

**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
NOVEMBER 14, 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 and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

GUESTS: Andrew Ahrendt, George Schuitema, Kim Koutsky, Jessica Edelman, Dale and Cecilia Bell, Mitch Cadwallader, Michael Peters and Hugh O'Hara.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 10, 2011 Board meeting and October 25, 2011 Workshop meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Clerk Conner asked if any Board members were interested in attending the Will County Governmental League reception in Joliet on December 8th. 3) Clerk Conner announced that beginning January 2012 all elected officials will be required to take on-line training for the FOIA/OMA through the Attorney General's website.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Dale Bell, 423 Miller Street, expressed concerns about the amount of crime and types of crimes in Beecher recently and asked the Village to be proactive in addressing the issue. Administrator Barber said that much of what is going on is in rental property and is difficult to enforce. Administrator Barber suggested police meet with landlords and let them know they need to address problems, and suggested that Mr. Bell meet with Chief Weissgerber and the Public Safety Chair to discuss concerns. Chief Weissgerber also addressed questions by explaining his procedures

for the way problems are being handled. The Chief commented that many of the problems are also due to the bad economy. Trustee Szymanski raised the issue of forming neighborhood watch programs.

Hugh O'Hara from the Will County Governmental League provided a presentation on the creation of the Will Utility Aggregation Group (WUAG) for the purposes of providing cheaper electric supply rates to the residents of participating municipalities. Mr. O'Hara said that the WCGL is working with a consultant on this project who has expertise in this area. The Board asked questions of Mr. O'Hara. Contracts would most likely run 12-26 months. There will be a municipal referendum and a county-wide unincorporated referendum to determine participation.

Jessica Edelman of Gallagher Risk Management Services provided a presentation on her proposal to save the Village money on its liability insurance. She has met with Administrator Barber and Clerk Conner to go over the details of the plan. Her plan will save the Village \$20,591 in the first year. After checking her references with other municipalities, staff recommended approval of the switch over to Gallagher for the liability insurance. Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the change in insurance brokers and carriers from the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) to Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services and authorize payment of the premium in the amount of \$62,769 for 2012. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, 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. Trustee Cleary made a motion approving the Treasurer's report and action taken by the Treasurer for the month of October. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

A list of bills totalling \$99,146.63 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. President Lohmann noted unnecessary spending by some department heads. The matter has been addressed with those department heads – mostly relating to vehicle maintenance.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the OSLAD loan payoff.

ORDINANCE #1150 - An Ordinance authorizing the holding of a referendum on March 20, 2012 asking the voters of the Village whether to aggregate residential and small commercial electrical accounts for the purposes of joint purchasing electric supply at rates lower than those provided by the Illinois Power Agency (IPA). Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1150. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1151 - An Ordinance adopting a tax levy for 2011 collectible in 2012. Trustee Cleary explained that Will County will only approve 1.5% increase. Trustee Kypuros voiced his opposition to any tax levy increase. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1151. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Kypuros.

Motion Carried.

The State of Illinois issued its fiscal analysis of Beecher based on the audit for year ending April 30, 2010.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber stated that there were no incidents to report for Halloween patrols.

Trustee Cleary asked Chief Weissgerber about the LiveScan program with the state which allows fingerprints to be taken electronically and automatically share the prints with the state. The machine is not working properly and problems are being worked out.

Administrator Barber reported that the Centennial monument in front of the fire station was struck by a vehicle and the vehicle owner's insurance company will pay for the necessary repairs. It is a Village monument on Fire District property. A total rebuild of the monument will be done, and may not be able to be completed until spring.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$39,912.78 to Gallagher Asphalt for the 2011 road repair program from the Public Infrastructure sales tax account. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Crack sealing has not started yet.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that 60 loads of leaves have been picked up so far this year. Pickup will continue until the week after Thanksgiving.

An update was provided on brush collection.

Repairs are being made to the snowflake decorations. Decorations and holiday banners will be installed next week.

Twenty two trees will be planted this week throughout the Village.

Trustee Szymanski stated that he, Administrator Barber and President Lohmann met with an asphalt recycling company about reheating or reusing existing asphalt for resurfacing some streets in town. There is a need to determine what is under our streets. The Village may need to do some boring to determine the base under the streets before staff can decide if we can resurface with this method. There may be tar and chip underneath, or may be very little base under the roads. Trustee Szymanski will obtain prices to do the analysis from two different engineering firms.

Trustee Szymanski discussed way-finding signs and showed what he is proposing. The consensus of the Board approved Trustee Szymanski's proposal for way-finding signs. Locations have already been looked at so they won't block visibility. Trustee Kuhlman commented on the wording of Historical Downtown Beecher instead of saying Business District on the sign. Trustee Szymanski will work on wording for the signs with Trustee Kuhlman.

Trustee Szymanski showed the draft of the new Village logo that the committee has been working on.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The water billing register for the months of September and October were provided in the packet for review.

Superintendent Cowger reported that workers will be out Tuesday to bring new equipment and make updates to existing Scada equipment.

Trustee Kypuros estimated that approximately 1,000 people attended the Youth Commission's Trunk or Treat event and it was a success. A Turkey Trot will be held November 19th. All equipment has arrived for the ice rink and it will hopefully get installed the week after Thanksgiving. The rink will be in the outfield of Firemen's #1 baseball diamond.

Administrator Barber noted the water loss in the Water Department monthly report and explained the loss rate. The water tank overflowed during this period of time so that may account for the loss. Superintendent Cowger is getting a price on an outflow meter and an alarm to notify him in the event the tank overflows again.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that a security camera system has been installed at the Veteran's Memorial. Bushes have been planted on the back side of the memorial. Lighting for the memorial at night is also being looked into. Inventory flags have been ordered and also a larger flag pole for the American flag. There is \$16,000 on account to handle future maintenance and improvements.

Staff is working on putting together survey answers and comments and will provide a detailed report to Board members next week.

An update was provided on playground equipment for Water Tower Park.

Superintendent Cowger reported that he will obtain three different alternatives for timers on the Firemen's #1 lights and Dustin Karstensen will look at the lights for problems with them tripping out.

Trustee Wehling handed out a copy of what the actual sign will read outside the ice rink setting forth rules and hours. The rink will be open limited hours, and lights will be on timers so no one has to physically go out and turn them off and on. There will be "family skate" at designated times. Trustee Szymanski commented that it should be clarified that at designated family skate times, hockey won't be allowed. Trustee Wehling noted that there may be problems with hockey playing out there, and he has met with Trustee Kypuros about this and discussed the matter. The Youth Commission won't be putting nets up, but they can't stop people from bringing their own nets. It can only be policed so much. Trustee Kypuros didn't feel the rink would be a big problem. Trustee Cleary asked about linking the ice rink to the Youth Commission. The Youth Commission may have nights where they provide hot chocolate or have another event. Some seating will be available but there will be no warming area. Also, if anyone else wants to use the rink for hockey from outside of the Village, they will have to rent the rink for \$50/hour and there will also be a \$75/hour flat fee to reserve the rink for a private skating party. Public Works and the Youth Commission will work together to maintain the rink.

Michael Peters, the new Vice President of Beecher Recreation, was present to express his interest in working with the Village Board. Mr. Peters was asked to provide the Village with Beecher Recreation's schedule for use of the ballfields so they get priority over anyone else wanting to use the fields.

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.

An update was provided on the leveling of bike path easements in Hunter's Chase East Subdivision.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$206.40 from the MGM escrow account to Cape Fear Systems III, LLC for the purchase of two fiberglass handicapped ramp molds for sidewalks in The Preserves at Cardinal Creek. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported on the recent Illiana Expressway meeting and that many different route scenarios were provided by the group. The bulk of the routes were south of Beecher. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6th in Matteson.

An update was provided on the third airport. Heated discussions were held with Congressman Jackson's ALNAC group. Jackson met with Monee and tried to get them to sign on to the ALNAC group. There was an editorial in tonight's Daily Journal which addressed some of Jackson's plans for the airport.

President Lohmann reported on the Illinois General Assembly veto session, and reported that the state is dipping into our replacement tax to fund the regional superintendent of schools for one year.

President Lohmann said the Village will be sponsoring an event at the February 17, 2012 Beecher High School home basketball game.

President Lohmann, Administrator Barber and Clerk Conner will begin working on the Village code review process.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion cancelling the second meeting in January, 2012. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize payment of half the amount due (\$8,750) from the watermain replacement account to Baxter and Woodman Engineers for the loan application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) from Spring 2011. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

The five-year financial plan draft was previously provided to the Board. Administrator Barber indicated he updated the insurance plan savings in the numbers in the five-year plan and will be presenting new numbers at the next meeting.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk