

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT
& BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER
HELD AT THE BEECHER VILLAGE HALL,
625 DIXIE HIGHWAY, BEECHER, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 22, 2016 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Szymanski called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Trustees Ahrendt, Kypuros, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Deputy Clerk Patty Meyer and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

GUEST: Kyle Meyer from Southland Voice and George Schuitema.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 8, 2016 Board meeting. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Kypuros, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

CLERKS'S REPORT

1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Clerk Conner announced the dates petitions can be circulated and filing dates for the April, 2017 municipal election.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION #2016-07 - A Resolution authorizing line item transfers in the budget to cover the cost of the new Public Works employee contract. Trustee Meyer made a motion to adopt Resolution #2016-07. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Ahrendt, Kypuros, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Meyer reported that the audit field work has been completed. The auditor will be present to provide the audit at the first meeting in October.

The five year financial plan process will begin when the audit is complete.

The Illinois Public Benefit Cooperative (IPBC) health insurance pool status report was provided. The Village currently has a \$116,000 surplus in the account for health insurance. The Village is in a good position with the pool. A copy of the report was provided in the packet for review.

The Illinois Municipal Insurance Cooperative (IMIC) liability insurance pool status report was provided. There is currently \$518,000 in reserves but there are workers compensation claims that are still outstanding. A copy of the report was provided in the packet for review.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that the playground equipment offer fell through due to the number of stipulations placed on the removal of the equipment from the foreclosed property and additional vandalism that has been done. The Village is not going to proceed with this.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

The August 25th meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 29th.

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.

Superintendent Cowger provided a mosquito abatement update. Spraying occurs every Thursday night until the weather changes. Superintendent Cowger explained that most ponds are aerated and treated with briquettes to keep mosquitoes from hatching.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that the Public Safety Committee met prior to the meeting to discuss the future of the Code Enforcement program. He said another option came up at the Committee meeting so the matter was tabled to look at further options, prior to making a decision.

The Committee met prior to the meeting to consider a job description and salary for the position of Emergency Services Agency (EMA) Director and help find volunteers to begin the new EMA program. This matter was tabled due to more information obtained at the Committee meeting.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE



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

Trustee Kypuros reported that the Public Works Committee has approved return to a weekly brush pick up program based on recommendations from Public Works. Brush pick up will now be every Monday between April 1st and December 1st. Public Works said it was easier and more efficient to conduct brush pick up on a weekly basis.

Staff sent out a letter to the residents of Chestnut/Willow Lanes to gauge their level of support for a pilot street light program. Once some feedback is received the Committee will decide how many and what type of lights to put up in that area. Administrator Barber reported that some responses have been received, but staff is waiting for more to come in.

The Committee met to discuss sidewalk replacement and determined that they want to repair sidewalks that were installed since 1990 in lieu of replacing them. Most of them are sagged and may be able to be fixed with mudjacking, which would be less expensive than replacement. Older sidewalks would be torn out and replaced. \$30,000 was budgeted and the program should be completed by December 1st. Superintendent Cowger reported on the mudjacking process and how it is done. Hopefully all of the new subdivisions can be taken care of and then can work on the older part of town. Three proposals have been received. It is estimated to cost \$4,900 for the mudjacking. Superintendent Cowger recommended limestone injection. The biggest problem in the older part of town is that the sidewalks are only 2" thick and they will need to be replaced.

Public Works has identified 50 trees that need to be removed as soon as possible. All of the trees have been tagged. Fourteen will need to be removed by professional contractors due to their size or the location of electrical wires. The trees should be taken down by May 1, 2017. Public Works is in the process of getting proposals for the tree removals.

Parkway tree planting will be done in November. \$3,000 has been budgeted for this program. Trees will be spread throughout the community, based on need.

A request for proposals for crack sealing has been mailed out to eight contractors. \$20,000 was budgeted for this project.

The Committee agreed with Superintendent Cowger that up to 600 additional part-time hours can be used in Public Works this fall due to the temporary loss of a full-timer due to illness. One or two part-timers will be used to help with leaf collection.

A Penfield Street watermain update was provided by Administrator Barber. The IEPA has required us to re-submit all the paperwork since they didn't recognize our new address. Staff is receiving reports that interest rates are being lowered by the IEPA. It is important to have projects approved by July, 2017 to get the lower rate. The project is still to be bid out after Labor Day.

The Safe Routes to Schools flashing beacons are currently on back order. The project will be completed once these come in and can be installed. Administrator Barber said there have been some concerns expressed about the safety of the stop line and people expecting vehicles to stop. He advised to watch for pedestrians crossing at Miller Street until beacons can be put up.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Basile provided a report on the meeting with the new owners of Balmoral Race Track. President Szymanski and several trustees attended the meet and greet session. It is going to be a nice venue for the area. The owners would like to see hotels built in the area to house those attending the events. They are looking for carpenters and others to do work at Balmoral. They will also have an RV park. There are going to be ten show rings on the track. Admission will not normally be charged. During the off-season they hope to use the property for special shows, concerts, etc. President Szymanski said he offered to help them if anything is needed and provided information on services and businesses in Beecher.

The Lincoln/IL 394 Enterprise Zone update was provided. Administrator Barber is on the Board of Directors of the Zone. The Finance Director from Sauk Village will be the Zoning Administrator until such time a consultant is hired to run the daily operations of the Zone. The Board will be meeting monthly until the Zone is up and running on its own.

Trustee Basile stated there wasn't anything new on the Gould Street boardwalk project. Administrator Barber said they are getting information on bringing the Gould Street properties up to ADA compliance.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Trustee Kypuros made a motion changing the date of the first meeting in October from Monday, October 10th to Tuesday, October 11th due to Columbus Day being a holiday. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Ahrendt, Kypuros, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski reminded the Board about the Intergovernmental meeting on August 31st at the Village Hall.

Trustee Wehling said he was asked about the status of train horns in town. President Szymanski said he was recently at a home on Gould Street and said it was a problem. The project is ready but the Village needs \$100,000 to get it done. He is checking with the Will County Governmental League (WCGL) to see if we can get some funding, but it is not financially feasible to do it at this time. Administrator Barber said there are other issues because of the speed of the trains coming through town, so the Village has to do more to get the quiet zone.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber stated that the Community Hall chimes aren't working. The amplifier seems to be the problem so it's being sent to the company for repairs. He is not sure how long the chimes will be out of service.

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

AYES: (6) Trustees Ahrendt, Kypuros, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk