

**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
OCTOBER 24, 2006 -- 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 (arrived at 7:08 p.m.), Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt (arrived at 7:05 p.m.) and Heldt (arrived at 7:04 p.m.).

ABSENT: None.

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

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Brian and Danna Neville, David Laster, Tom Brislane, Michael and Stephanie Loftin, Kathy Rago and David Serafin.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 10, 2006 Board meeting. Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (3) Trustees Kuhlman, Wehling and Peterson.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (3) Trustees Rehborg, Ahrendt and Heldt.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) Clerk Conner provided some information to the Board that she obtained at the recent Municipal Clerks of Illinois Academy training. 3) A bill was presented for the Beecher 4th of July Commission. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve the bill in the amount of \$44.07 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

AYES: (3) Trustees Kuhlman, Wehling and Peterson.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (3) Trustees Rehborg, Ahrendt and Heldt.

Motion Carried.

4) Clerk Conner requested a closed session be held to review closed session minutes for approval and release to the public.

Trustee Heldt arrived at 7:04 p.m.

Trustee Ahrendt arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Trustee Rehborg arrived at 7:08 p.m.

Jim Maciejewski from Jacobs & Maciejewski Architects provided a proposal for the new municipal facilities. The Board looked at a proposal to put in the Village Hall at the same time that the Public Works facility would be built and then expand the Police Department into the present Village Hall versus just constructing the Public Works facility and nothing else. Jim Maciejewski asked for guidance as to how to proceed with the plan. It was the consensus of the Board to plan only to construct the Public Works facility but design the entire facility to cover the future use of the property. This includes planning for the future Village Hall and Police facilities on the site, even though they may not be built in the first phase of the project.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Danna Neville expressed concerns about the Village planting trees in the median near her home on Fairway Drive. The current plan is to put oak trees in the median. Ms. Neville had a petition signed by residents in her area asking to be given a say in the plantings and how the median will look. Superintendent of Public Works Cowger expressed that he is willing to work with the residents to satisfy their concerns. He is mainly concerned with future maintenance of the medians and the watermain that runs under the median. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion that Superintendent Cowger will work with Ms. Neville and her neighbors to determine tree placement and work around the utilities while planting trees in the median on Fairway Drive. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

A copy of a legislative initiatives letter sent to the Will County Governmental League was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve payment to the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association in the amount of \$57,264.34 for the annual insurance payment. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board continued their discussion of the five-year Capital Improvements and Financial Plan. The Sewer and Water Committee will meet October 25th to discuss their portion of the plan. Other committees will also schedule meetings to review the plan.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chief Weissgerber reported that approximately 150 seniors attended the October 18th breakfast. Sheriff Paul Kaupus provided information regarding services offered by the Will County Sheriff's office at the breakfast. Officer Conrad Sweet provided a presentation on senior services in Beecher. Eastern Will County Senior Services was also represented at the meeting. It was suggested to hold these types of breakfasts quarterly or annually.

Chief Weissgerber reported that there was not a large turnout at the October 19th Emergency Services Disaster Agency CERTS training information meeting. Fourteen people attended the meeting. At least 20 people are needed in order to hold a class. If anyone is interested in attending they should contact Chief Weissgerber.

Chief Weissgerber explained options for financing a video security system for the Police Department. In the budget, \$4,140 was provided as a first year payment on a five year lease-purchase for an \$18,000 video surveillance system. A bid of \$15,660 was obtained for the installation of such a system, but the lease-purchase option would cost \$20,700 over the five year period. Chief Weissgerber provided two additional options: pay cash for the system and take from other line items in the General Fund budget, or take a four year loan from a bank at 4% interest. Chief Weissgerber recommended to get a four year loan from the bank, which would save money over the lease-purchase option. Trustees Rehborg and Peterson excused themselves from the room due to a conflict of interest with getting a loan from First Community Bank and Trust. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion in support of the last option, to obtain a four year loan from the bank for the cost of video surveillance system for the Police Department. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion. AYES: (4) Trustees Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
ABSTAIN: (2) Trustees Rehborg and Peterson.
Motion Carried.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Administrator Barber provided an update on the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) resurfacing project. The work has been reviewed and a punch list of approximately 30 items will need to be addressed prior to issuing payment to the contractor.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to authorize the award of a bid to Deenik Landscaping and Nursery in the amount of \$1,980 for the planting of nine 3" caliper autumn blaze maple trees in various locations throughout the Village. The trees will be purchased from Bork Nursery. Trustee Ahrendt asked if these trees were on the approved tree list. It was believed that they are. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Results were provided from the October 21st yardwaste bag distribution. There was a good turnout, but there are still many people that didn't get their free bags.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the leaf pickup program. Public Works plans to do at least one pass per street each week.

Trustee Rehborg asked about a possible broken tile near Indiana Avenue and the railroad tracks. Heritage FS plans to fill the water hole with stone or dirt to get rid of the problem. It was unsure as to where exactly the problem originated.

After receiving 39 applications for the Public Works position, grading 29 written and physical agility exams, and interviewing seven finalists, the interviewing committee offered the position to Dustin Oliver of 648 Pasadena, Beecher who accepted the position. Dustin will be paid \$27,500 beginning October 30th. Dustin will be present at the November 14th Board meeting for a formal introduction to the Board.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

Discussion was held on the proposed sewer and water ordinance comprehensive revision. Copies of the ordinance were provided at the last Board meeting. The Committee will hold a meeting on October 25th to go over the ordinance.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on Firemen's Park. The Committee is still waiting to hear word on the OSLAD Grant.

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park. The soil has been too wet to move and grade. Trustee Wehling talked about putting in a water service line to the concession stand and into the field for watering purposes. It was approved at the last meeting to have Lange Trucking and Excavating do the excavation work, when weather permits.

Trustee Wehling provided an update on Prairie Park.

An update was provided on Nantucket Cove Park. Copies of two designs by Tod Stanton were provided in the packet for review. Once the Village and Montalbano Homes select a plan, bid specifications will be developed for a \$50,000 project to be paid for by Montalbano Homes. A meeting with Montalbano Homes and Tod Stanton of Design Perspectives will be held on October 25th at 1:30 p.m. at the Village Hall to finalize plans to install this park in the Spring 2007.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to award the bid for a 35 kw generator at the Washington Township Center to Reilly Electric, for an amount of \$28,000. Only one bid was received. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered the rental of a 10' x 20' storage unit at Beecher Self-Storage for five years, at a cost of \$1,000 per year. Administrator Barber also noted that a room could be build in the new Public Works facility for records storage. The matter was tabled.

Trustee Wehling met with Drew Beck of Beecher Recreation and the Crete Park District Administrator. Crete would like to join with Beecher to offer their services to Beecher residents. In exchange, they would like the Village to share in the printing costs of the program booklet. Trustee Wehling would like to do this for a three-year period. No action was taken.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

A Plan Commission meeting is scheduled for October 26th. On the agenda is the continued discussion of a proposed architectural code for new construction in the Village.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to release the sidewalk escrow in the corrected amount of \$71,249.38 to Highlington Development for the installation of public sidewalks on Fairway Drive. This work is complete and a 1997 agreement calls for the release of this escrow to the original developer. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Status was provided on the MGM proposal to amend the preliminary Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the Preserve at Cardinal Creek. The Village Attorney, Village Planner and Village Administrator met with representatives of MGM last Wednesday and advised them as to the Village's interpretation of the development agreement. As a result, they have agreed to modify their site plans and not approach the Village Board formally with a request for referral until such time a new plan is drafted and an informal meeting is held with area residents, Village Trustees and Plan Commission members. It is unknown when this meeting will occur, but it will not be until after November 8th. Another staff pre-application meeting with the developer has been scheduled for November 8th. Administrator Barber noted that if Board members and Plan Commission members attend the meeting it would have to be made an open meeting and posted with minutes taken.

Status was provided on the clean-up of the property at 460 Fairway Drive which is the former site of their sales trailer. A copy of the Village Attorney's letter was provided in the packet for review. Jack Mayher

of MGM Development has advised that the property will be cleaned up.

Status was provided on the Wehmhoefer Hardware building on Gould Street, currently owned by Bud VonAlven. Don Koy was hired in May to install the roof and a permit was pulled on May 17th to complete the roof repairs. The permit which was picked up by Bud VonAlven stated that the permit expired in 60 days, however the hard card posted on the building provided six months and the contractor claims he never saw the original permit and filed a complaint with the Village when a stop work order was made. A decision was made to honor the hard card until November 16th since this is what was posted on the building. There are also other violations which exist with the building other than the roof which will still be in effect after November 16th. These violations will allow condemnation to proceed. Administrator Barber explained the history of the repairs to this dilapidated building. The contractor has been put in the middle of this situation and will be given until November 16th to put a new roof on the building.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was no report given by the Village President.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held to discuss the hiring of a part-time Police officer.

Trustee Kuhlman request the Board vote on the tree ordinance veto from the last meeting. President Lohmann noted that the matter was decided at the last meeting and could not be voted on at this meeting. There was discussion on the status of the Tree Board and that Board members were never appointed by President Lohmann. Trustee Rehborg said he would like to go back to the way trees were handled in the past with Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger handling parkway trees. The Board will look again at requiring new homeowners to pay escrow when the certificate of occupancy is issued and the Village will plant trees with the escrow money. It was discussed as to why the Tree Board has acted for five years but President Lohmann never appointed the Tree Board members and why this went on for so long. No action was taken.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Heldt made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss land acquisition, the hiring of a part-time Police officer and the review of closed session minutes. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to return to regular session at 9:04 p.m. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve all executive session minutes and release certain minutes to the public. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk