

**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  
AUGUST 8, 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.

A moment of silence was observed honoring the 30 Navy Seals killed over the weekend in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Treasurer Nelson Collins and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

**GUESTS:** Andrew Ahrendt, George Schuitema, Ernie Bleicher, Kim Koutsky, Guillermo Delgado and Beth Hoffman.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the July 11, 2011 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

**AYES:** (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Kypuros, 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) There were no objections to a request from the Knights of Columbus to sell Tootsie Rolls in the Village September 16-18, subject to certain restrictions.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Ernie Bleicher from Ernie's Barber Shop was present about a temporary sign he had placed at the corner of Penfield Street and Dixie Highway that Code Enforcement Officer Riechers asked him to remove after the 30 day period allowed by ordinance. He asked for permission to put his sign back up at that intersection. President Lohmann and Trustee Szymanski explained the 30-day limit for temporary signs and how he could put the sign up and take it down. Some Board members expressed interest in seeing a more permanent sign. The Board

discussed allowing him to put a sign up for 28 days, take it down for a few days, and putting it back up again. Administrator Barber proposed a “way finder” sign advertising the downtown business district, listing those businesses in the old downtown that want to be on the sign. Trustee Szymanski noted he planned to discuss the “way finder” signs under his committee report later. Trustee Szymanski said that the Chamber is also planning signs at the entrances to town where business names will be listed and rotated in and out, but only Chamber members will be listed on the sign.

Beth Hoffman from the Beecher Community Childcare Center was also present requesting permission to put up a permanent offsite sign. She proposed going together with Ernie’s Barber shop and sharing a sign. She asked the Board’s feeling if this might be approved since it is a \$750 application fee. She expressed some urgency in wanting to advertise. President Lohmann suggested she get a temporary sign and put it up for 30 days. They were both asked to call the Village Hall and let them know when they are taking the sign down for a few days so it can be tracked.

Ernie Bleicher discussed putting up a permanent sign on Bahlmann’s property. He was asked to get written permission from Lance Saller and provide a proposal for where he plans to put any permanent signs including sign size, type, etc.

Beth Hoffman asked about Water Tower Park on Gould Street. She said it is unsafe, outdated and wants to know what can be done to update the park. She also asked if a fence could be put in the front due to safety concerns of kids running into the street from the park. Administrator Barber explained that there is currently no money budgeted for park equipment and it is expensive to put in park equipment due to ADA requirements. Ms. Hoffman was referred to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Committee reports were provided in the following order: Finance and Administration; Planning, Building and Zoning; Public Buildings and Properties; Sewer and Water; Streets and Alleys; and Public Safety. The minutes are listed in original agenda order for record keeping purposes.

## **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 and financial activity for the month of July, 2011. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A list of bills totalling \$72,013.82 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 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.

An audit update was provided.

Administrator Barber asked if there was any special project or program the Board would like to put into the five-year financial plan to let him know. Trustee Kuhlman asked about getting back into the Tree City program again.

The Village will continue to obtain competitive bids for liability, workers compensation and property insurance coverage. Administrator Barber reported that he received two solicitations and will be provided with quotes.

RESOLUTION #2011-11 - A Resolution designating an Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and a grievance procedure. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2011-11. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review. Trustee Kuhlman read aloud a thank you letter from a resident thanking the Police for checking on her husband who was working on a roof on a very hot day, when she couldn't get a hold of him. They also provided a donation check to the Police Department.

No report was provided on mosquito abatement, due to the absence of Superintendent Cowger.

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

Trustee Szymanski made a motion approving a bid from Gallagher Asphalt in the amount of \$36,746.40 for the resurfacing of several sections of streets in the Village. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered an award of bid to Denlar, Inc., for crack sealing various streets in the Village. The price was quoted per linear foot but the project was scaled back so the per linear foot price amount changed slightly, but Denlar was still the low bidder. Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing an award of bid to Denlar, Inc. in an amount of \$19,871.44 for crack sealing various streets in the Village. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

The Board considered approving a proposal and authorizing the purchase of replacement street name signs older than 1990 throughout the Village. Public Works probably can't get these street signs done yet this year. Trustee Szymanski showed what sign design was preferred. The Board also discussed getting less expensive signs and using the leftover money to get other projects done or banking the money for a year or so when there is more money to do a bigger project. Trustee Szymanski was unsure as to what these MFT surplus funds could be used for specifically. Action on approving the street signs was tabled until spring.

The Board considered "way finding" signs at Penfield Street and Dixie Highway (Route #1) and at Woodward Street and Indiana Avenue, to direct people to the old downtown area. Discussion followed on the height of signs and visibility issues. Action on "way finding" signs was tabled until the next meeting.

The tar and chipping of Miller Street from Racine to Oak Park has been completed.

Tree trimming, tree removal and stump removal projects are about to begin.

The Board considered options for correcting the Pine Street flooding problem. Trustee Szymanski reported that he met with the Church Road property owners to discuss the options. The Church Road residents discussed the problem but indicated that they are not willing to give up any of their land for this purpose even if the Village provides them with some type of compensation. It was then discussed to use the south side of the Pine Street residents property but this affects more permanent issues such as utilities, etc. An engineer would need to be hired for this. Much discussion followed on the options. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to hire Hamilton Engineering at an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for a study for the Pine Street flooding problem. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion. Trustee Cleary then abstained from voting. It was unclear if the vote was proper with the abstention so Trustees Szymanski and Cleary rescinded the original motion and then the same motion was remade by Trustee Szymanski and seconded by Trustee Kypuros.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Cleary.

Motion Carried.

#### **D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE**

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

An update was provided on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) watermain replacement loan.

Floyd Burger has started making appointments for the water meter replacement program.

Administrator Barber reported that the Village is holding off on the sewer plant roof repairs for now to determine the costs for insurance.

The Village is not under any type of water restrictions, based on recent weather conditions.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve payment of bills from the Watermain Replacement Account in the amount of \$855.54. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the Youth Commission had their first meeting a couple weeks ago. The first event is scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>, a family camping night in Firemen's Park. A disc jockey is to be provided, as well as a scavenger hunt, small bonfire, smores and other activities. Other planned events include:

- October - Halloween Trick or Trunk
- November - Turkey trot/Fall Fest
- December - Tree lighting and caroling
- February - Father-daughter dance
- March - Mother-son dance

Trustee Kypuros may get involvement from 3-4 kids with this committee. Trustee Cleary suggested getting information together on these events for the fall newsletter. The Commission is working on putting together an email list. The next meeting is scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Ahrendt asked if the Youth Commission is represented by all areas of the town and not just one area. Trustee Kypuros said he felt many areas from town were represented. When forming the Commission he tried to get parents involved with kids of different ages.

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

Trustee Wehling reported on the Veteran's Memorial Committee meeting held last Thursday, and went over the plans for the September 11<sup>th</sup> dedication. Two trees were removed earlier in the day that were a concern about falling on the memorial. The area will be landscaped and new trees will be planted. Electric work is scheduled to begin soon. The Committee is working on getting the brick pavers engraved. Press from Chicago television stations was invited to the dedication ceremony. Trustee Cleary expressed concerns about possible vandalism at the memorial. Trustee Cleary commended the Committee on their work. Trustee Wehling gave credit to the community for donations and free work put into the memorial.

Due to deterioration, Water Tower Park has lost a swing set and jungle gym. Staff is looking into getting new equipment. Replacement will be expensive, due to the need to comply with ADA specifications that need to be met.

The Board went over each question on the first draft of the resident survey to be placed in the fall newsletter. Some minor changes were made to the survey. There was much discussion on the dog

park question. Administrator Barber indicated that the survey can be put online also. Some concerns were expressed that those living outside of the Village may fill out the online survey. The survey could include an area to provide a street name to help determine Village residency.

The Board was asked if they had any suggestions for the fall newsletter.

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

An update was provided on the Stough Group's senior housing project.

President Lohmann reported on properties that sold at the recent auction in The Preserves at Cardinal Creek Subdivision.

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

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

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

An update was provided on the Illiana Expressway.

An update was provided on the proposed third airport. There was some discussion about the State purchasing a larger parcel of land.

An Intergovernmental Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Administrator Barber asked Board members to make every attempt to come to the meeting, since an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) representative will be present.

Results were provided on the economic development training session for public officials hosted by the Will County Center for Economic Development. Statistics on growth in Will County was provided at the meeting, as well as strengths and weaknesses.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Trustee Szymanski as the delegate to the Illinois Municipal League (IML) and Trustee Kypuros as the alternate, as appointed by President Lohmann. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Staff had a meeting with Marcy Meyer earlier in the day. She has updated commercial properties for sale on the Village website and they discussed changes to the website including adding a list of businesses. It was also discussed putting links on the Village's website to the Illiana Expressway and third airport projects to inform residents about these issues. These links would be put on the home page for information only. The Board was asked if they support doing this since it was discussed

previously that these links were not wanted in relation to the economic development page. There were no objections to provide the links as information only.

President Lohmann said a Will County co-op purchasing committee is to meet in Joliet to form a co-op for the purchase of electric and natural gas. More will be learned at the meeting. A co-op could save residents money on electric and gas bills. Resident George Schuitema advised the Board to be very cautious of what companies they choose to do business with.

President Lohmann said he was approached by the possible purchaser of The Preserves at Cardinal Creek Subdivision asking for deferral of tap-in fees and park impact fees on pre-sold homes in the subdivision until certificate of occupancy is issued. There was no objection to deferral of the tap-in and park impact fees with the exception of the \$275 meter charge, a bond and a time limit for the deferrals of six months. A separate addendum to the development agreement will need to be done. The possible purchaser also plans to ask the school board to defer their impact fees.

The Board also discussed changing the ordinance affecting all new construction that the meter charge should be paid by the developer/builder and not the buyer.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

Administrator Barber said the APWA is scheduled to have a recycled concrete seminar on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and asked who would be interested in attending.

Administrator Barber noted that changing the order of going through the agenda at meetings is okay, but he wants to keep his written agenda order the same.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk