

**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  
NOVEMBER 8, 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, Treasurer Nelson Collins and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

**GUESTS:** Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Kim Koutsky, Andrew Ahrendt and George Schuitema.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 11, 2010 Board meeting. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction: Page 4, line 2 change "reverse 9-1-1" to "Will County Emergency Notification System". Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

**AYES:** (4) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Kuhlman and Wehling.

**NAYS:** (0) None.

**ABSTAIN:** (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Gardner.

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 (\$821), Police Youth Activities (\$68.28), Ehlers/Veteran's Memorial (\$6,060), Beautification Commission (\$92.74) and Village Newsletter (\$1,596.83). Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the list of bills totaling \$8,638.85 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Clerk Conner reported that packets for the April 5, 2011 election are now available at the Village Hall. Filing dates are December 13-20. Three Trustees will be up for election.

## **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.

Variance reports for the month of September were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totaling \$391,170.90 to be paid was available for review. 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, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Fiscal Year 2009 financial report of the Village as classified by the Illinois Comptroller's Office was provided in the packet for review.

It was the consensus of the Board to discuss the five-year financial plans for Fiscal Years 2011-2015 at the next regular meeting. A special workshop will not be necessary.

Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the drafting of a property tax levy ordinance whereby the 2010 levy does not exceed 105% of the 2009 levy. Trustee Szymanski questioned how this would affect a taxpayer's real estate bill. Administrator Barber said it is difficult to determine at this time because of reduced property values and the complicated formula for determining taxes. 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 delaying the implementation of the capital equipment sinking fund account until May 2011 and at that time it will be further reviewed. Trustee Szymanski 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.

Trustee Cleary noted in Chief Weissgerber's report that the tornado siren at the Police Department does not have a battery backup and did not work during the recent storm. Administrator Barber explained that the Gould Street siren coverage area encompasses the entire area that is covered by the Police Department siren. The battery backup for the Gould Street siren also failed, possibly because of a power surge. The Police Department siren was no longer needed once the Gould Street siren was

put in, but was not removed, just as extra coverage. The Police Department siren is the old Fire Department siren.

Chief Weissgerber said there was nothing to report regarding Halloween patrols. It was a very quiet weekend.

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

The Route #1 deep patching project has been completed and a final invoice is being prepared.

The traffic signal at Chestnut and Dixie is now operational. Roadway striping still needs to be done. Trustee Ahrendt asked for signage to notify drivers of the new stop light. The engineer for the project did not recommend it, according to Administrator Barber. Administrator Barber will look into this.

An update was provided on the ring road repair. Trustee Szymanski asked if grass seed is to be planted once the dirt settles. Administrator Barber reported that grass seed will be planted.

Crack sealing by Denlar Corporation is expected to begin on November 10<sup>th</sup> and be completed by Thanksgiving.

Leaf and brush collection updates were provided. Public Works will make one last pass November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Holiday decoration installation is scheduled for the week of November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

An update was provided on the Pine Street flooding problem. Trustee Szymanski reported that the Streets and Alleys Committee met with Mr. Hearn and came up with a proposition to do work in-house to try and alleviate the flooding problems. Mr Hearn was asked to go back to the neighbors and see if they agree. A fence in one of the yards would have to be removed and put back up and a number of yards torn up. An agreement needs to be obtained from all the neighbors involved. The Committee hopes to extend an 18" pipe further out towards the farmer's fields to channel the water out of the back yards. A 15' easement would need to be obtained from the farmers that the subdivision homeowners could agree to maintain. The Board also discussed past problems with homeowners dumping yard waste on farmers' fields. Field tiles also found in the area need to be looked at more closely to see where they go. The Committee will work with the homeowners and farmers to try and get this problem resolved.

### **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 September and October were provided in the packet for review.

A watermain replacement account will be established with the funds generated by the \$4 per billing assessment for water system improvements.

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

Trustee Wehling reported that the Ehlers/Veterans Memorial Committee is very active. The next meeting is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>. Excavating for the project has been started. Concrete footings will be poured this week. Much of the material has been ordered and the star is being fabricated. The concept started with a \$50,000 donation, the projected cost went up to \$85,000, and to-date \$76,000 has been raised towards the project (including the Ehlers donation). Trustee Wehling thanked all of those who have made this possible. A McMayer night is to be held at McDonalds on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. to raise funds for the project. Board members were asked to volunteer to work for this. Trustee Wehling showed a sign that will go up at the site listing those who have donated towards this project. The memorial is scheduled for completion by September 11, 2011. Pavers will be installed around the monument and on the walkway.

#### **F. 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. President Lohmann stated that he received a call from a resident, Mr. O'Leary, regarding vacant homes in disrepair on Autumn Drive. Trustee Kuhlman has also been looking into this. Code Officer Riechers is working on trying to find the owner of the property to see what can be done to get the property fixed.

According to President Lohmann, the bank has tuck pointed Bob Tully's building on Gould Street and Glen Abney has indicated that he plans to reopen his bar soon.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve payment to Baxter and Woodman in the amount of \$305 for final inspection of the Cardinal Creek lift station. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Will County has scheduled an informational meeting on the proposed land use plan for Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center.

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

Trustee Wehling made a motion to cancel the November 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 27<sup>th</sup> Board meetings. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold a public officials forum at the January 10, 2011 Board meeting.

The Board considered purchasing electric power on behalf of all residents of the Village. President Lohmann explained this proposal. The entire town can be turned into a co-op to save residents money. This can be done through the Will County Governmental League. It was the consensus of the Board that this would be beneficial to pursue. Trustee Gardner made a motion of support to continue investigation of purchasing electric power. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Status was provided on outstanding letters of credit. President Lohmann asked if the Board wants to enforce Castletown Homes to complete their subdivision prior to the expiration of the letter of credit. Administrator Barber felt it was in the Village's best interest to get these subdivisions done instead of extending letters of credit. The Village can deal with Castletown Homes next year and push them to get the work done.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the use of the SEC Group for construction observation on the completion of the Hunter's Chase East Subdivision (road resurfacing, ring adjustments and curb work) at a cost not to exceed \$7,500. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed the need to put the final lift on the road in Hunter's Chase East Subdivision.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize the Village President to draw on letters of credit for Hunter's Chase East Subdivision in the event of non-performance. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked permission to write to legislators regarding HB 1554 to override the Governor's veto on the release of performance evaluations. There were no objections by the Board.

President Lohmann asked about parking on the west side of the street on Reed Street by the Depot and gazebo. He would like to limit parking on Reed Street between Penfield and Hodges to keep parking open for people to visit the Depot, the Veterans memorial, etc. Parking could possibly be limited to two hour parking from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. This matter was deferred to the Public Safety Committee for consideration. This matter can also be discussed further at the next Ehlers Committee meeting and again at the next Board meeting.

Trustee Cleary complained about the police not enforcing people parking their cars in the wrong direction in town.

President Lohmann reported on the EASTCOM meeting he attended last week. Employee benefits and salaries, including health insurance, were discussed. A four-year contract was considered. President Lohmann said EASTCOM dispatchers are among the lowest paid in the area. The Board voted unanimously to approve the contract. Excessive chatter on radios taking up air time was also discussed. This will be addressed at the Operating Committee meeting this week, according to Chief Weissgerber.

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

President Lohmann said the Beecher Boys' Cross Country team got first place at the state competition. A parade was held over the weekend. A sign will be ordered to put up at the north and south entrances to town announcing the win. Trustee Wehling made a motion to order two signs for Route 1, north and south entrances, for Beecher Boys' Cross Country Team's win of the State competition. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann stated that Thursday is Veteran's Day, and reminded people to thank the veterans.

Administrator Barber announced a meeting to be held this week with someone who may be interested in a senior living facility in Beecher.

Trustee Cleary asked about previous authorization for President Lohmann to pull on letters of credit, wondering if the entire amount of letter would be used. Yes, it would be the entire letter of credit.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Szymanski 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 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk