

## **PUBLIC HEARING OCTOBER 13, 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 7:05 P.M. ON OCTOBER 13, 2008.

### **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: President Lohmann and Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

ABSENT: Trustees Ahrendt and Wehling.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Bud Cowger, Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer, Attorney Tim Kuiper and Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman.

**GUESTS:** Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from The Daily Journal, Wayne Bobiak, Brad Townsend, Kim Koutsky, Tom Stluka, Dennis and Barbara Kennedy, Kevin Bouchard, Lynn Nichols and George Schuitema.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to open the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

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 Public Works facility. A video presentation was provided 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 financing of the bond issue. He provided a referendum schedule and plan of finance. He stated that this plan for reissue of bonds will not increase residents' taxes over their current amount.

President Lohmann asked if anyone from the audience would like to provide any testimony.

Administrator Barber asked a question of how much residents would save if they voted this referendum down. Brad Townsend answered that \$42.66 is the existing bond payment amount that would be saved on a tax bill for a \$235,000 home. Trustee Szymanski asked about the possibility of taxes going up later if the referendum is not approved.

Kim Koutsky of 730 Gould Street asked about the part of the referendum question that said the interest rate is not to exceed 9% per annum. According to Attorney Kuiper it was a legal requirement to put this maximum into the question by bond council, but the interest rate is not expected to be anywhere near 9%.

George Schuitema of 211 Orchard Lane asked if there were any concerns about the possibility that the housing market may not go the way it is anticipated and how that would affect taxes.

Dennis Kennedy of 1054 Cherry Lane asked how much this is dependent on property growth in town.

President Lohmann asked about the procedure on the sale of bonds once the referendum is approved.

Dennis Kennedy asked if the new building would be monitored or include a sprinkler system. It was thought that it would not include a sprinkler system, but be monitored, but that has not been determined yet.

Kevin Bouchard asked about whether the \$42.66 amount on the tax bill was per year or per installment. It would be per year.

Kim Koutsky asked what the Village would do if the referendum was not approved. Administrator Barber explained the possibilities. Trustee Cleary also commented.

There being no further testimony, President Lohmann asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Trustee Cleary made a motion to close the hearing at 7:59 p.m.. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner, Village Clerk