

**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
AUGUST 14, 2007 -- 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 (arrived at 7:05 p.m.).

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Bud Cowger, Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer, Engineer Ray Koenig and Corporal Jeffrey Dopke.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Chuck Hoehn, Laura Bacon, Bob Tully, Andrew Ahrendt, Tom Brislane, Kevin Bouchard, Tom Stluka, Bill Voss, Marge Caldwell, Annette Wiersma, Marilyn Mester, Rose Terry, Betty Nicks, Ken Miller, Jeff Zimmer, Curt Whittinghill, Guillermo Delgado, Carol Riccio and Sheri Heber.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the July 17, 2007 Board meeting and the July 31, 2007 workshop meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) The Board considered a request from Jerri Kahney and Lin Brezich to solicit funds for Erik Gardner Day in Beecher, soliciting funds on street corners in town. The current ordinance does not allow for solicitation at any intersection of Route #1. Trustee Szymanski suggested having them stand out in front of stores instead of at intersections. It was the consensus to keep with the ordinance not allowing solicitation on roadways intersecting Route #1 for safety reasons. 3) Bills were presented for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve the list of bills

totalling \$1,127.86 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.

4) The Clerk reminded the Board that the Illinois Municipal League conference will be held from October 18th-21st. A tentative schedule was attached to the Clerk's Report. Anyone interested in attending should advise Clerk Conner so she can make reservations.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Betty Nicks was present and asked for time to repair the rotten eaves on the building at 1202 Dixie Highway. Code Enforcement Officer Riechers provided a written report indicating all other repairs requested to be done by the Village had been completed. The eaves were all that was left to be repaired. Ms. Nicks was given an additional 30 days to make repairs to the eaves.

Bob Tully from Teapots Café and Antiques was present regarding the building next to his owned by Bud VonAlven. Mr. Tully is still planning to purchase Mr. VonAlven's building but his attorneys haven't been able to obtain a survey yet, but are working on it. Mr. VonAlven has been removing his property from the building so it is believed that he does plan to follow through with the closing. August 31st is now scheduled as the closing date. Mr. Tully asked for an extension on demolition proceedings for Mr. VonAlven's building due to the attorneys not having all required paperwork. The Board discussed the existing well/cistern on the property and the tenants of the gun shop currently occupying the building. The Board discussed getting sewer and water service to the building. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to grant a 30-day extension to Mr. Tully to give him more time to close the sale. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Marge Caldwell of Fox Hound Trail expressed concerns of the building on the end of the street. It is a townhome unit that was never completed and is boarded up and in poor shape. She has called the developer and nothing is getting done. She is concerned about the appearance of it and safety concerns. The Village previously boarded up the building to secure it. It is believed that the developer is in bankruptcy proceedings. Ms. Caldwell was concerned also about the high weeds on that property and the adjoining empty lot. She said she was just looking for direction to see what she could do. Ms. Caldwell was directed to talk to Julie Riechers, Code Enforcement Officer.

Rose Terry of Fox Hound Trail asked if the Village was responsible for sodding or seeding the parkway at her townhome. Ms. Terry was informed that either the Homeowner's Association or the owner would be responsible for this.

Marilyn Mester of Fox Hound Trail asked if the Village would cut weeds in her area because they are very high. She was referred to speak with Code Enforcement Officer Riechers.

Jeff Zimmer of 250 Mallards Cove was present and asked questions about the proposed bike path and pond area. Mr. Zimmer asked who was in charge of the easement in the rear of his property and the bike path that was originally supposed to go there. Administrator Barber responded that the developer decided that he didn't want to put the bike path behind houses because some residents were opposed to it so it was decided to put the path in the front. Mr. Zimmer was not opposed to it in the back and stated that there were a lot of weeds growing in the back by the pond. Multiple residents from this area were present regarding this matter. After some discussion, Administrator Barber recommended that the bike path be put in the back as approved in the original hearings and as originally designed. It was the consensus of the Board to inform the developer to install the bike path as originally designed. Code Enforcement Officer Riechers will be directed to look at the high weeds by the pond.

Chuck Bruti was present asking for reconsideration of annexing his parcel of property that was previously considered by the Board located at the south end of Woodward Street. This proposal was not approved previously, partly because it didn't have any second access point to the subdivision. Concerns about traffic on Woodward Street were again raised. Board members that were on the Board when previously considered were asked their opinion. All opposed the proposal for the same reasons the matter was denied before so there would not be enough affirmative votes to approve it now.

Guillermo Delgado of 1531 Hunters Drive raised concerns about graffiti on the slide in Hunter's Chase Park. Public Works will take care of the matter.

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.

A list of bills totalling \$228,518.42 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. There were discussions about the street lighting bill and some lights in new subdivisions that are leaning and others that have never been lit. Staff will get in contact with Montalbano Homes to get the lights fixed. Trustee Ahrendt asked questions about the light at Orchard and Caroline. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve a letter of engagement with Smith, Koelling, Dykstra and Ohm for three years of auditing at a rate of \$14,000 per year plus cost of living adjustments. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Village staff has begun the process for creating a five-year financial plan and Capital Improvements Plan.

Trustee Szymanski, member of the Economic Development Committee, reported that he would like to address a different idea to revitalize the old downtown area. The people need to be brought into the old downtown area first and then the businesses would come, instead of vice versa. It was suggested that perhaps a farmer's market could be started in the area, coordinate with a Fourth of July project, war memorial, etc., could also be considered.

Results were provided of the August 8th Fourth of July Commission meeting. The old food stand has been demolished. Chuck Hoehn, President of the commission provided a report on material costs for a new food stand. Mr. Hoehn stated that Bob Howard, Washington Township Supervisor, has been instrumental in getting the labor donated from union apprenticeship schools so the cost can remain low. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment in an amount not to exceed \$13,000 to Home Depot for materials for a new food stand in Firemen's Park. Trustee Ahrendt 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.

No information was available on future youth or senior activities.

An update was provided on the mosquito abatement program.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

An update was provided on tree trimming and removal for 2007. Over 30 trees were identified for trimming and five trees will be removed. This work will be completed in the month of August. In late August the remainder of the town will be surveyed for work in September.

Yardwaste bag giveaway days have been tentatively scheduled for October 13th and 20th, from 9 a.m. until noon. Each Board member was asked to consider working one of these two dates, so staff can start publicizing when the giveaway days will be held.

The Board considered a request for the placement of clothing collection bins in the Village on rights of way. Administrator Barber reported that the Beecher Car Wash had one last spring and it was abused and used as a dumping site. It was decided Purple Heart and Amvets collection services numbers will be kept in the Village Hall in case residents want them for the donation of clothes and furniture. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance

prohibiting clothing collection bins in Village rights of way and private property in the Village. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the drainage complaint by Mr. Hartke at the southwest corner of Hodges and Woodward Streets. Repairs are being done and asphalt should arrive by the end of the week.

Status was provided on the placement of no parking signs in Hunter's Chase West and Unit III of Prairie Crossings. Hunter's Chase West is done. Prairie Crossings is waiting on getting some signs in inventory, according to Public Works Superintendent Cowger.

President Lohmann reported on the new school walking paths and new crossing guards to be put near the new Junior High School. School Board President Stluka reported on the criteria for busing students.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that his staff has been busy cutting weeds and working on walking paths for the school. Tree trimming will start in a few weeks.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

Superintendent Cowger reported that recent storms did some damage to the water system. He is working on getting the problems fixed.

Administrator Barber and President Lohmann spoke to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) on a conference call the previous week regarding the future of the wastewater operating permit. The IEPA has agreed to some alternative solutions to the UV lighting if the Village addresses six homes at the south end of Southfield Drive next to the creek. The IEPA expressed concerns about kids from any of these properties getting into the creek and getting sick. Staff is working on this issue with the IEPA to satisfy their concerns.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that the Firemen's Park/OSLAD Grant project has gone to bid and bids will be opened next week. Some concerns were expressed by Board members and Fourth of July Commission members regarding ballfields. Trustee Wehling reported ballfields will be flip flopped on the plan to address concerns and showed a print of the changes to the fields. Administrator Barber asked if the Board still wanted to move forward with these plans or wait until after July 4th next year so the project does not interfere with the festival or the baseball seasons. It was also talked about

getting the electric upgraded in the park in conjunction with this project so it may be covered under the grant.

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park. Concrete pads for the ballfield have been poured. Ballfields will be put in this fall and be playable in the spring of 2008.

An update was provided on Nantucket Cove Park. The foundation is in for the play area, the concrete pad for the entrance has been poured, and play equipment should be installed in the next few weeks.

The Board was asked to think about articles for the Fall Village newsletter.

President Lohmann stated that a plaque was mounted onto a large rock in memory of Wendell Ohlendorf at the gazebo his family donated to the Village, located in Women's Club Park on Reed Street. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

A Building Department monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

Administrator Barber asked that the matter of amending the template annexation agreement be deferred until the next intergovernmental committee meeting because the School District would like to discuss it further.

Engineer Koenig reported on the drainage issue to the east of Hunter's Chase Subdivision. To date, nothing has been resolved with Joseph A. Schudt, the developer's engineer. He is not responding to a letter that has been sent. A farmer's property adjacent to Hunter's Chase East has been flooding out. President Lohmann is recommending some type of compensation for the property owner who is getting flooded out. It was felt this should not have occurred in the first place and is due to improper engineering. It was thought that part of the problem is that the developer should reconnect a tile that was disconnected. Some potential solutions to the problem were discussed. Staff needs to check with the Village Attorney as to whether the Village can draw on the performance bond to get this problem resolved. Mr. Lotton is going to be informed to fix the problem or the Village will. President Lohmann recommended compensating farmers for crop damage in the amount of \$800 for Larry Martisek (two years for four acres) and \$150 for Dale Mueller. Trustee Cleary made a motion to pay Larry Martisek \$800 and Dale Mueller \$150 for compensation for crop damages due to flooding. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Engineer Koenig answered questions from the Board regarding these kind of engineering problems. There was much discussion on this matter. John Lotton will be notified of the Village's intent to fix the problem if it is not fixed and if necessary, Public Works will make repairs to stop the flooding.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann received a letter of resignation from Bryan Frank of the Planning and Zoning Commission. President Lohmann appointed Kevin Bouchard to replace Bryan Frank. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve President Lohmann's appointment of Kevin Bouchard to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann commented on the recycling program now available at the Washington Township Center. Recycling is now available to Township residents, plus electronics. Electronics can only be dropped off on Tuesdays and Thursdays and one Saturday per month.

An update was provided on Crete and Beecher's Facilities Planning Area (FPA) expansion proposals. A public hearing was held last Monday and the results of this hearing and the status of the Village's application were discussed. A copy of the letter that was sent to CMAP as the Village's official response to the hearing was provided in the packet for review. Administrator Barber showed a map of the area for the FPA expansion proposal and explained the expansion proposal. Administrator Barber reported that it looks as if CMAP may be planning to give Crete up to Eagle Lake Road if Beecher and Crete can't come to an agreement, or deny both applications. The Board discussed the watershed areas. The Board also discussed negotiating a different FPA area with Crete. It was the consensus of the Board to stick with the FPA proposal to expand to Offner Road.

An intergovernmental committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29th at 7:00 p.m.

A fundraiser for Erik Gardner is scheduled for Saturday, September 22nd, at the Beecher Amvet Hall.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a proposal from Baxter and Woodman in the amount of \$12,500 to engineer the Indiana Avenue site for the Public Works garage and any future development on the site. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered installing fencing from Penfield to Hodges Street along the east side of the railroad tracks. This was a condition of the Village leasing the property in 2004 but the fence was never installed. President Lohmann stated that three bids have been received for the job. Trustee

Ahrendt made a motion to approve the fence bid from Mr. Fence in the amount of \$8,400 for a three-rail fence with stiffeners for the area behind the Depot on Reed Street. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Installation of a fence along Lion's Club park is also being required by the railroad. This fence will be budgeted next year.

President Lohmann stated that a streetlight is needed at Cardinal Creek and Bald Eagle, which is a very dark area. Engineer Koenig will have MGM Development be sure to install a light at that location.

President Lohmann reported on a brochure for a seminar for the Development Approval Process in Illinois and asked any Board members if they would like to attend. It will be held the same time as the Municipal League Conference. Trustee Ahrendt will check her calendar.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber reported on a legislative initiative grant applied for by Washington Township to put an elevator in at the Community Hall. Trustee Wehling made a motion to send a letter of support of the grant. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk