

PUBLIC HEARING OCTOBER 27, 2008

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER, ILLINOIS HELD AT THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CENTER, 30200 TOWN CENTER ROAD, BEECHER, ILLINOIS BEGINNING AT 7:04 P.M. ON OCTOBER 27, 2008.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: President Lohmann and Trustees Cleary (arrived at 7:02 p.m.), Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

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

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald (arrived at 7:24 p.m.), Tom Stluka, Andrew Ahrendt, Kim and Betty Koutsy, Harold Karstensen, Wayne Bobiak, Brad Townsend, Curt Dykstra, Arnold Cooper and Tom Brislane.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A public hearing was held to introduce the referendum question to the voters to consider a G.O. Bond issue in the amount of \$1,100,000 for the construction of a new Public Works facility. A video presentation was provided again to show what the Public Works Department does and what facilities and equipment the Village owns and maintains, showing the limited space in the existing Public Works garage and the proposed site for a new facility.

Wayne Bobiak from JMA Architects provided a presentation on his firm’s proposal for a new Public Works facility and showed pictures of the existing facility and proposed site for the new garage, including a site plan, proposed building type and layout.

Brad Townsend from Ehlers & Associates provided a presentation on the bond issue and the funding for the bond issue for the new Public Works facility.

Board members and audience members were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

Andrew Ahrendt of 302 Orchard Lane asked about square footage of the new building.

Administrator Barber noted that President Lohmann has done some research on steel buildings and found that this type of building seems to have gone down in price since the economy has gotten worse.

Administrator Barber asked if the callable feature of the bond could affect the interest rate. Mr. Townsend answered that it can be bid out both ways to get the best deal.

Trustee Szymanski asked about mailing out post cards regarding the referendum and also wanted to have a presence in front of polling places on election day. Some discussion followed.

Tom Brislane said the referendum is on the back of the ballot so many people may not actually vote on the issue. Mr. Brislane asked Brad Townsend about some of the financial aspects of the bond issue and if declining house values would affect the bond issue. Mr. Townsend said that it could affect the bond issue. Mr. Brislane then asked about the amount of bond issue and when it would be issued.

There being no further testimony, President Lohmann asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to close public hearing at 8:04 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk