

92

**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 8, 2013 -- 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, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

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

GUESTS: Andrew Kriz from the Beecher Herald, Andrew Ahrendt, Chris Szymanski, Kim Koutsky, Kevin Bouchard, George Schuitema, Joe Durante, Greg McGinley and Bill Hearn.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 11, 2013 Board meeting and March 25, 2013 Budget Workshop. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: A report on income received since the last meeting was given.

President Lohmann provided his State of the Village Address and congratulated the Board and staff for their work in the last year for bringing spending down and balancing the budget. President Lohmann stated that he looks forward to a bright future for the Village and noted successes over the years due to all those who worked on the various Village Boards and said infrastructure is the key to the future of the Village.

PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

(Handled out of agenda order to recognize guests present)

The Board considered two variances to permit a sugar storage silo at Dutch American Foods at 1362 Dutch American Way in the Trim Creek Business Park, with a height variance of ten feet and a front

yard setback variance of five feet. The 50' silo would be located on the front side of the building which would protrude 5' into the required 40' front yard setback. The petitioner was not present at the meeting. A copy of the application was provided in the packet for review and a copy of the PZC minutes were also provided for review. Trustee Ahrendt summarized the petitioner's request and results of the PZC meeting. Chief Weissgerber reported that the parking issue on Dutch American Way seems to have improved but there is still an occasional issue with a few truck drivers. The Chief and Dutch American Foods has tried to inform as many truck drivers as possible about the new parking regulations and the Police Department will begin issuing tickets soon to those that don't comply. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) recommendation was to approve the variance with the condition that the silo be painted white or a neutral color and the petitioner's logo may also be painted on the silo.

ORDINANCE #1180 - An Ordinance establishing two variances to permit a sugar storage silo at Dutch American Foods, 1362 Dutch American Way, Trim Creek Business Park, with a height variance of ten feet and a front yard setback variance of five feet. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1180. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

The Board considered an ordinance establishing two variances to permit a solid fence in lieu of a 50% open fence at a height of six feet in lieu of a maximum height of five feet as required by ordinance at 1655 Foxhound Trail. The petitioner, Mr. Durante, was present. The proposed fence is a 5 feet solid fence with a 1 foot open lattice top. Some of the reasons cited by the petitioner for the need for the fence included the grade difference in the yard, the dog next door and greater privacy and security for his children. The PZC voted unanimously to recommend approval of the variances subject to two conditions: 1) A permanent pool would be installed by June 1, 2015 or the petitioner would have to reappear before the PZC, and 2) A gate would be installed at the rear of the fence to access the 10 feet rear easement for mowing. PZC member Koutsky reported that the addition of the pool to the application was most likely the reason for the unanimous approval of the variance. Without the pool, the variance may not have been approved. There was discussion about the drainage of the lot. Trustee Cleary said he looked at the property and took some photos. He did see the neighbor's dog which was barking as petitioner said, but said he felt there wasn't that steep of a grade change and he didn't see need for a 6 feet tall solid fence. He can still achieve some kind of privacy without a solid fence. Trustee Kypuros disagreed and said he felt there is a drastic pitch to the yard which was one of the issues considered by the PZC at the hearing. It was noted the stipulation in the variance by the PZC that the petitioner install a pool within 2 years of installing the fence. Administrator Barber noted that if the pool is taken down at some point then the fence would become a legal non-conforming use and he can be required to take the fence down. Trustee Szymanski also asked the question from the PZC meeting as to why privacy should be based on a pool. He explained that solid fences are a safety issue for police officers. Trustee Szymanski also noted air flow could be an issue with a solid fence especially on windy days. Trustee Kypuros noted that the petitioner got 31 signatures from neighbors supporting the fence and many of them testified on his behalf at the PZC hearing and he followed all

proper procedures, therefore he had no objections to the request. Trustee Cleary asked what type of pool he intends to install. Mr. Durante said an above ground permanent pool but hasn't looked into specifics yet. There was discussion on the need for the solid 6 foot fence and grade difference on his lot. President Lohmann advised Mr. Durante he should call the police on the dog barking issue. Mr. Durante said he has spoken to his neighbor directly about this. Lengthy discussion followed.

ORDINANCE#1181 - An Ordinance establishing two variances to permit a solid fence in lieu of a 50% open fence at a height of 6 feet in lieu of a maximum height of 5 feet subject to the two PZC conditions (as listed above) and the pool be installed before June 1, 2015. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1181. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (1) Trustee Cleary.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered amending the Village Code pertaining to building codes at the request of the Building Inspector. This would update Village Code up to the 2006 version.

ORDINANCE #1182 - An Ordinance amending Title #4 of the Village Code pertaining to building codes. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1182. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, 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.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion approving a bill from the MGM Escrow Account for Hall Signs in the amount of \$1,870.52, for the replacement of street name signs. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Nothing new to report on the Beautification Commission.

Trustee Szymanski reported that the Fourth of July Commission took possession of the 2013 Camaro for the raffle car. The Firemen's Park employee began working this week.

The next Veteran's Memorial engraved brick order will be placed on April 10th. The next Ehler's Commission meeting is scheduled for May 1st.

Trustee Kypuros reported on the Youth Commission's Parent's Night Out fundraiser being held on April 13th at the Amvet Hall.

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. Administrator Barber noted that before approving the Treasurer's report the Board should approve transfer of money from the Watermain Replacement Account to the Capital Account in the amount of \$38,000 to pay for the Maxwell Street watermain replacement. Treasurer Collins also said he has received a couple proposals for refinancing the water loan and should be able to make a recommendation soon.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and the report of Financial Activity for the prior month and authorize the transfer of \$38,000 from the Watermain Replacement Account to the Water and Sewer Capital Account. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the previous month were included in the packet for review.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$102,903.22. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board budget workshop was held on March 25th. The public hearing on the budget has been scheduled for April 22, 2013.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

A report was provided on school safety and security issues. Chief Weissgerber reported that he has ordered some of the equipment. A security audit is being conducted of the schools and training exercises have been held. Chief Weissgerber also needs to meet with other schools in the Village to determine their special needs (i.e. Zion, preschools, etc.).

The Beecher Recreation baseball parade is scheduled for April 27th from Zion down Penfield Street to Firemen's Park. Chief Weissgerber reported that a squad car will lead the parade.

Administrator Barber stated that Beecher High School will host a 10K walk on April 25th. The Village will need to plan for this with street closures, etc.

gc

The cut off date is approaching to order the next squad car, so Administrator Barber asked Chief Weissgerber if he needs this item added to the next meeting agenda. Chief Weissgerber will check into this matter.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Trustee Szymanski reported that the Post Office requested repairs be made to the parking area and alley. A copy of their request letter was provided in the packet for review. The Committee is looking into this.

A pre-construction meeting for the 2013 road program has been scheduled for April 15th at 10 a.m. at the Village Hall.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The Sewer Department monthly report was provided in the packet for review. Administrator Barber said the average daily flow is of concern, higher than he has ever seen before. President Lohmann said he felt it was due to rain and then snow melting at the same time. This matter could put the sewer plant on critical review or restricted status if we continue with these high numbers.

Superintendent Cowger provided a report on the Maxwell Street watermain project.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE #1183 - An Ordinance establishing a Cancer Memorial Commission. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve Ordinance #1183. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling reported that the Brian Jones memorial benches have been ordered. The benches should be delivered in 2-3 weeks and will be installed by Public Works.

Trustee Wehling stated that he still needs to meet with Chief Weissgerber to discuss the names, addresses and regulations for all Village Parks.

The special newsletter regarding the new refuse collection cans was mailed March 22nd. The large cans presented a problem today with blowing in the wind.

The Spring newsletter will be mailed on April 10th.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE
(All items for this Committee handled at beginning of meeting)

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported that the Will County Center for Economic Development is interested in developing a corridor for proper planning along the Illiana Expressway. A workshop will be held this Wednesday. Public meetings on the Illiana Expressway are upcoming in Peotone and Lowell.

There was nothing new to report regarding the proposed third airport.

State Representative Elgie Sims and State Senator Donne Trotter will hold office hours at the Village Hall from 1-3 p.m. on April 24th. Trustees were encouraged to stop in and talk to them.

Discussion continued on the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). President Lohmann asked for any further thoughts or ideas since this came up at the last meeting. Administrator Barber said he has drafted forms for each subdivision. Attorney Kuiper indicated that this was discussed in 2006, and that local ARC Boards being in place for each subdivision is the best way to enforce these issues. The Village should make sure these Boards are still in place. President Lohmann said there has been a problem in MGM with getting sign-offs on permits and discussed the issue of foundation plantings not being installed. Administrator Barber said he will try to continue working with the ARC Boards. Trustee Kypuros said he would like to approach MGM to try and get them to put brick ledges on their homes in the future, since current materials being used may be replaced with vinyl in the future which wouldn't look good. Without a brick ledge being initially installed, brick can't be an option to put on the house if the current material is removed.

President Lohmann reported that the Village of Peotone was served notice by Aqua Illinois on a plan to run a minimum size 20" watermain from Manteno to University Park. A copy of the memo was provided in the packet for review.

President Lohmann made appointments to the newly formed Cancer Memorial Commission:

- Dean Bettenhausen, Chairman
- Scott Wehling, Vice-Chairman
- Barb Hodgett, Secretary
- Christine Szymanski, Treasurer
- Myra Kocsis
- Howard Perry
- Nadia Schmidt
- Susan Sebastian
- Michael Stanula

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve appointments to the Cancer Memorial Commission. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann reported that the "Wounded Warrior" family moved in on Friday. An article was on the front page of today's Daily Journal. Public Works employees helped move him in. President Lohmann took the Public Works employees and the new family out to lunch, welcoming them into the community. The new family said they were happy to live in Beecher. President Lohmann commented that if the Village would like to do something for the veteran in the future to assist him it would be nice.

President Lohmann reported that there is a lot of trash along the roadways and ditches and would like to have an annual "clean-up" day, and would like to have the Youth Commission involved in this project. Trustee Kypuros will look to coordinate this effort with Public Works.

H. NEW BUSINESS

At 8:15 p.m. President Lohmann was honored by the Village Board, staff, former Board members and residents for his 28 years of service to the Village of Beecher as Trustee and Village President and a video of his contributions to the community was shown. The meeting was then adjourned. Cake and punch was then served.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janet Conner, Village Clerk