

**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  
MARCH 31, 2008 -- 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, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Chief of Police Jeffrey Weissgerber and Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer.

**GUESTS:** Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, William Voss, Kevin Bouchard, Andrew Ahrendt, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Brandon Markette, Jay Bradarich, Dale Serig, Michael Mach, Joe Burgess, Wayne Bobiack, Jim Maciejewski, Joseph Venturella and Pat Peters.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 10, 2008 Board meeting. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

Trustee Kuhlman explained the bids for the Fourth of July car raffle for 2008 and the need to award the bid at this time. A copy of the bids received was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Cleary asked questions regarding the bid amount. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to award a bid to Van Drunen Ford of Homewood in the amount of \$17,995 plus license and title fees for a 2008 Ford Mustang for the Fourth of July Commission raffle car. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Brandon Markette, Pastor of Beecher Community Church asked to be granted a septic variance for their new church to be built on Church Road. Village sewer is not currently available to this property. Pastor Markette agreed to tie into the Village's sanitary sewer once it is adjacent to their property. The new church will have Village water. Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve a septic variance for Beecher Community Church subject to the requirement to hook up to Village sewer when it becomes available to the property. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

Pastor Markette was also present regarding the condition of Church Road in the area where his church is to be built. The developer had planned to improve the road but has not done anything yet. There was some discussion as to the reasons why the developer hasn't done any improvements. Staff is looking into implementing a special service area for these improvements. Pastor Markette asked if he is obligated to improve the road in front of his church property. Board members indicated that it is not his responsibility to make the improvements.

Jay Bradarich of Trinity Industrial provided a presentation on his request for rezoning and showed a map of the properties to be affected. Administrator Barber reported on the lengthy public hearing that was held on this matter and shared some of the testimony. Mr. Bradarich noted that his proposal is a multi-modal not an intermodal because of the way the facility will be used. Trustee Ahrendt also provided a report on the results of the public hearing and some of the questions and concerns that were expressed. After some discussion, Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize a public hearing on a pre-annexation agreement with Trinity Industrial for 505 acres of land between Route #1, Church Road, Ashland and Offner, commonly known as "Phase II" lands, for development of a multi-modal facility. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**RESOLUTION #2008-03** - A resolution rezoning Trinity Industrial Phase II lands upon annexation to I-T intermodal, I-1 limited industrial and B-3 general business as a planned development according to the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adopt Resolution #2008-03. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board continued its discussion on the design of a proposed Public Works facility. Administrator Barber explained why representatives from JMA Architects were back again before the Board. The different options were discussed for the new Public Works garage to bring the cost of the building

down. The Board talked again about flipping the building to the east versus west side of the property. Wayne Bobiack from JMA Architects showed arial pictures of the property and the contour lines of the property. If the facility would be built on the west side of the property, it would have direct access to Cardinal Creek Blvd. Trustee Szymanski recommended to stay with the original plan. It was the consensus of the Board to keep the building on the east side of the property and sell the plan for the referendum at base estimate and bid for a basic Public Works facility with alternates. The Board will hold off on any further action until it is found out if the referendum passes this fall.

#### **A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

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

A budget workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Washington Township Center.

An update was provided on the financial consultant selection process. A copy of the solicitation notice was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Szymanski suggested setting up a method for interviewing those who submit proposals, and recommended that Administrator Barber, Trustee Kuhlman, Treasurer Collins, President Lohmann and himself interview the candidates and make a recommendation to the Board.

The Board's discussion regarding a request from Washington Township for \$8,000 for the Dial-A-Ride program was tabled until the budget meeting on April 1, 2008. Township Clerk Joe Burgess wanted to correct the item in the agenda that referenced that the Village started the Dial-A-Ride effort to get the program going but is now abandoning the project. Clerk Burgess felt that this was not a correct statement.

The Board accepted a bid from Exelon Corporation for one year of electrical service to the water and sewer system master account. Three bids were received and opened by the NIMEC co-op. Exelon's bid will go into effect on June 1, 2008.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize a check to be drawn from the Water and Sewer Operations and Maintenance Fund in an amount not to exceed \$950 for the purchase of state surplus property. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

Chief Weissgerber reported that the Orchard Lane/Lange Avenue traffic study will begin later in the week.

Chief Weissgerber reported that 183 letters for dog tag enforcement were mailed out and many people have called or been coming in to purchase their dog tags.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the compliance ticket program will begin on April 7, 2008. Officers are being trained to use the new program.

A severe weather spotter training session will be held for all employees or interested Village officials on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at the Washington Township Center.

An ESDA Executive Board meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the reasons for the increase to the Eastcom Dispatch Center contract, and how the cost sharing formula was determined. President Lohmann asked about the consolidation of dispatch centers as was discussed in the past, and why the 9-1-1 Board has a large amount of money which is not being used.

ORDINANCE #1090 - An ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a renewal of a five-year intergovernmental agreement with the Eastcom Dispatch Center. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1090. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1091 - An ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an amendment to Title 9, Chapter 12 of the municipal code pertaining to compromise tickets to include equipment violations, once the Village Attorney has drafted the ordinance. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1091. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber reported that he had a meeting with Washington Township regarding youth activities and their budget. This includes the current budget and next fiscal year's budget. Trustee Kuhlman reported on the senior breakfast that was held the previous weekend. Everything went very well and was well attended. President Lohmann noted it is more than just a breakfast. It is very informative to seniors.

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

The Board discussed implementation of a \$4 per billing fee to be applied to all water billing accounts for the March through August bills (three billing periods) to cover the cost of spraying for mosquitoes. Questions were raised why this fee should be charged since the Village is doing the spraying in-house rather than contracting out the work, and therefore saving money. Trustee Szymanski suggested that this matter be discussed at the budget meeting. The leaf pickup program was also discussed. There was consideration of charging this fee only during certain times of the year or year-round. Much discussion followed. Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance for a \$2 per water billing fee for mosquito spraying on all water/sewer bill accounts year-round. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the application for a Phase II Stormwater Permit for the period 2008 through 2013. This is now a requirement of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

President Lohmann asked that consideration of a proposal from Perm-A-seal for paint striping Village streets and public parking lots be discussed at the April 1<sup>st</sup> budget workshop meeting. The matter was deferred.

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

A water and sewer rate study of Illinois communities as prepared by the City of Carbondale was provided in the packet for review. In response to questions from the Board, Administrator Barber will see if it can be received in an Excel spreadsheet format.

President Lohmann asked Public Works Superintendent Cowger how many watermain breaks there have been since the beginning of the year. It was reported that there were very few compared to previous years.

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

Trustee Wehling reported that a meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the Firemen's Park/OSLAD Grant project and determine what still needs to be done. The Fourth of July Commission is offering to pay for a portion of the seeding work. It needs to be determined exactly what needs to be done and who will be doing the work, in order to determine the cost. Much of the progress will depend on the weather. Superintendent Cowger indicated that Public Works will do some of the work. Two proposals were received for seeding Firemen's Park: 1) George's Landscaping, \$18,871.645; and 2) Deenik Landscaping \$14,980. The Fourth of July Commission is offering to pay 50% of the lowest bid at an amount not to exceed \$8,000. Superintendent Cowger indicated he will get one more proposal. Trustee Wehling made a motion to authorize a proposal to be entered into for Firemen's Park restoration work for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 with half of the funds coming from the Fourth of July Commission and half from the Village. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Wehling reported that the foundation for the bathroom in Firemen's Park is in and the bathroom is scheduled for delivery next week.

It was reported that Beecher Recreation has been expressing their displeasure regarding the condition of the ballfields in Firemen's Park. Trustee Wehling said the fields will be made playable for ball season. It was asked if Beecher Recreation could use Welton Stedt Park in the mean time. It was reported that all ballfields will be needed because a large number of children have signed up for baseball this year.

The Park District Exploratory Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Beecher Community Hall. Trustee Wehling will keep the Board up to date on the results of the meeting.

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

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) held a public hearing on the Creekside East Subdivision and voted to delay its recommendation until the April 24<sup>th</sup> PZC meeting. The PZC also authorized a public hearing for Phase III lands of Trinity Industrial including the McWhorter parcel, Al Buiter parcel and 36 acres of the Kuhlman parcel located behind Bolos. This hearing will occur either in April or May depending on the application date of the petitioner.

The Board considered amending the fees charged for variance applications in the Village. Administrator Barber reported on a resident in Nantucket Cove that wants a solid front yard fence for a K-9 dog and is asking that the variance fees be waived claiming a hardship. Administrator Barber indicated that if the Village starts waiving variance fees, many more similar requests may be received. Trustee Szymanski recommended leaving the fees the way they are and consider handicap hardship cases when proposed. It was the consensus of the Board to leave the fees the way they are.

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

President Lohmann appointed Dan Walsh to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the term of Nick Grutzius. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve President Lohmann's appointment. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann appointed Phil Serviss as Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve President Lohmann's appointment. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann provided results of the Will County road impact fee hearing that was held on March 11<sup>th</sup>. No one that attended the meeting was in favor of the ordinance. The Committee is not recommending an ordinance be passed at this point. It is most likely a dead issue.

Administrator Barber provided results of the Illinois Municipal League and Will County Governmental League Lobby Day held in Springfield on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Airport legislation and a 2% income tax increase were two of the items considered. President Lohmann noted changes that Indiana is making to property taxes.

President Lohmann urged Trustees to attend the Washington Township annual town meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center.

No one was able to attend the budget hearing held by Representative Lisa Dugan on March 24<sup>th</sup>, therefore no report was provided.

A meeting was held on March 12<sup>th</sup> at Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) headquarters regarding the Chestnut/Dixie Highway traffic signal. Administrator Barber reported that the meeting was positive, and the light is scheduled for a Spring of 2009 bid letting.

President Lohmann reported that some additional condemnation has occurred for the third airport.

ORDINANCE #1092 - An ordinance amending the liquor code to allow Class A and F liquor license holders to be open until 2:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings. A copy of the proposed ordinance was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1092. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **H. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Cleary asked about the FAA and air quality for airports.

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, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner, Village Clerk