

**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
JUNE 9, 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, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Bud Cowger and Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Andrew Ahrendt, Kevin Bouchard, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Bill Voss, Mike Buchmeier and Mark Osterman.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 12, 2008 Board meeting and Public Hearing. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Szymanski.

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 Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$15,044.12 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Terry Gatlin asked the Board some questions about the Firemen's Park improvements pertaining to the new bathrooms, use of ballfields, when the Village could expect 50% of the project cost from the State and improvement of other parks in town.

Mark Osterman, of 221 Orchard, wanted to know when the grass in the retention pond in Prairie Crossings South was going to be cut. He said the grass and weeds are getting high and it looks bad. He also reported that there is a lot of mud that has drained into the pond. Administrator Barber explained that the property has changed ownership a few times, and that he has met with the developers and the Village engineer regarding the condition of the pond. It was also reported that clay is sliding into the base of pond, the dirt pile in the area needs to be levelled out and silt fencing needs to be installed. Ray Koenig of Baxter and Woodman answered some of Mr. Osterman's questions. It was discussed that some of the lots where the silt is coming from are owned by private property owners or builders and were sold by developer Richard Sova. Mr. Koenig reported that lot owners are responsible for fixing the silt problem. Many Board members agreed that Richard Sova should be held responsible for the problems on this property and in this area. June 16th is the date set to level the dirt pile and put in the silt fence. Vince Igoe owns property where the pond is located, and some felt he should maintain the pond. Mr. Koenig said there is a need to get the pond re-seeded and re-topsoiled. The Board discussed where the silt is going from the pond. Much discussion followed on solving this problem. The Board discussed who would mow the pond. Mr. Koenig was directed to contact the Village Attorney right away to arrange giving Mr. Sova a 30-day notice on the Village's intent to draw on the letter of credit to get improvements done.

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. Questions were asked about the Joint Fuel Account and how it is affected by current fuel costs. There is sometimes a problem with the Fuel Account when some taxing bodies pay their bill late. President Lohmann asked if due-to's have been paid back to O&M. Treasurer Collins indicated they were paid back.

A list of bills totalling \$231,442.30 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the month of April and for the end of the 2007/2008 fiscal year were provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to engage Ehlers and Associates as financial consultant on the Public Works facility G.O. Bond. It was noted that this firm had some experience with Special Service Areas and they also indicated they will help the Village sell bonds. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski recommended tabling a resolution on the spending policy for the Village, until the Board has had further time to review available information. The matter was tabled.

A memo on outstanding accounts receivables as of April 30, 2008 was provided in the packet for review. President Lohmann has expressed concern that the Village Engineer keeps billing the Village for services rendered but the developments in town are not paying their fair share. The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet on June 23rd at 3 p.m. to discuss this matter and come up with a recommendation.

Trustee Szymanski said that the Fourth of July Commission wants to pave an area in Firemen's Park between the bingo stand and the Community Hall, between the bingo stand and the food stand, in front of the food stand in the eating area, and the path to the walk bridge. Sunset Paving proposed a cost of \$11,595 to pave those areas. Concerns were raised by Trustee Gardner that the new path might be slippery when it rains. Trustee Cleary expressed concerns about the asphalt reflecting heat in the summer. It was the consensus of the Board that the improvements would be a good idea but concerns expressed were noted. It was noted that the Board couldn't vote on the matter because it was not on the agenda.

Trustee Szymanski asked who would be riding in the 4th of July Parade and asked if those riding would want to ride in the Smiling Choo Choo, a 4-car train. Trustee Szymanski asked for Board members to think about it and it will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

The Board considered an extension of a building permit for the Buchmeier building at the corner of Reed and Penfield Streets. President Lohmann recognized Mike Buchmeier in the audience and asked him to provide a report on his building. Mr. Buchmeier asked for an extension of the permit to finish the building. He had previously hoped to have the building completed by now but wants more time. Mr. Buchmeier felt the exterior work could be done in six months time but the interior remodeling might take longer. President Lohmann noted that every six months Mr. Buchmeier would have to pay a \$260 fee to renew the permit. Mr. Buchmeier didn't feel this fee was fair. Trustee Wehling made a motion to extend Mike Buchmeier's building permit for six months for the building at the corner of Reed and Penfield Streets. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

July Fourth preparations have begun. Chief Weissgerber reported that Beecher Police will have assistance from Will County and the State of Illinois during the celebration. Chief Weissgerber stated that he sent a letter to the railroad requesting to hold trains during the parade, but doesn't know where the letter went or if they will honor his request.

A report was provided on the youth activities. Chief Weissgerber reported that 60 people went to the Joliet Jackhammers outing. The Bike Rodeo was held on June 7th. The Police Department is considering holding a Guitar Hero match for an upcoming youth activity.

Trustee Kuhlman reported on the Senior Prom held on June 7th, and complimented Washington Township on the event, which went well.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion approving changes to the personnel manual concerning Police officer requests for time off. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. Chief Weissgerber noted that this was just a language change.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered a request for on-street parking on Grove Street from a point 350' east of Dixie Highway to Fir Street. President Lohmann has received a request to allow parking on one side of the street to allow the townhomes which face Grove Street to have some on-street parking for guests. President Lohmann said some tickets have been written by the Police Department but there is no sign in front of this area marking it as a no parking zone. Some Board members felt that there are not enough signs in some subdivisions to make people aware of the rules. Chief Weissgerber reported on this. Public Works Superintendent Cowger was asked if he could put in signs "no parking corner to here" in the areas where there aren't enough signs. Trustee Wehling suggested painting the curb yellow in this area on Grove Street. It was the consensus of the Board to paint the curb yellow on Grove Street. It was discussed how people don't like having no parking signs in their yard. Trustee Cleary felt more signs were needed on Aspen in Prairie Crossings. Trustee Cleary is to let Administrator Barber know where more signs are needed.

Trustee Wehling asked if a security camera could be put up near the new restrooms in Firemen's Park. Chief Weissgerber stated that a new cable would have to be run in the park. Chief will look into how this could be done and get a price. Superintendent Cowger agreed to help with this project.

President Lohmann asked if the end speed limit sign means one can drive 55 m.p.h. in front of the Preserve Subdivision on Indiana Avenue. Chief Weissgerber confirmed that the speed limit is 55 from that sign to the State Line.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Superintendent Cowger provided an update on the Miller Street walking bridge. The footings have been poured, steel has been ordered and work should begin next week. All but painting should be done by July 4th.

Superintendent Cowger reported that he has had some problems getting a response for proposals for crack sealing. More information should be available by the next Board meeting.

Superintendent Cowger reported that paint striping should be done around June 26th by the Village of Richton Park.

The first street sweeping occurred on May 7th or 8th and a second sweeping is scheduled for later in June.

The flower baskets and the new patriotic banners were installed the week of June 2nd.

An update was provided on erosion control in Prairie Crossings South. Administrator Barber explained the work done on the pond and explained that Ron Lyon from Cardinal Creek Golf Course agreed to make repairs to the pond. Problems were due to lack of maintenance.

ComEd advised the Village of the Summer 2008 tree trimming program. There was some discussion as to planting trees under electric wires and only certain types could be planted.

President Lohmann reported that he talked to Will County Board member Cory Singer the week of June 2nd and no new information was provided on the status of Hillcrest Drive.

Superintendent Cowger provided his report. Public Works has finished larviciding and will conduct the first spraying for mosquitoes on June 19th. Paint striping should be done before the Drivin' the Dixie event on June 21st. Public Works is working on mowing. Trustee Cleary asked about the status of the sign replacement program through Will County. Trustee Cleary noted that Baxter and Woodman did the evaluation of the signs in the Village and asked questions about the locations and types of signs. Trustee Cleary asked if all signs had to be on self-supporting structures. He also saw signs on ComEd poles and thought that was not allowed. Trustee Cleary thought Baxter and Woodman was going to verify if the signs were at correct distances and didn't feel that this was done. Trustee Cleary will give Ray Koenig of Baxter and Woodman an itemized list of signs in question.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman reported that he went to the start-up of Well #5 the previous week and it had a ground fault. Superintendent Cowger reported that Layne-Western was out earlier in the day and it appears that there is a problem with the installation of the wires. It was believed that the problem was fixed just a few hours earlier. Superintendent Cowger asked how Well #5 will be used since this question came up at the last meeting. It will run alternately in coordination with the other wells.

Results were provided from the night-time flushing program which occurred the week of May 19th. 394 hydrants were flushed. Over 1 million gallons went through the system. Six broken hydrants

were found: Three hydrants were broken in the Preserve. Jack Mayher will be contacted to fix these. Public Works will make repairs to the other three hydrants in town.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Phase I Report was provided in the packet for review. Ray Koenig was asked by Administrator Barber as to how the Village of Beecher is addressing the ammonia nitrate problem. Mr. Koenig said there is a need to assess the extent of the problem. Sewer Plant Operator Bill Merritt is sampling for ammonia content coming into the plant and is reporting his findings to Baxter and Woodman for the Phase I report.

The Board continued discussion on the leachate study report. Ray Koenig reported that Bill Merritt is monitoring current ammonia nitrate levels for this study.

The Board considered the repair of an existing pump to replace the #3 slot pump and a new Flygt pump to be installed at the influent lift station at the wastewater treatment plant, for a total cost of \$9,932. Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger explained this matter. There was much discussion regarding this. Trustee Cleary made a motion to purchase a new Flygt pump, pay the service fee and remove the KJ from the system. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. Discussion followed. During the discussion, it was suggested to buy a grinder for the pump. Trustee Cleary rescinded the previous motion and Trustee Ahrendt concurred. The consensus of the Board agreed to rescind the motion. Trustee Cleary made a motion to purchase a new Flygt pump with a grinder, pay the \$1,000 service call fee and remove the KJ pump from the system. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Firemen's Park/OSLAD Grant project. The Park is getting a lot of use and the park project is nearing completion. Trustee Wehling thanked Public Works and the Fourth of July Commission for their cooperation in getting the work done.

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park. The two ballfields were opened for play, and the outfields were re-seeded and rolled.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the letting of bids for the development of Prairie Park. Castletown Homes has provided the Village with \$58,000 per agreement to install this park. The park will look similar to Hunter's Chase Park. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) held a public hearing on May 29th on the rezoning from AG-1 to I-T upon annexation for 78 acres (McWhorter) and 40 acres (Butler). At the request of the petitioner, a recommendation on this item was tabled until the June 26th PZC meeting.

Several trustees reported on the trip to Watseka to tour the Perry senior housing project. Trustee Ahrendt reported that it was a very interesting trip and Trustee Szymanski agreed. They were impressed with the project and can work with any problems seen at that project to make it work in Beecher.

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 Economic Development Coordinator's monthly report was provided in the packet for review. Also provided was a copy of a promotional brochure being worked on for the Drivin' the Dixie event and the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo.

The Board considered referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission for amendments to the zoning ordinance pertaining to flashing signs. Administrator Barber explained his concerns with not regulating these signs before it becomes an issue. He asked the Board if they want this type of sign in Beecher and if there are any concerns about this. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to refer amendments to the zoning ordinance pertaining to flashing signs to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Ray Koenig of Baxter and Woodman provided the following updates:

- a. Repairs to the Hunter's Chase East pond: ripwrap was repaired last week and it will need to be watched during the upcoming rains.
- b. Pedwalks at Dixie Highway and Church Road: Mr. Koenig reported that there was an agreement with John Lotton to put in pedways at Dixie Highway and Church Road. Baxter and Woodman obtained a permit from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) two months ago. The developer did work 1-2 years ago at the urging of the Village Board to get it in before the new Junior High School opened. The permit from IDOT had changes to it and Lotton does not want to complete the changes.
- c. Replacing failed walks in Hunter's Chase and installing ramps to Church Road: Baxter and Woodman sent a list to John Lotton/Phillippe Builders two months ago of things that need to be fixed. They have marked problems and intend to replace the sidewalk when the next new foundation is put in the subdivision, so the concrete truck does not have to make a separate trip.

President Lohmann reported that the owner of a downtown café wishes to have an off-site directional sign at Penfield Street and Dixie Highway to direct people to her restaurant at 741 Penfield. The request is for a period of 30 days per season. This matter has been handled by Code Enforcement Officer Riechers.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann made the following appointments to the 4th of July Commission and Beautification Commission:

Beautification Commission:

Paul Lohmann, Village Representative
Sandy Lohmann
Steve Weishaar
Barb McWhorter, Treasurer
Harold Lattz

Fourth of July Commission:

Joe Gardner, Village Representative	Larry Cox	Patti Nissen
Greg Szymanski, Village Representative	Ken Hameister	Steve Reising
Ron Kuhlman, Village Representative	Bill Voss	Paul Lohmann
Robert Barber	Steve Koehn	Bob Howard
Chuck Hoehn	Greg Ohlendorf	Patty Meyer
Jerry Meyer	Irene Brothers	Laura Ranger
Nelson Collins, Treasurer	Kevin Bouchard	Christine Szymanski
Brad Coats	George Obradovich	

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve President Lohmann's appointments to the Beautification Commission and Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

The Board considered a request for a donation of \$500 for a Concert in the Park on Sunday, July 20th. President Lohmann reported on this. The band is to cost the Part-Time Players \$2,000 and they are asking the Village and Washington Township to help cover the cost. The Part-Time Players have also requested to use the food stand. There was some discussion as to setting a precedent by giving money to something like this. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a donation of \$500 to the Beecher Part-Time Players for the Concert in the Park to be held on July 20th. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

On Sunday afternoon, June 15th from 1-5 p.m. there will be a live radio remote with a Kankakee radio station for a home show on Keenan Lane. President Lohmann was not sure if he could attend so he needs a Trustee to attend. Economic Development Coordinator Meyer is planning to attend and wants someone from the Board to attend. No one was available since it was Father's Day and everyone had other activities already planned.

President Lohmann stated that he had a meeting with Mr. Gonzalas from Senator Barack Obama's office the previous week and discussed current issues of interest for the Village. President Lohmann was impressed with this meeting.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk