because the current trees are spaced too close together. Mr. Petersen hasn't decided as of yet what type of trees to plant and discussed tree species with the Board. Mr. Petersen was referred to staff and the Streets and Alleys Committee Chair to determine appropriate tree species to plant. The work won't be done immediately, it will be done gradually over the summer. Trustee Cleary made a motion to allow Bob Petersen to remove six trees in the parkway along 531 Pasadena and the lot next door and replace them with four trees. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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. The Board discussed the yearly revenue comparisons. Treasurer Collins commended the Board on the budget workshop and cuts that were made to balance the budget.

A list of bills totalling \$116,462.69 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Szymanski 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.

A report was provided on the April 1, 2008 budget workshop. The Beautification Commission will not be receiving any funding from the Village this year. Administrator Barber noted that the Beautification Commission has met and intends to plant all flowers this year that were planted last year, at their own expense.

RESOLUTION #2008-04 - A resolution adopting a spending policy for all Village expenditures. A draft of the policy was provided in the packet for review. President Lohmann asked if this policy applies to elected officials. Attorney Kuiper believed that the resolution was written to only apply to employees. The Board discussed credit cards held by employees and spending limits. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adopt Resolution #2008-04. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The U.S. Census Bureau certified that the Village's new population is 4,111, an increase of 1,141 new residents since the 2004 census. A copy of the letter was provided in the packet for review.

The Village's new website is up and running, with several new features. Trustee Szymanski commended Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer for her work on the web site.

ORDINANCE #1093 - An ordinance increasing the liquor license fees effective November 1, 2008. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1093. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann reported that Trinity Industrial is using Baxter and Woodman to do their planning for the Intermodal facility. Baxter and Woodman has billed the Village and the Village has paid the bill. President Lohmann asked if this would continue. He felt tax dollars should not be used for Trinity's speculation. President Lohmann stated that he is afraid the Village could be left with this expense. Options were discussed that included Trinity Industrial being required to post a letter of credit or stop running this through the Village. Administrator Barber commented that he believed that Trinity is no longer doing this but an unpaid bill remains from prior work that has been done. The work for the leachate study is also being done by Baxter and Woodman and not billed yet. This is also supposed to be paid by Trinity Industrial. Administrator Barber suggested that we require up front cash for proposed projects. Attorney Kuiper suggested a replenishing fund be set up for these types of projects. Outstanding money to be collected from Trinity Industrial is estimated at \$15,000-\$20,000. President Lohmann indicated he just wanted to express this concern. Nothing is to be done at this time.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review. Trustee Cleary questioned Chief Weissgerber on some of the items in the monthly report.

Chief Weissgerber provided an update on the traffic study conducted at the Orchard Lane and Lange Avenue intersection. The traffic study was conducted April 3rd until April 10th. A report was provided in the packet reflecting the number of cars and speed traveled during the study. Based on the volume of cars, speed traveled, and the intersection, Chief Weissgerber did not recommend a 4-way stop sign be put at that intersection. Chief Weissgerber plans to do more traffic studies around the Village now that we own the equipment to do the studies.

Chief Weissgerber reported on a program to establish a citizens corps in the Village of Beecher and stated that it looks like a good program. There is training, funding and much volunteer service involved. However, funding might be difficult to get with a lot of requirements to follow. Much documentation would need to be done and 11 people are required to be on the council. It would be difficult to get enough people involved to run this program at this time and would need a number of volunteers to make it work. It was felt that it would not be in the Village's best interest to establish this program at this time. Trustee Gardner asked if we know if any communities within

a 100 mile radius who have successfully implemented this. Chief Weissgerber will look into this matter.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve a request for the Beecher Recreation opening day parade on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. The parade line-up will be at Zion at 8:00 a.m. The parade will go down Penfield to Firemen's Park. A police escort has been requested. A copy of the request was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1094 - An ordinance declaring certain police equipment items as surplus equipment so that it can be sold and/or properly disposed of. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1094 to declare certain items as surplus equipment. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE #1095 - An ordinance establishing a \$2 per billing charge to be applied to all sewer billing accounts as a mosquito abatement fee effective with the May, 2008 billing cycle. Clerk Conner raised a question as to whether those who receive only refuse bills and not sewer bills would be included in this fee. The Board intended to have all accounts pay the fee. Some discussion followed. It was decided to amend the motion to include all billing accounts. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1095. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary provided Administrator Barber with a full size color map showing the areas infested with the Emerald Ash Borer. This map will be available at the Village Hall for review.

Status was provided on the Hillcrest Drive issue. A memo from Economic Development Coordinator Meyer was provided in the packet for review. President Lohmann noted that this is not a Village or Washington Township matter, it is a County matter. A meeting is being set up between Washington Township, the Village, and Will County officials to try and straighten this matter out. There is a problem with the platting being done incorrectly in the early 1900s. Trustee Cleary asked to be contacted when a meeting has been scheduled.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

Engineer Koenig provided an update on well #5. A little work needs to be done by Kamp Synergy, plus final painting, floors, landscaping and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) permit needs to be done. The well is very close to being up and working.

Status was provided on the study of treating leachate from the Goodenow landfill. Engineer Koenig gave Administrator Barber a draft copy of the report but is waiting for some more information from Sewer Operator Bill Merritt. A copy should be provided to the Board by the next meeting. Engineer Koenig reported that there may be some concerns with ammonia pertaining to this leachate from the landfill. This would involve a temporary holding tank at the sewer plant. The Board asked questions of Engineer Koenig, who was asked to provide the further information needed a week or two before a decision needs to be made.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Firemen's Park/OSLAD Grant project. A meeting was held the previous week. The contractor is working on finishing up the project, but most work is weather related.

It was reported that seed should be laid in Firemen's Park in approximately three weeks. The permanent bathrooms were placed on site the previous week, but still need to be hooked up to water and sewer.

A draft of the Spring 2008 newsletter is not yet available. Upon request by Trustee Szymanski, Clerk Conner will email out a draft of the newsletter articles before the next Board meeting.

The Board considered a lease with the Union Pacific Railroad in the amount of \$1,550 per year for 99 years with a 3% annual escalator for Depot Park and the east side of Lion's Park. Trustee Cleary noted that this agreement includes the Village installing an additional fence by Lion's Club Park. This is due to part of the walking path being on railroad property. Treasurer Collins noted what the overall cost of the lease would be over 99 years and asked what would happen if the Village didn't sign the lease. It would cost the Village money to restore the property to what it was before. It was used as a spoils pile by the old public works garage. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a lease with the Union Pacific Railroad in the amount of \$1,550 per year. Attorney Kuiper wanted to change the lease to a 15% increase every five years before signing. Trustee Wehling rescinded the motion and Trustee Ahrendt concurred to allow the Attorney time to further review the lease.

An update was provided on the Park District Exploratory Committee. Trustee Wehling reported that the recent meeting went well. A representative from Crete Park District and others from the Beecher area were in attendance. Diane Carson is taking the lead on this matter since she has experience with park districts. No date has been set for any future meetings at this time. Trustee Wehling noted that he is getting a feel as to whether a park district is wanted by the community. Administrator Barber asked if a referendum is being considered for the fall, as this would be a bad time with the Washington Township open space initiative and the Village bond referendum. Administrator Barber

had heard that a park district referendum may also be held in the fall. Trustee Wehling stated that as far as he knew there is not a park referendum being planned for the Fall.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is scheduled to meet on April 24, 2008. The agenda includes a recommendation on the Creekside East Subdivision. A hearing to consider Phase III lands for Trinity Industrial has been postponed until the May PZC meeting.

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 Board considered granting an extension of the pre-annexation agreement for Trinity Industrial, Phase I lands, for 180 days. Trustee Ahrendt asked since Trinity Industrial owes the Village fees, would we want to approve this agreement at this time. Staff felt the Village needs to give them time to pay the bill which was only issued two weeks ago. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion granting an extension of the pre-annexation agreement for Trinity Industrial, Phase I lands, for 180 days. Trustee Cleary 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 provided results of the Annual Town Meeting held at the Washington Township Center. He wanted to speak about the mausoleum at the meeting but was not allowed to discuss it.

Administrator Barber provided a report on the Eastern Will County Sewer District meeting he attended earlier in the day. No recommendations were given at the meeting. Peotone and Beecher are looking at different aspects of this matter. Peotone is not open to regionalization at this time. There is nothing in writing yet.

An update was provided on the Beecher/Crete Facilities Planning Area (FPA). A copy of a letter from Engineer Wold to the IEPA explaining some of the concerns we had with Crete's application was provided in the packet for review. Mr. Koenig from Baxter and Woodman reported that in the March 31st letter Baxter and Woodman clarified that when Crete submitted the FPA application it did not include the total cost to serve the area in question. Mr. Koenig reported that the letter shows that Beecher's cost to service the area with sewer was approximately half of that of Thorn Creek Sanitary.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to cancel the May 26th Board meeting due to it falling on Memorial Day. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Appointments for Fiscal Year 2008/2009 were deferred until the next Board meeting.

RESOLUTION #2008-05 - A resolution supporting the first week of May of each year as Public Service Recognition Week in the Village of Beecher. President Lohmann wondered if we could ask for students of the school to attend a Village Board meeting. The Board discussed having a mock Board meeting with students as in the past. It was the consensus of the Board to send a letter to School Superintendent Obradovich asking for students to come to a Village Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2008-05. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

President Lohmann noted that Mr. Fence has worked to get the price down to \$8,000, the amount budgeted, to install a fence in Lion's Park. The owner of Mr. Fence has been informed that she won't be paid right away. There was some discussion about the lease for the railroad property. Trustee Szymanski reported that the Lion's Club has considered but can't provide any funding for this fence cost at this time. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with having the fence contractor begin work on putting up the fence at Lion's Park. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

President Lohmann requested a closed session be held to discuss pending litigation and personnel.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:47 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and personnel. Trustee Kuhlman 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 8:55 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Note: Personnel was not discussed during the closed session.

H. NEW BUSINESS

President Lohmann asked Board members about those who may be seeking election for Village President in 2009 because he is considering who to appoint as President Pro-Tem for his annual appointments.

Administrator Barber reported on Airport Authority legislation House Bill 2063, Senate Amendment #1 that was introduced on Friday. The bill will be working through committees this week and may come before the legislature by next week. There will be seven members on the Airport Authority: four appointed by the Will County Executive, the Iron Ring mayors get to pick one seat, Cook County gets one appointed by the Governor, and one member from Kankakee County will be appointed by the Kankakee County Board. There was some discussion on this.

President Lohmann asked Attorney Kuiper if the Village can establish special service areas (SSA) for defunct homeowner's associations. Attorney Kuiper said yes according to most of the wording of the development agreements. Attorney Kuiper said the Village would have to hold a public hearing to establish an SSA. It was discussed that many of the references to a special service area were in homeowner's association agreements not development agreements. Attorney Kuiper doesn't know if we can enforce this if it is only referenced this way. President Lohmann noted that he wants to have a mechanism in place to pay for maintenance in case a homeowner's association goes defunct. Attorney Kuiper will look at the different options for this and let the Board know.

The Board discussed no longer having the Village attorney at meetings to save money. It was discussed with Attorney Kuiper and he had no problem with it. From now on Attorney Kuiper will come to Board meetings only on an as needed basis.

The Village had a request by Robbins Incinerator to take our wood chips. They would take the chips but not pay for them. Staff is not sure if they will pick them up. Staff is also to ask them about taking our leaves. On Tuesday, April 15th, President Lohmann, Administrator Barber and Public Works Superintendent Cowger will take a tour of Robbins Incinerator and ask questions about them taking our wood chips and leaves.

The Board again discussed the Hillcrest Drive issue and whether the Village should get further involved or leave it up to Will County. Staff will get Will County involved and see how things go. Attorney Kuiper suggested sending a letter to the school district and letting them know about the situation. The Village is not to provide services to Hillcrest Drive.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk