

**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
DECEMBER 13, 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, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

GUESTS: Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Bob Carter, George Schuitema and John DellAquila.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

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 (\$120.00), Ehlers/Veteran's Memorial (\$4,491.34) and Beautification Commission (\$818.66). Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the list of bills totaling \$5,430.00 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Clerk Conner reported that election packets for the April 5, 2011 election are now available at the Village Hall. Filings to run for office as Village Trustee will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 20, 2010.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Bob Carter read a prepared statement stating his reasons for opposition to the proposed South Suburban Airport. President Lohmann noted that a letter was sent to Governor Quinn from Will County Executive Larry Walsh regarding control of the proposed airport.

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.

The Board discussed authorizing the drafting of a resolution pertaining to the payment of bills by commissions of the Village. Trustee Cleary explained how this question came about and recommended modifying the procedure for approving commission bills. Trustee Cleary pointed out that many of these commission members are paying bills out of their pocket and not getting reimbursed right away. Treasurer Collins also noted that some vendor bills need to be paid in a more timely manner since we are currently only able to approve these bills once per month. He said he would like to be able to pay these bills without having to wait for a Board meeting. The Treasurer felt that a different person should approve bills than who signs the checks. After much discussion, Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the drafting of a resolution establishing procedures for the payment of bills by commissions of the Village as follows: The commission chair is to sign off on all bills first, then the bills will be submitted to the Village Administrator for final review and then provided to the Treasurer and Village President for payment. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was noted that the commission bills will still be listed on the Clerk's report with a notation made as to which bills have already been paid and those which have not.

Treasurer Collins also asked for a more formal procedure for approval of payment of ongoing bills: payrolls, tax payments, fuel, insurance payments, etc. where there are no formal procedures currently in place. These bills automatically get paid each month the way things are done now. Trustee Szymanski said these ongoing bills have been approved at some time through a budget or other form and also noted that two signatures are always needed on each check. Approval of payroll and benefit costs is included on the monthly list of bills as recommended by a previous auditor. It was the consensus of the Board that the Village Board has agreed to these payments through budgets, hiring of personnel, etc. and don't need a more formal process for further approval at this time.

The variance reports for the month of October were provided in the packet for review.

Administrator Barber reported that the Village now has to pay for Nicor gas due to the addition of the new Public Works garage because we have exceeded our free therms for the year.

A list of bills totaling \$259,947.18 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.

ORDINANCE #1139 - An Ordinance adopting a tax levy for 2010 collectible in 2011. Administrator Barber explained the tax levy and tax rate and made comparison to previous year's taxes. A 2.7% tax levy increase is being requested. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1139. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber provided a summary of the five-year plan. There was some discussion on the problems with the economy and failure of the State to make income tax payments. There were no objections from the Board on the proposed plan.

RESOLUTION #2010-26 - A Resolution adopting a five-year financial plan for fiscal years 2011-2015. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2010-26. Trustee Wehling 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.

Chief Weissgerber and Trustees Kuhlman and Cleary met to discuss two-hour parking on Reed Street from Hodges to the Depot and recommended approval of installation of a sign. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to authorize installation of a sign implementing two-hour parking on the west side of Reed Street from Hodges to the Depot. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary explained the issue regarding concerns about cluster box locations. Postal Service cluster boxes used to face the sidewalks but the postmaster recently turned them to face the street. Trustee Cleary noted that a cluster box in Hunter's Chase is at a "T" intersection and was concerned about public safety with children and others getting the mail standing in the street. The Public Safety Committee will meet with the Postmaster to discuss this issue.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The crack sealing program for 2010 has been completed.

An update was provided on the Pine Street flooding. The Chairman is waiting for a response from Mr. Hearn.

The Board considered a policy on ash tree removal or treatment on public property as a result of potential future ash borer infestations. Administrator Barber explained three options: 1) chemically treat trees; 2) take all ash trees down; or 3) sit and wait until a problem arises. It was the consensus of the Board to approve a policy regarding future ash borer infestations, to wait and see if a problem arises with ash borers and take trees down as needed.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The Board discussed a loan for watermain replacement. After doing research, Administrator Barber felt that the Village could apply for a loan of no more than \$680,000 which can be covered by the \$2 per month flat charge. Trustee Gardner was most comfortable bidding out the project in pieces so costs could be determined and see what is most affordable. Administrator Barber explained what is involved in getting this project done. Board members were asked for their input. According to Administrator Barber, the order of priority for watermain replacement would be: Maxwell Street, Indiana Avenue, Penfield west of the bridge and then Penfield east of the bridge. The cost of the replacement of the mains versus the costs to repair watermain breaks was considered. Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve an application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Water Revolving Fund for a loan in an amount not to exceed \$680,000, and to bid the project out in whole as well as in segments. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve a proposal from Baxter and Woodman to submit an amended application to the IEPA for loan funds, an amended action and financing plan, and to renew all of the construction permits and sign-offs in an amount not to exceed \$17,500, with payment to be made upon receipt of loan funds. Trustee Szymanski 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

Administrator Barber reported on the recent meeting of the Ehlers Bequest Committee. The Committee approved another level of sponsorship. The cost of the star has increased due to changes in the placement of the star. The McMayor Night was postponed until spring. The Committee will sell paver bricks at \$100 per brick. Only veteran's names will be engraved on bricks on a certain portion of the path, and other people's names will be engraved on bricks in another location. The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a lease agreement with Lange Excavating for the winter housing of a front end loader at the old Public Works garage at 380 Ahrens Drive. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling reported that there have been concerns expressed about Welton Stedt Park. There is no money to improve parks but some manpower is available to assist Beecher Recreation. Beecher Recreation has offered to supply stone and crushed limestone to get the fields up to par for practice. Doug Short offered to seed outfields and provide fertilizer. The Village needs to dig infields out for them. In spring the grass will be cut out and hauled away and Beecher Recreation will bring in stone. One is the boys field and one is the girls. To get rid of infield sod on the boys field, stone will be put in and at some point down the road, when money is available, clay will be put in. Trustee Cleary asked about outfield drainage tile. Public Works Superintendent Cowger said drain tiles need to be removed. Superintendent Cowger asked about the Village's commitment for manpower for maintenance of fields once they are done. Trustee Wehling felt if Beecher Recreation improves the field, they will need to perform maintenance on it as well, and also work with the School District on this.

Firemen's Park lighting was discussed with Beecher Recreation again. The Village doesn't have funds to do anything with the lights. Superintendent Cowger provided his opinion on what is wrong with the lights and indicated there is an urgency to get something done. The Fourth of July Commission may also be asked to help pay for the repairs. The poles may have to be replaced. Trustee Wehling thanked all entities for working together to get this problem fixed. Trustee Wehling made a motion to authorize the Public Works Superintendent to fix lighting problems in Firemen's Park. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Another topic with Beecher Recreation is that they want to have preference to use the fields when they need to play. Beecher Recreation has been asked to provide the Village Hall with a schedule and will have preference for use of the fields. Contact information for field scheduling will be publicized at each field. There may be a problem with determining schedules for practices.

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. Trustee Cleary asked about work being done at Linden and Aspen with tarping. Superintendent Cowger thought it was for an ice rink. Code Officer Riechers will check into the matter and notify Trustee Cleary via email.

An update was provided on Hunter's Chase East. President Lohmann talked to John Lotton about outstanding engineering bills. Money has not yet been received. President Lohmann will check into the matter again.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A public officials forum is scheduled for the January 10th Board meeting. The state will be in session at the time of the forum so there won't be very many state and federal officials available to attend. County and local officials should be able to make the meeting.

A copy of a letter of opposition to amendatory veto of HB5154 was provided in the packet for review. The House has overridden the Governor's veto. This bill applies to personnel evaluations no longer being subject to FOIA.

Results were provided from the meeting with the Stough Group. President Lohmann reported that they are very interested in placing senior housing in Beecher. Various sites are being looked at. This is a good company that has been in business for a long time. Only one bedroom units are being proposed.

At a recent meeting, the Tollway Board talked about the history of the Illiana Expressway and where they would like it to go. The Tollway Board eventually wants to connect Interstates 55 and 65.

Comcast's notice of their changing channel line-up was provided in the packet for review.

The Board considered legislative initiatives for the Spring 2011 session. President Lohmann had a list of suggestions he went through with the Board. After much discussion, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve submitting the following legislative initiatives to the Will County Governmental League: Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) oversight of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) needs to end; Continued support of pension reforms; Unfunded mandates are costing the taxpayer; Education Funding Reforms tied to Property Tax Relief; Higher tax rates for out of state workers; and Work toward a balanced budget but not on the backs of local governments. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber reported that IDOT told the Village we are getting our sign grant we applied for two years ago. As of yet, we have the posts but not the signs.

Administrator Barber noted snow removal and salting procedures with recent weather problems. Public Works has less manpower and more streets. The plowing and salting may not all get done right

away, and asked for the residents' patience. Trustee Ahrendt asked about salting intersections, especially adjoining Route #1. Superintendent Cowger addressed her concerns.

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 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk