

**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  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 -- 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, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, and Police Officer Ryan Hopkins.

**GUESTS:** Barb Dorman from Southland Voice, Andrew Ahrendt, Bob Howard, Joe Burgess and Laurie Summers.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 8, 2011 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt 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 provided.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** A life safety award was presented by Trustee Kuhlman and Chief Weissgerber to Auxiliary Police Officer Ryan Hopkins for saving the life of a worker at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July carnival. Officer Hopkins was also sworn in by Clerk Conner as a new part-time police officer and was introduced to the Board.

Laurie Summers, representing the Southland Friends of Labor, announced a donation to the Youth Commission, and Steve Crowley from the Elevator Constructors Local #2 presented the \$500 donation check to Youth Commission Chairman Jonathan Kypuros. Ms. Summers and Mr. Crowley both commended Trustee Kypuros for his work with the Youth Commission.

Joe Burgess, Washington Township Clerk, congratulated and thanked the Village for the new Veteran's Memorial and the work done in accomplishing this.

Mr. Burgess also congratulated Trustee Kypuros on the first Youth Commission event and offered help on future events, if needed.

Mr. Burgess announced the Senior breakfast this Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, movie night Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, and flu shots at the Washington Township Center on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **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. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report of activity for the month of August. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the month of July were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totalling \$102,347.29 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, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber reported that the auditors are not quite finished yet. They will come back to the Village Hall for another half day to finish up.

The Board was asked to consider new projects or programs for the five-year financial plan. Administrator Barber used the example to add the Village newsletter to the plan because it is becoming increasingly difficult to sell ads. Trustee Szymanski asked if funding for parks should be put in this plan. President Lohmann said he received a letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for an open house in Joliet on September 28<sup>th</sup> to help plan future road programs. Trustee Kypuros suggested a possible escalator for funding the Youth Commission for future years once fundraising has leveled off. Trustee Kypuros also suggested an "adopt a park" program to help fund maintenance of the parks. Liabilities of this program were discussed.

**ORDINANCE #1146** - An Ordinance adopting the video and cable customer protection law as required by State statute. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1146. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1147 - An Ordinance authorizing the Village President to sign a franchise agreement with Comcast through December 30, 2021. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1147. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A liability coverage update was provided. No changes will be made to the Village's liability insurance at this time.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that he will only conduct one more mosquito spraying this year, and will then do equipment maintenance to finish out the year. Trustees Wehling and Kuhlman commended him on mosquito abatement and said that residents appeared happy with the mosquito spraying. Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger explained that the Village may have to pay a permit fee in the future for doing mosquito abatement.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to establish Halloween trick-or-treat hours on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4-7 p.m. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Lion's Club will be serving hot dogs from 6 to 8 p.m. on Halloween.

## **C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE**

A street patching update was provided. Superintendent Cowger explained the repairs needed on Miller Street east of Woodward Street. Repairs needed on other streets were also discussed. Since some of the patches may have sub-base failure which will require the contractor to go deeper, the base bid price may go up somewhat. After some discussion, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve an additional amount not to exceed \$13,000 for sub-base repairs. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered approving a change order to the street resurfacing bid to include six watermain and storm sewer repair patches at various locations in town. It was also discussed if this expense should come out of the Public Infrastructure Account or if this account should only be used for doing larger projects. Trustee Szymanski made a motion approving a change order to the street resurfacing bid to include six watermain and storm sewer repair patches at various locations in the Village in the

amount of \$11,270 with 1/3 of the cost to come out of the General Fund and 2/3 of the cost to come out of Operations and Maintenance. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Action on street name signs was tabled until February, 2012.

The Board continued discussion on the selection and installation of way finding signs. Trustee Szymanski explained sign design types and locations for these signs and there was much discussion on these issues. Public Works will be asked to build sign replicas and put them up to determine if the signs might be a visibility hazard before ordering the actual signs. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve selection and installation of way finding signs in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 with funding coming from the Street Department. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A crack sealing update was provided.

A tree trimming update was provided.

Leaf collection begins on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

An update was provided on the Pine Street flooding. Hamilton Engineering has begun their drainage area study. The Board discussed the wet bottom versus dry bottom scenarios.

Fourth of July celebration financial results for 2011 were provided in the packet for review. Treasurer Collins reported that approximately \$142,000 was brought in, with expenses of \$124,000, for a profit of \$18,000.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion approving a contract with Melrose Pyrotechnics for the July 4, 2012 fireworks show in the amount of \$23,500. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

The water billing register for July and August was provided in the packet for review.

Superintendent Cowger reported that over sixty new meters have been installed to date. The additional forty meters should be installed by November. Administrator Barber reported that these new meters are much more accurate than the old ones.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the \$7,000 in SCADA system upgrades are on order.

An update was provided on the sewer plant roof damage.

The Village has received an I.S.O. report on its water distribution system, which was provided in the packet for review. Superintendent Cowger explained that the ISO company determines insurance rates for homes. Beecher has been upgraded to a Class 4 from a Class 5 which should lower fire insurance rates.

Superintendent Cowger reported that all repairs are done following the August 24<sup>th</sup> watermain break at Oak Park and Penfield. He attributes two breaks at the same time due to possible brown outs. President Lohmann asked for the true cost on this repair project. Staff will put numbers together on this.

An update was provided on the Beecher Youth Commission. Trustee Kypuros reported that the overnight campout had 138 children in attendance, along with parents. Fourteen families camped out. All went great and there was positive feedback from attendees. Trustee Kypuros also commented on the waiver and other forms the Commission has established. Administrator Barber noted that the insurance company is concerned that we screen volunteers for sex offenders, etc. This will need to be worked out through the Police Department. Trustee Kypuros also said he would like to see an ice rink installed this winter. It has been talked about in the past but was never done. Trustee Szymanski reported that the Fourth of July Commission wanted to do this in the past and is willing to pay the cost to do this. The rink would be put in Firemen's Park outfield #1. Trustee Szymanski will look into the Fourth of July Commission minutes to see the cost for this. There were no objections from the Board to the ice skating rink. Administrator Barber also noted the need to establish park rules for use of the rink in the park. Only the left field lights should be used so they don't bother neighbors. Trustee Kypuros said Youth Commission members will be responsible for turning the lights on and off. Details will need to be worked out. President Lohmann suggested that lights in Firemen's Park should be put in the five-year plan.

#### **E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Wehling provided results from the Veteran's Memorial dedication held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, and said everything went very well. It was estimated that approximately 300-600 people attended the event. Trustee Wehling thanked the committee for doing a great job over the last two years to get this done and help from the Amvets, Public Works, the Village and all in the community for supporting the project. All Board members agreed that the dedication was great. Trustee Wehling said the

Beecher High School Band was unbelievable. Everyone put forth a great effort. Staff will send a letter to the High School thanking them for the band's performance. Bob Howard commented that he was

touched by the dedication also.

The Board discussed playground equipment for Water Tower Park. Trustee Szymanski suggested looking into the state surplus property website because he has seen playground equipment on that site. This item will be in the budget for next year.

An update was provided on the Fall newsletter. Surveys will be included with the newsletter. Staff is having a hard time selling ads this time.

Safety and maintenance inspections of Village facilities occurred in late August and a report was provided in the packet for review.

The Board considered a proposal for a “Tractors For A Cure” event next year in Firemen’s Park. Administrator Barber explained that he wants the park to be used but need to recognize neighbors of the park and their inconvenience. Administrator Barber suggested that the Village Board limit use of the park to only so many of these types of events per year. Some rules need to be established. Trustee Szymanski asked some questions about logistics of the Tractors For A Cure event. Trustee Kypuros felt the \$500 deposit was too low if they would be using the food stand. Use of equipment versus just use of a grill would be different. Staff will work on coming up with rules and fees. “Tractors for a Cure” sponsor Dean Bettenhausen will be asked to come to the October 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

#### **F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

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 authorizing the use of a template annexation agreement for distribution to all petitioners for annexation as recommended by the adhoc annexation agreement committee. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling commented that he would like to stop the practice of deferring fees until certificate of occupancy.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the Village President to create an annexation committee when necessary consisting of various local taxing bodies and up to three Village Board members upon advice of counsel. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The consensus of the Board agreed that at least one Trustee should be added to this Committee.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion establishing a set fee in the new template annexation agreement of \$100 minimum per housing unit for Washington Township for benefits or programs that will benefit seniors with the fee to be paid at time of plat recordation. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to pay bills from the MGM (Preserve at Cardinal Creek) and Nantucket Cove escrow accounts in the total amount of \$2,472.84. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Kypuros.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber asked if a contract should be secured with Dustin Karstensen for maintenance of these lights. Staff will look into this.

### **G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

An update was provided on the Illiana Expressway.

President Lohmann apologized for not introducing some of the Trustees at the Veteran's Memorial dedication.

An update was provided on the third airport. President Lohmann reported that Susan Shea sent an email to say a project coordinator has been hired for technical oversight of the airport. President Lohmann and Administrator Barber also met recently with Susan Shea about property acquisition for the airport. Bob Howard said there is a governance issue at the Will County level right now.

Results were provided from the August 29<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Committee meeting.

Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the Village President to sign a letter of intent to join the Will Utilities Aggregation Group (WUAG) as a founding member for the purposes of aggregating all residential and small business accounts for the purchase of electric power. President Lohmann and Administrator Barber explained how the process works and that this would affect all residents of Beecher. Administrator Barber said that in the future the voters will decide if it is something they want to do. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered hosting a business breakfast with local businesses to gauge their opinion on Village services and community needs. Treasurer Collins suggested not to have high level Village officials at this meeting but have two Village representatives at the meeting. Marcy Meyer is willing

to do this, and perhaps have George Schuitema or Kim Koutsy as other representatives. The Village will also have to look into who to have as additional representative, someone not connected with a business. Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing \$300 from the Village Economic Development line item funding for holding a business breakfast with local businesses to gauge their opinion on Village services and community needs. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion approving Village ownership and maintenance of a culvert it has installed at 615 Oak Park Avenue. The Board discussed the reason for this. Superintendent Cowger explained how the culvert was enclosed and why. Some felt it was more a storm sewer than a culvert. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann appointed Trish Moran to replace Lisa Gaidar on the Youth Commission. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve President Lohmann's appointment. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes of the Intergovernmental meeting held on August 29, 2011. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:44 p.m. to discuss land acquisition. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 10:15 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.



## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

President Lohmann announced a HUD Planning Grant Program email he received earlier in the day for the reuse of older buildings and structures.

Administrator Barber asked if the Board wanted to hold another public officials' forum, and when. It was the consensus of the Board not to hold a forum this year.

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, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk