

**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  
JULY 12, 2010 -- 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, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Ahrendt.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger and Corporal Jeff Dopke.

**GUESTS:** Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Kim Koutsky, George Schuitema, Wendie Garlich, Jim Sprague, Theresa Wallace, Kathy Loonam, John and Lynne Mickiewicz, Pat Peters, Laurie Summers, Joe Burgess, Bob Howard and Tom Brislane.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the June 14, 2010 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, 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 Wehling made a motion to approve the list of bills totaling \$126,459.27 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Pat Peters, representing the Washington Township Transportation program requested a letter of support from the Village to obtain grant funds from the RTA to support the PACE senior bus program. Questions had been raised by President Lohmann at the Washington Township meeting regarding residents from Crete Township using the bus service and costs of the program to the taxpayers. Ms. Peters explained that Crete Township residents pay \$55 to use the bus

and grants from the RTA funds the bus program. Ms. Peters introduced a disabled customer who has been using the bus service and read a letter from a customer who uses the service on weekends, thanking Washington Township and supporting use of the bus by Crete Township. Pat Peters explained how her program coordinates with other area transportation programs. President Lohmann responded to questions from Pat Peters and asked about costs involved in the program. The Village Board indicated they were not aware of this request for a letter of support. Trustee Gardner asked that the letter requested to be approved by the Village in support of the program state that the bus will be used for residents and areas outside of Washington Township. Trustee Szymanski voiced his support of the program and wants to approve writing the letter of support for the grant. Pat Peters was asked that next time a letter be provided in writing further ahead of when a grant letter is needed, addressed to the Village President and Board of Trustees and a Resolution will be passed by the Board.

Jim Sprague from Jim's Trees requested if letter of credit money could be used for maintenance of common areas in a subdivision. Letter of credit money is to be used to complete improvements not done in a subdivision and can't be used for maintenance. A bill for maintenance of common areas of the Preserve at Cardinal Creek Subdivision was submitted to Royster Management, but not paid. There was never enough money collected from homeowners to pay for these things because there are still so many empty lots in the subdivision. Mr. Sprague was told that the Village cannot use letter of credit money for this.

Mr. Sprague also asked about proposed landscaping for the lift station in The Preserves at Cardinal Creek Subdivision, and if the Village still plans to complete the landscaping. The lift station needs to be brought into acceptable conditions per Village plans first. An estimate for landscaping work was provided for review. The Village still plans to complete the improvements and landscaping.

## **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. Treasurer Collins also provided a summary of Fourth of July revenues, and stated that final numbers are not currently available as there are still bills that need to be paid.

A list of bills totaling \$107,430.53 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: (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The audit process has begun.

Administrator Barber provided an explanation of the Illinois Public Benefits Cooperative which the Village is considering using to administer the Village's health insurance plan. Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the drafting of a Resolution allowing the Eastern Will County Council of Mayors to join the Illinois Public Benefits Cooperative. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

#### **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Corporal Dopke provided a report on the Fourth of July security efforts. There were no major incidents. Outbound traffic after the fireworks was a mess due to construction at Goodenow Road and Route 1.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that approximately 55 people attended the BASSET training held on June 28<sup>th</sup> and that everything went well.

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

Administrator Barber reported on the local road projects.

The Route #1 deep patching repair project is on hold due to the union strike.

The Chestnut/Dixie traffic signal project is on hold due to the union strike.

ComEd has announced a rate increase for June 2011. A copy of the letter was provided in the packet for review.

Results were provided for the recent Fourth of July celebration. Trustee Szymanski thanked all volunteers who spent many hours at Firemen's Park helping with the festival. Trustee Kuhlman agreed.

Trustee Szymanski talked with a Village resident on Birch about flooding in his yard due to recent heavy rains, and will continue to work with the resident on this matter.

#### **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 May and June were provided in the packet for review.

The hydrant flushing report from Public Works Superintendent Cowger was provided for review.

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

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve payment of a bill from the General Obligation Bond

Account in the amount of \$979.00. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.  
AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the Ehlers Bequest Committee. A rendering of the proposed Veteran's memorial was provided for review. Trustee Wehling reported Mike Stanula drew up the design for the memorial which was a little different than what was originally discussed, so it is unique from other towns. The Committee loved the new design. Renderings of the design was down at Firemen's Park during the Fourth of July festival for residents to see. Some tweaking still needs to be done. Trustee Wehling hoped that grants and donations could be obtained to help fund this memorial. Trustee Cleary asked if the memorial would be able to be expanded in the future. The Amvets will keep their existing Amvet memorial in addition to this new memorial. The Board discussed some of the ideas discussed by the Committee. The estimated cost to complete the memorial is \$75,000. The Committee will be asking for donations through jars at various businesses in town and will promote public relations with local newspapers to get the word out to get donations. The Committee will begin meeting monthly.

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

ORDINANCE #1135 - An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code concerning the recordation of plats, special uses and variances. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) held a public hearing and unanimously approved the amendment. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve Ordinance #1135. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.  
AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1136 - An Ordinance amending the Subdivision Code pertaining to the recording of final plats. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve Ordinance #1136. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.  
AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1137 - An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code pertaining to wind generating devices, wind generating systems and wind farms, with a change to line 3, second word, correct spelling of "generating" in title of ordinance. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve Ordinance #1137 as corrected. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.  
AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

A special Board meeting will be held on Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the future of the old downtown area. All property owners in the area have been advised of the meeting via letter.

Administrator Barber requested that a bill for Jim's Trees be added to the bills listed in the packet to be paid from the MGM Escrow Account. Trustee Wehling made a motion to authorize payment of bills from the MGM Escrow Account in the amount of \$3,332.50 plus a bill from Jim's Trees in the amount of \$560.00 for excavation with a total to be paid of \$3,892.50. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner, 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 Kuhlman asked about pictures of property provided in the packet of a rental building at 623 Reed with building code and property maintenance code violations. Since we are not allowed to enter rental property without property owners permission, pictures were provided by a tenant and a letter sent to the property owner. Trustee Kuhlman expressed concerns about why this building is in this condition and why we haven't been able to get it fixed.

Trustee Szymanski asked about grass and weeds by the pool and clubhouse in The Preserves at Cardinal Creek Subdivision.

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

President Lohmann reported that the June 23<sup>rd</sup> GoTo2040 public hearing was not very informative regarding the airport or the Illiana Expressway.

President Lohmann reported that two donations have been sent off for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life to be held in Peotone.

President Lohmann apologized to the Board for problems with the PACE bus program and Washington Township earlier in the meeting but he wants more information on these types of requests provided sooner than a week or so before it needs to be approved and he also had questions about the program.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk