

**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 9, 2013 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Szymanski called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: President Szymanski and Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Kim Koutsky, Deputy Treasurer Nelson Collins, Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger and Public Works employee Jim Pratl.

GUESTS: Andrew Kriz from the Beecher Herald, Dale and Cecilia Bell, Earl and Arlene Bell, and Paul Lohmann.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 12, 2013 Board meeting and August 29, 2013 Intergovernmental meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) A thank you letter from resident Ken Bengé was read aloud.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Resident Dale Bell addressed the Board regarding covenants and restrictions in Lange's Subdivision. He stated he also owns a vacant lot on Orchard Lane in Lange's Subdivision and read aloud title document language of covenants and restrictions for the subdivision. Mr. Bell asked the Board if those covenants and restrictions are still legal and active. President Szymanski stated that since there is no homeowner's association (HOA) in that subdivision the covenants have not been enforced. Administrator Barber noted that if those covenants are violated than clean title wouldn't be given on the land if the property was sold. Donald Lange used to review and enforce the covenants but is no longer doing that. The Village cannot enforce subdivision covenants so enforcement would be a civil matter. Mr. Bell indicated that this is relating to a fence installed on a property that recently sold that violates their subdivision covenants, and asked why the Village issued a building permit when it violated the covenants. It was restated that the Village

cannot enforce covenants. An HOA would responsible for covenants. Trustee Cleary discussed how the HOA in his subdivision enforces their covenants. Mr. Bell thanked the Village for their time.

E. Dwaine Bell complained that he felt the way the fence was put up against the other neighbors fence violated state and federal laws.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Trustee Ahrendt reported that the next meeting of the Beautification Commission will be held September 10th at 7:00 p.m. at Firemen's Park at the Bingo Stand.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that the next meeting of the Fourth of July Commission will be held September 11th at 6:30 p.m. at Firemen's Park. Nelson Collins provided a report on the festival, stating that it was one of the best years, financially. The Commission made over \$30,000 more in net proceeds than in 2012.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the next Youth Commission event is the campout in Firemen's Park on September 14th.

Trustee Wehling reported that the last Ribbon of Hope Commission meeting was held on August 29th. A letter will be sent to potential corporate sponsors. The project will hopefully begin next spring.

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 the Report of Financial Activity for the prior month. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the preceding month were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totalling \$111,734.20 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, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Audit field work has been done and the audit should be completed by the end of September. Copies of the management letter and the full report should be available at the October Board meeting.



An update was provided on the Utility Billing/Administrative Assistant position. Donna Rooney has been selected and plans to begin September 10th.

Both the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer have been working on modifying the Treasurer Ordinance to reflect current practice but a final draft is not yet ready for consideration. The plan is to have a revision for the October meeting.

A report of cash flows since 2010 was provided in the packet for review. Administrator Barber noted that this is monitored very carefully.

Five year financial plan work has begun. Revenues are being projected but the expense side of the report is placed on hold until the Board completes its strategic planning process.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported on the "Light the Park" Committee meeting held the previous week. Some ideas for raising funds were to hold a golf outing, send out sponsorship letters to big sponsors such as Pepsi, Budweiser, etc. It will take time to raise the money needed.

A list of rules and the permit process for special events in Village parks is still being worked on and will be available at a future meeting. Trustee Wehling is working on contacting the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance for these rules.

Trustee Wehling requested a closed session be held to discuss land acquisition. The Board may take action after the closed session.

C. 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.

The Committee met last week to discuss concerns expressed by the Village President and some Board members regarding certain provisions of the Zoning Ordinance.

The next meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is scheduled for September 26, 2013 to discuss the expectations of the Commission and what they expect from the Village. The new planning consultant will also be introduced.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber provided a presentation on NIXLE for emergency alerts, and explained how residents may register for this service and that residents can choose which kind of messages they wish to receive. It is free to residents. Message can be received via text messages, emails and phone

calls. The notifications we would send would go out immediately and could be used for an unlimited type of things, such as relaying to residents the occurrence of watermain breaks, road closures, etc. There are three tiers to the plan. The Village is currently on tier one, which is free. The other two tiers would give us more capabilities within NIXLE. Residents can opt out of this at any time. Trustee Ahrendt also suggested using it for weather alerts.

Chief Weissgerber provided results from the siren test conducted on September 3rd. All sirens functioned as expected.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that the Superintendent of Schools provided an update on school safety and security at the Intergovernmental meeting. Chief Weissgerber reported that he is almost finished with a written report on the school safety audit. The next step is to involve the private schools and daycare centers and offer our assistance to them and see if they want to do a safety audit.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

The Water Billing Register for July and August was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Kypuros introduced Jim Pratl who will become a new full-time Public Works employee effective November 1, 2013. Mr. Pratl has worked for the Village part-time for the past three years. The Board welcomed Jim.

The Board considered the purchase of a 2013 New Holland L-225 Skid Steer Loader in the amount of \$28,750 from DeJong Equipment. The equipment will be paid for with the money budgeted for the replacement of the dump truck, due to conditions changing and the need to replace the skid steer loader. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2013 Skid Steer Loader in the amount of \$28,750. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve a 48-month extended warranty for the 2013 New Holland Skid Steer Loader in the amount of \$1,185. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the status of a new hitch and plow for the F800 Dump Truck. He plans to go Wednesday to Lindco to make the purchase.

Superintendent Cowger provided a report on the tree trimming program. Door hangers will be put on resident's doors to let them know Public Works will be trimming parkway trees.

The leaf collection program is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 14th.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve a three-year contract with Synagro in the amount of \$0.044 per gallon for the hauling of liquid sludge. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed a project to paint the inside of Clarifier #1 at the sewer plant. A formal bid process will be conducted. Trustee Kypuros recommended the Committee get together to discuss this further and bring a recommendation back to the Board. The Committee also needs to decide if it should be done in-house or by the engineer. Trustee Cleary asked if the Village can do without one of the clarifiers. The matter was referred to the Committee for further discussion.

Trustee Kypuros report on the flooding problems at 1183 Ash Street. President Szymanski, Superintendent Cowger, Trustee Kypuros and Administrator Barber continue to work on this matter. President Szymanski said the Village has done all that we can and still cannot figure out where the water is coming from. The homeowner was given a recommendation to look for a farm tile that may be located on his property and call the Village and we will see if we can help. Trustee Kypuros also noted that a leak detection test will be conducted by Simpson to retest Prairie Crossings Subdivision to reassure us that it is not a Village problem. President Szymanski does not believe the water is coming from the Village water system.

Trustee Kypuros is looking for a consensus from the Board. The Village has leased space to Lange Excavation for some of his equipment in exchange for his excavation services. There have been six watermain breaks on Elm Street in six months. Trustee Kypuros would like to put something together to replace the watermain on this street, and to work something out with Lange to do the excavation for this in exchange for the leased space at the Public Works garage. The Attorney would have to draft the lease. There were no objections from the Board to this proposal.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Meyer reported on the Committee meeting held on August 26th. Topics included the use of incentives for new business attraction and expansion, and the need for an economic development consultant to assist in recruiting commercial and industrial targeted industries. The Committee also discussed a three-tiered information system, newsletter, robocalling, etc.

Trustee Meyer reported on the Fall newsletter.

Trustee Meyer provided a report on the meeting with the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Executive Director, Jim Garrett, explained the programs his agency provides to the region. One idea Mr. Garrett shared was the concept of a rail viewing platform as a way to attract people into the old downtown area. Homewood and Park Forest have built such structures and have had success in bringing rail fans in from out of town. The Blackhawk Group is one group that does train viewing. Trustee Meyer felt it would be a great use for the downtown area, helping make downtown a destination without hurting the historic theme. Permission would have to be granted by the railroad to do this on their property, and get some renderings to see what could be constructed.

Trustee Szymanski noted that he also received an email from the Blackhawk Group that goes to different towns and views trains. It was the consensus of the Board to pursue this matter.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski reported that there has been a lot of dialog in the news regarding whether CMAP will support the Illiana Expressway and he recommended approving a Resolution of support for this project.

RESOLUTION #2013-17 - A Resolution of support for the inclusion of the Illiana Expressway on the list of fiscally constrained projects in the GOTO 2040 Plan. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-17. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski provided a report on the South Suburban Airport. There has been dialog with Ann Schneider, Secretary of Transportation for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The economic development district has been discussed with the iron ring towns. Administrator Barber asked the Board members to read the executive summary of the Senate Bill 20 content to see if they agree with it and to contact him or President Szymanski with any comments or questions.

President Szymanski asked the Intergovernmental Committee at the recent meeting if there should be any changes as to how the meeting was run, and if so, to contact the Village. The Intergovernmental Committee also discussed rumors in the Village about restaurants coming to town and cleared up some misunderstandings.

Trustee surveys have been completed and the strategic planning process will begin. September 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington Township Center was selected for the first workshop meeting which is a regular meeting night. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to change the September 23rd Board meeting time to 6:30 p.m. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed hiring Teska and Associates as Village Planner. They bring to the table a wider range of skill sets including TIF experience, the ability to facilitate trainings for the PZC members, and downtown streetscape designs. President Szymanski appointed Mike Hoffman and Pete Iosue out of the Plainfield office of Teska and Associates as the new Village planners. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the appointment of Mike Hoffman and Pete Iosue of Teska and Associates as Village Planners. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion cancelling the second meetings in November and December, 2013. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Cleary made a motion moving the Monday, November 11th Board meeting to Tuesday, November 12th due to the Veteran's Day holiday. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

There being no further business to discuss in open session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:18 p.m. to discuss land acquisition. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 9:21 p.m. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to authorize President Szymanski to pursue the purchase of the land discussed in executive session up to the ceiling amount as discussed. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.
AYES: (4) Trustees Cleary, Meyer, Kypuros and Wehling.
NAYS: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.
Motion Carried.

There being no further business, President Szymanski asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk