

**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 27, 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 Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

ABSENT: Trustee Peterson.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger and Engineer Ray Koenig.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Andrew Ahrendt, Tom Brislane, Melissa Ploszaj, Greg Szymanski, Bill Voss, Chuck Hoehn, Kevin Bouchard, Tom Stluka, Brian Cleary, Joe Gardner, George Schuitema, Joe Venturella, Tod Stanton, Dan McKay, John Popp and Attorney George Arnold.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 13, 2007 Board meeting. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Rehborg.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given.

2) Early/Absentee voting began at the Village Hall on March 26th for Village residents. 3) Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve a Proclamation recognizing May as "Motorcycle Awareness Month" in Beecher as requested by South Suburban A.B.A.T.E.. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Melissa Ploszaj of 246 Aspen requested a variance for a fence in her front yard. She lives on a corner lot so technically she has two front yards. She has also applied for a variance with the Prairie Crossings Homeowner's Association and was asking to be referred to the Planning and Zoning

Commission. If the Homeowner's Association approves her request, it was the consensus of the Board to refer her to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Tom Brislane announced that there are candidate forums scheduled for April 1st and 7th. All Village Board candidates have indicated that they will attend the April 1st forum.

Tom Brislane announced that Jack Mayher is suing a resident of Beecher for speaking out at a previous meeting. Mr. Brislane asked that Village staff be directed not to address Mayher by his first name due to pending litigation and other issues.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

The budget workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center. Pizza and pop will be provided.

The special newsletter on the sales tax referendum will be mailed to all residents the week of April 2nd.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Results were provided on the senior breakfast that was held on March 15th. Chief Weissgerber reported that approximately 120 people attended the breakfast. The speaker was from the Northeast Illinois Agency on Aging. Feedback from those in attendance was to have a future speaker from the Secretary of State's office. President Lohmann asked if Chief Weissgerber felt the breakfasts were beneficial, which the Chief said they were.

ORDINANCE #1057 - An ordinance amending the Code pertaining to auxiliary Police officers. Chief Weissgerber explained that the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Board dictates officer training. An auxiliary officer has to have 400 academy hours of training, which is the same as part-time officer requirements. This ordinance would satisfy training board requirements without having to complete the 400 hours. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1057. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Status was provided on the brush pick-up program. A meeting was held with Tom Agema of Homewood Disposal to discuss changes to the current contract if we drop brush pick-up from the program and conduct

it in-house with a brush chipper. Staff was advised that the contract would be reduced by \$0.30 per month per household. This would reduce the contract by \$8,136 per year or \$48,816 over the six year life of the project. This savings can be used to pay for a brush chipper from the Refuse Fund. This matter will be discussed further at the budget workshop.

Engineer Koenig provided status of the 2006 paving program. Engineer Koenig will set up a meeting the second week of April to go over test results of core samples taken from some of the newly paved roads. Some of the samples came back at less than Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) standards and those streets will need to be fixed.

Administrator Barber reported that the Rain Garden Workshop held on March 24th was well attended.

A report was provided on the street light project on Cardinal Creek Boulevard. MGM Development has paid the installation fee for a total of 46 new street lights in Units #1 and #6 and along Cardinal Creek Boulevard to Blue Heron. The Village met with ComEd representatives to design street lights for the remainder of Cardinal Creek Boulevard from Blue Heron to Church Road. Five 250w sodium vapor lights will be installed on existing poles. The size of the masts have changed. They no longer use 21 ft masts, which will change the lighting effects. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the installation of five street lights. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

Engineer Koenig reported that all of the Country Lane watermain has been installed and driveway culverts are done. The project is hoped to be completed by Memorial Day.

Engineer Koenig provided status of the well #5 construction. Bids are scheduled to be opened on April 3rd. In order to run electric service to the well, an easement is needed by the bike path. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve a 10' electric easement in Hunter's Chase East in the green space near the bike path, in order to run the electric service to the well. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked about the restoration around Cardinal Drive where the sewer was installed for the school. Engineer Koenig will have the area restored to stop erosion.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Tod Stanton of Design Perspectives was present and showed improvement plans for Firemen's Park which will be completed with an OSLAD grant. He hopes to bid out the project in early May and break ground in mid-July for an anticipated completion in December. Tod explained the improvements. An archaeological survey will be done.

Tod Stanton provided an update on Welton Stedt Park. Mr. Stanton will be meeting with the contractor the first week in May to check ground conditions to see if it is favorable to begin the work.

Trustee Wehling brought up about running a sewer line in this park. Trustee Wehling will discuss the details with Superintendent Cowger.

Tod Stanton reported that work on Nantucket Cove Park is ready to begin, depending on the weather. Nantucket Cove Park and Prairie Park should be completed by Memorial Day. President Lohmann asked if bid costs for the parks included Tod Stanton's fees. Mr. Stanton's fees are above and beyond the bid costs. Trustee Wehling made a motion to award a bid to George's Landscaping in the amount of \$147,039.75 for the installation of Nantucket Cove Park (\$72,016.00) and Prairie Park (\$75,023.75). Both developers have provided sign-off letters and approved site plans. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber reported that staff met with the architects for the municipal building last week. A 3-D drawing of the building will be presented to the Board in May. The project will be bid out with a garage as one bid and the Public Works annex as a separate bid.

Administrator Barber asked for suggested for the Spring newsletter. President Lohmann commented on the new brush pickup procedure, recycling, and that yard waste totes are available for rent. Trustee Wehling suggested that the meter charge for new residents be put in the newsletter.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE #1058 - An ordinance rezoning from R-1 to O-R of lot #181 of Creekside Subdivision being 170' x 272' (46,240 square feet) located on the west side of Dixie Highway opposite of Linden Lane. The petitioner, John Popp of Westbury Development, and his attorney, George Arnold, were present. A copy of the ordinance was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1058. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The consideration of an ordinance amending the zoning code regarding meeting procedures and the definition of accessory structure was deferred until the next meeting. Attorney Kuiper has not yet provided an ordinance.

The Plan Commission agreed to hold a public hearing on a proposed container storage ordinance recommended by Will County so that these units can be regulated. MGM also presented two alternative site plans for their new development and requested another public hearing.

ORDINANCE #1059 - An ordinance amending the code for permits for open burning of native vegetation in place and the allowance for prairie grasses and native plants exceeding 8" in height in designated areas. It was discussed that a professional "burner" would be hired to do this. A copy of the amended code was provided in the packet for review, as recommended by the Trim Creek Watershed Committee. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1059. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The consideration of an ordinance adopting a new Subdivision Code for the Village was deferred until the Board had more time to read the book. The last chapter pertaining to landscaping will be removed from the book and will be considered as a separate ordinance.

ORDINANCE #1060 - An ordinance of annexation for the 34-acre School District property located north of Miller Street on the west side of Beecher. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1060. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1061 - An ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a development agreement with Westbury Development, LLC for the Creekside Subdivision. A copy of the agreement was provided in the packet for review. Petitioner John Popp and Attorney George Arnold were present. There was no other interest in the property as thought at the last meeting, so the petitioners asked for approval at this time. George Arnold explained the subdivision plans. Administrator Barber reported that the Village attorney has approved the agreement. Trustee Ahrendt asked what happens if developers don't close on this ground. Mr. Arnold indicated that the agreement would no longer be good. Trustee Kuhlman indicated that he discussed first floor brick on the homes in this subdivision and would like to see it as a requirement, but it is not included in the current development agreement. Trustee Kuhlman asked if they would consider doing a percentage of brick. Mr. Popp would not commit to it. Mr. Arnold and Mr. Popp answered a number of questions from the Board. After some discussion, Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1061. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a final plat of subdivision for Creekside Unit 1, contingent upon approval by the Village Engineer. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber reported that the Prairie Crossings Homeowner's Association is going well. A five member Board of Directors was elected.

Engineer Koenig reported on the following:

- a.) Lange Excavating has been given permission to enter Larry Martisek's property to fill in the low area that currently has ponding water.
- b.) IDOT is trying to get Lotton to move forward regarding the hole on the east side of Dixie Highway across from Hunter's Chase West.
- c.) Mr. Degroot hired an engineer from Champaign to look at the drainage study on stormwater discharging west from Hunter's Chase East.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann noted that some new people arrived late to the meeting and asked if anyone had any business for the Board.

Joe Venturella from 280 Mallards Cove in Hunter's Chase is having a problem with his neighbor's fenced in area being used as a dog run. The dogs are barking all of the time. Mr. Venturella spoke to the neighbor, but that didn't help and asked if the Village could do anything to help him. He has called the police but the problem persists. Chief Weissgerber said he was just made aware of the problem earlier in the day. Chief Weissgerber commented that Mr. Venturella needs to call the police when the dogs are barking so the police can cite the owner or so that Mr. Venturella can sign a written complaint. Chief Weissgerber and Administrator Barber will work with Mr. Venturella to see what can be done.

Nelson Collins resigned from the Beecher Economic Development Authority (BEDA) Board. President Lohmann asked for suggestions to replace him.

An update was provided regarding the Peotone Access League (PAL). PAL representatives talked to the Peotone Village Board on March 26th, asking for money and volunteers. Staff has received an informal

request from PAL for a \$3,000 grant. There may not be enough remaining members to be a legal board. Peotone is looking into all of these issues.

An update was provided on the Centerpoint/Crete annexation. The property to the south of Crete has been annexed by Crete. Trustee Kuhlman attended the Crete Board meeting and reported 12 residents spoke against the development but the project was approved anyway. Concerns were voiced from residents about closing Elmscourt Lane and what would happen to Goodenow Road and the viaduct. President Lohmann suggested Centerpoint move forward on building an access road instead of using Goodenow Road and putting the impact on all of the residents in that area.

Administrator Barber reported that opposition to the Illiana Expressway is occurring east of I-65. The Governor of Indiana is backtracking on the scope of the road. President Lohmann indicated Centerpoint is very interested in the Illiana Expressway and has political clout.

An update was provided on the third airport. Administrator Barber reported that Will County was pushing hard this spring for an airport governance bill.

Administrator Barber provided a report on pending litigation and results of the Will County Governmental League Springfield drive down. A point of delivery sales tax bill was discussed, which seems to be gathering opposition. Also discussed was the gross receipts tax and A T & T using the Village right-of-way without permission.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber requested a closed session be held to discuss pending litigation.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Rehborg made a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss pending litigation at 9:04 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to return to regular session at 9:22 p.m. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber provided an update on the Centerpoint project. Mr. Soucie and Mr. Bunte were offered contracts to purchase their property. Many other contracts are also being offered to property owners in the area. This is speculated to be used as commercial or industrial property. If it is to be used for some

type of commercial use, the Board must think about whether to go along and possibly set up a TIF district to finance improvements to the area since some of the properties are located in Washington Township. Board members will get with the other taxing bodies to work something out.

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

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk