

**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  
MAY 28, 2014 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Szymanski called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: President Szymanski and Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Kypuros.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Kim Koutsy, Deputy Treasurer Nelson Collins and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

**GUESTS:** Karen Smith from the Northwest Indiana Times and Southland Voice, George Schuitema and Emily McMahan.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 12, 2014 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) There were no objections to a request from Relay for Life to hold their "Dollar Days" on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> outside local businesses. 3) Clerk Conner provided a report on the International Institute of Municipal Clerks that she attended the previous week.

**A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve a five-year lease agreement with Surf Air Wireless for use of the Village water tower for wireless internet access for a \$225 per month fee plus five free access points at 20 mbps. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Wehling reported that ball is being played at Welton Stedt Park. There is extra crushed lime available at the fields.

Superintendent Cowger said he will spread stone on the Lions Park path when he gets an opportunity.

Superintendent Cowger reported that he has a meeting with ComEd this week to go over drops for the scoreboards in Firemen's Park and there should be one half day of work left to do. The scoreboards are being used.

There was no report on the park rules.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the air conditioning unit at 625 Dixie Highway appears to work fine and no leaks were found. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$501.77 to L & H Services for diagnostics and repairs on the R/T unit from the 625 Dixie Highway account. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Cleary, Meyer, Wehling and President Szymanski.

NAYS: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed awarding a bid for the 625 Dixie remodeling project. Fourteen valid bids were received for the project. Trustee Wehling recommended this vote be tabled until the next meeting. Due diligence needs to be done with the contractor before moving forward with this.

**C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

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

Trustee Ahrendt reported that the Village has applied for a grant to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to complete the land use plan. The project would be completed by Teska Associates and is funded 10% by the Village, 10% by the State and 80% by the federal government.

Trustee Ahrendt reported that she and President Szymanski plan to meet with one of the building owners in the old downtown to discuss the current condition and future of their building. They hope to meet with one of the other property owners also.

**D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

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

Chief Weissgerber reported that an annual meeting is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> with the School District to go over school safety and security.

Chief Weissgerber reported that he did some training on Nixle Engage. Administrators will be assigned on the account and will have to set up databases for the notifications. The Village can choose what types of broadcasts can be done through the National Weather Service.

A report was provided on two workers compensation cases. The Police Department currently has one full-time and one part-time officer on leave due to injury on the job. One officer will be out for 6-8 months and the other officer's return is undecided at this time.

Superintendent Cowger reported that he will begin mosquito spraying this Thursday and larvaciding on Friday.

Trustee Cleary commended the Chief on the Code Enforcement report and the work being done. A meeting is scheduled with office staff to discuss status of code enforcement issues. Administrator Barber reported on efforts to get weeds cut in the Village and explained the problems with finding owners. Staff is working on getting compliance before fining property owners. The Village will abate the nuisance if we cannot get properties mowed and assess liens on properties. Some discussion followed on maintenance of foreclosed properties and how staff handles these.

The bike rodeo is scheduled for Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Station.

#### **E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

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

The Water Billing Register for the months of March and April were provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Cleary reported on the Village's low billed to pumped ratio. The current ratio is 56%. Committee and staff is looking at the possibility of still having a leaking main in town and having staff look at unmetered water to address this problem. Four major service line leaks were recently found according to Superintendent Cowger, which were contributing to the problem.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the variable speed drives are on order. This will minimize surges in the water system.

The contractor doing the thermoplastic paint striping is coming in Monday to finish the job, according to Superintendent Cowger. Estimated cost is \$29,000.

The Board considered proposals from local contractors for the completion of asphalt and sod restorations from watermain installation and watermain repairs. The work that needs to be done exceeds Public Works' capability to complete at this time. Superintendent Cowger reported that he contacted two contractors to get bids for the damaged asphalt to be replaced. There is a need to review the details of each bid before deciding which to go with. Trustee Cleary made a motion to

authorize the Village President to sign an agreement for an amount not to exceed \$25,825 for asphalt restorations for watermain breaks and watermain replacement projects. Village President Szymanski will review the two bids closely before deciding who to award the bid to. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger reported that he received bids for landscaping restorations that need to be done from watermain repairs and plow damage and explained the prices. Trustee Cleary made a motion to authorize the Village President to sign an agreement for an amount not to exceed \$12,195 for landscaping restorations after review of the bids. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger reported that he may go with National Power Rodding to get the main televised.

Administrator Barber reported that over 30 snow plow restorations need to be done. Office staff called all of the affected residents last week to let them know we did not forget about them and that we are still doing restorations.

**F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Village launched the new Village smartphone app. Trustee Meyer explained the process and work that went into the Village's new smartphone app, how the app works and how residents can download it. Press releases will be provided to local businesses, local newspapers, provided at the Village Hall, on the website, etc. Emily McMahon from Constituent Outreach Consultants attended the meeting and provided an explanation of initial smartphone app implementation and encourages getting the app out in front of as many people as possible to make it an effective tool. Ms. McMahon provided promotional ideas to get the information out and recommended constant promotion for this. She also encouraged us to provide feedback to her on the app to keep improving it.

Administrator Barber reported on the Bernard Welding sewer extension. There has been extensive surveying done on the property but he hasn't heard from Bernard Welding any more on this matter.

Clerk Conner reported on redesign of the Village website. Webfoot Designs of Manteno will be making the changes.

An Intergovernmental Committee meeting is scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center.

Administrator Barber reported that he had a request to consider a hyperbolic farm for growing medical marijuana. This would have to be at least 2,500 feet from any residential building, which is very difficult to find in Beecher. The company is also looking into other communities.

ap

The Board discussed incentives for new home construction. The Committee hasn't had a chance to meet on this matter. Topic was tabled until Committee has had a chance to meet.

The ComEd annual report was provided in the packet for review.

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

An update was provided on Welcome Bag deliveries. President Szymanski reported that he has delivered approximately fourteen so far. Six bags were delivered in May.

There was nothing new to report on the Illiana Expressway.

President Szymanski stated that there have been rumors of a landfill being considered in northeast Kankakee County. Grant Park is on record as opposing a landfill. No other factual information is available as to whether this will be built. It was the consensus of the Board to go on record opposing a landfill at this location. President Szymanski will look into being put on record as opposing this. A landfill would also increase truck traffic on Route #1.

President Szymanski provided an update on the South Suburban Airport.

Administrator Barber reported on the Illinois #394/Route #1 corridor public meeting. It is being held at Glenwoodie Golf Course on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m. Board members were asked who was planning to attend. Some Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) members may be interested in attending. Staff will most likely go to the early meeting. Administrator Barber will send out an email announcing which meeting will be attended.

President Szymanski, Administrator Barber and Clerk Conner attended the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Lobby Day in Springfield on April 30<sup>th</sup>. A meeting was held with the Governor. President Szymanski sat at a table with eight other mayors, and discussed budget, income tax, LGDF and other local issues. There was some discussion about the airport and the Illiana Expressway.

President Szymanski reported that Representative Elgie Sims has been working with the Village to obtain a grant in the amount of \$250,000 from the Capital Bill to replace 27,000 square feet of sidewalk in town. A list of bad sidewalks is being compiled in case the capital grant is approved.

Annual appointments by President Szymanski were tabled until the next meeting.

President Szymanski requested an executive session be held to discuss threatened litigation.

### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Cleary asked if anyone else responded to the request to provide the State input on the LGDF. The State is changing how LGDF is being implemented which directly impacts the residents of the State of Illinois and the Village of Beecher. This would result in our Income Tax revenue going down. He asked Board members to read emails pertaining to these types of legislation and take

action. Administrator Barber reported it looks like the State may pass an eight month budget as a temporary fix. Nothing may happen until after the November elections.

President Szymanski reported that the Forest Preserve is requesting a letter of support for a 2014 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). An email requesting this support was received by President Szymanski. There were no objections to sending a letter of support.

Administrator Barber reported that the Great Lakes Naval Training Band will be playing at Beecher High School on Friday and members of the community are invited to attend.

There being no further business to discuss in open session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss land acquisition and threatened litigation. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 8:58 p.m. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

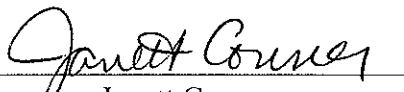
AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janett Conner  
Village Clerk