

**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 22, 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, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Nelson Collins and Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger.

**GUESTS:** Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Bill Voss, Chuck Hoehn, Kim Koutsky, George Schuitema, Kevin Owens and Howard Hamilton

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 8, 2010 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

**AYES:** (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

**NAYS:** (0) None.

**ABSTAIN:** (2) Trustees Cleary and Wehling.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) A bill was presented for the Beecher 4<sup>th</sup> of July Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the bill in the amount of \$601.64 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) There were no objections to a proclamation declaring May 12<sup>th</sup> as Fibromyalgia Awareness Day in the Village of Beecher. 4) Clerk Conner provided an update on the Census. 5) A letter from retiring part-time Police Officer Robert Husum was read aloud.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Kevin Owens, Director of Community Outreach from Representative Lisa Dugan's office introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Owens offered his assistance to the Village. President Lohmann asked about the trouble the Village has had in getting a water loan under the stimulus project. Administrator Barber also brought up the state fiscal crisis and Representative Dugan's position on reducing the local share of income tax.

**A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

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

The Village Board will hold a budget workshop on Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center. Trustee Cleary reported that he has met with President Lohmann and Administrator Barber to go over the budget. The draft has been provided to the Board. Trustee Cleary went over the proposed changes to be discussed at the workshop.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve a three-year agreement with Call One to assume all phone lines for the Village of Beecher. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski asked staff to look into adding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July building alarm phone bill to the Call One plan.

**B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Three bids were received for the 2010 Fourth of July celebration raffle car. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to award the bid to Van Drunen Ford in the amount of \$20,585 for the purchase of a 2010 Ford Mustang raffle car for the Fourth of July celebration. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber reported on upcoming youth activities: Bowling is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>; roller skating is April 17<sup>th</sup>; and May 1<sup>st</sup> is paintball. Chief Weissgerber will include information in the Village newsletter and will ask Joe Burgess to put information in the Washington Township newsletter. The Chief asked those interested in participating in any of the activities to call the police station.

Trustee Cleary requested a closed session be held at the end of the meeting to discuss the employee grievance matter from the police union.

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

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing a change to the brush pick-up schedule to every other Monday to coincide with curbside recycling. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing leaf collection for the entire Village and eliminating the free yardwaste bag distribution program. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on 2010 paving projects. It was noted that the Village needs to move ahead with their projects and not wait for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to take the Route #1 project out of the 2010 paving projects to be bid out. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski reported that interviews were held on March 19<sup>th</sup> for the part-time employee for Firemen's Park, funded by the Fourth of July Commission. Chuck Schultz has been selected to fill the position. Beecher Recreation has worked out arrangements with the Fourth of July Commission regarding use of the vendor's building for concessions during ballgames.

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

A report was provided on the Village's collection rates for water billing.

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

Trustee Wehling made a motion setting an open house for the new Public Works facility for Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. until noon. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was noted that the next Board meeting will be held at the new Public Works building.

Trustee Wehling reported on the recent Ehlers Bequest Committee meeting. The Committee discussed a location for the memorial, and it was determined that the memorial will be located by the depot and gazebo on Reed Street. The Committee is looking for donations for the memorial. The Committee

has been working closely with the Amvets on this matter and are hoping to construct a memorial similar to one in Wisconsin.

Clerk Conner provided a report on the Spring newsletter.

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

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is scheduled to meet on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The agenda includes a hearing on a zoning amendment to allow vertical wind turbines as special uses and a workshop on requiring variances and special uses to be recorded by the Village Clerk or a designee within 90 days of approval.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the deferral of water and sewer tap-in fees for all building permits issued in 2010 until the time of certificate of occupancy or September 1, 2011, whichever occurs first. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered an ordinance granting a portion of the Village's property tax as a reimbursement to Dutch American Foods, Inc., in the event they expand by a minimum of an additional 50,000 square feet. Mr. VanBaren has asked Administrator Barber what would happen if he downscales his project and how big does the project need to be to qualify for tax reimbursement. After some discussion, Trustee Ahrendt tabled the matter until the next meeting so it can be discussed with the School District at the Intergovernmental Committee meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

President Lohmann commented on the health care bill passed by legislature the previous day.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss an employee grievance. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 8:05 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann left the meeting.

The Board went over changes and wording in the strategic plan draft resolution. There was much discussion on policy statements and items in the plan.

There being no further business, Trustee Szymanski 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 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner, Village Clerk