

**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 28, 2017 -- 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 Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief of Police Jeff Weissgerber and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

GUESTS: George Schuitema and Tom Pavlik.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 14, 2017 Board meeting. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERKS'S REPORT

A report on income received since the last meeting was provided.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A letter was enclosed in the packet from Comcast notifying the Village of changes to service.

An electrical aggregation update was provided. Bids were taken on behalf of the Will County communities and the broker was only able to secure a rate of \$0.07190 from Dynergy. Electric rates started to spike up due to new forecasts of a cold Fall and the hurricane in the Gulf closing oil fields. The broker's opinion is this is the lowest we are going to get. The 17 municipalities approved the bid for one year since ComEd rates are anticipated to climb in the Winter and Spring of 2018. Administrator Barber explained that the current aggregation company is Homefield

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Energy. Homefield was purchased by Dynergy so the name on the bills will change and the rate will increase some over the old aggregation rate.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION #2017-07 - A Resolution establishing rules for the use of Firemen's Park. Trustee Wehling made a motion to adopt Resolution #2017-07. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger provided an update on clean-up work done in Depot Park. Benches have been ordered and concrete pads were installed and timbers added. Perennials will be used in the park to keep from having to plant flowers each Spring. Some lights needing repairs in Depot Park and at Ribbon of Hope were discussed.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

Administrator Barber provided a CMAP grant update on the re-writing of the Village's Land Use Plan. Administrator Barber talked to CMAP last week and the Village's project scores high so it should just be a matter of when the Village receives funds. CMAP will be doing the technical services in house.

It was reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meetings for August and September have been postponed until the Village hears more about the grant, unless a petition is received needing a meeting sooner.

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.

The EMA monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

ORDINANCE #1274 - An Ordinance regulating the parking of recreational vehicles, campers and boats on the streets of the Village. This ordinance will allow residents to use the streets for parking their recreational vehicles, campers and boats for up to three days in any 30-day period for servicing their campers or boats. This will make it consistent with the Zoning Ordinance. Trustee Kypuros questioned about allowing parking along the side of a house behind the front building line which is currently allowed by Ordinance. He has received complaints regarding this, and asked

that this be addressed in this Ordinance. This would need to be referred to the PZC to amend the Zoning Ordinance, which would require a public hearing. After some discussion, Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve Ordinance #1274. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kraus said he would like to look more closely at the pond maintenance Ordinance but would like to approve it now since there are pending issues that need to be addressed.

ORDINANCE #1275 - An Ordinance including ponds in the nuisance provisions to provide a more clear definition of a nuisance. This Ordinance was created to let pond owners know what the Village expects relating to pond maintenance. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve Ordinance #1275. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber reported on non-highway vehicle registrations. Eight vehicles have been registered and a couple more are waiting to get all their equipment required to qualify. No complaints or problems have been reported so far. Trustee Wehling asked if in the future lower fees for seniors may be considered. The Chief will go to resident's homes to do the vehicle inspections. Public Works will be putting signs up on the outskirts of town.

Superintendent Cowger reported that mosquito spraying will be done for the season due to recent cool temperatures, unless the temperature goes back up in the evening.

The Committee has met to discuss Police Departmental needs and scheduling. The need for a corporals list, establishment of a full-time officer hiring list, current training schedules and the need for additional daytime coverage was discussed. These items will be part of the budget development in the coming fiscal year. Trustee Kraus said he would like to see another full-time officer on the street. The Committee will be meeting in the next few months to address some of these issues.

Trustee Kypuros questioned the school traffic crossing beacons that were put up through a grant from the state. He recieved complaints about the visibility of the signal heading southbound on Route #1 and the batteries for the solar panel not charging for the lights. New batteries are being put in. It was recommended that two of the street banners in the area be removed and more tree trimming be done. Superintendent Cowger is also looking into some swing arms and see if they would work on these poles to make them more visible. Staff is working with the State to try and get some of the problems fixed. Functionality of these signals have been a problem since installed.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

90

Superintendent Cowger provided a report on the Penfield Street watermain. All watermain and home connections east of Trim Creek have been done and paving is scheduled to start this week. Superintendent Cowger reported that curb repair, sidewalk repair and mudjacking is done for this year. Stump grinding begins this week.

A Chestnut/Willow street light update was provided. ComEd has completed their work and Public Works will install two street lights in the parkway along the north side of Chestnut. Superintendent Cowger will be holding a meeting Thursday with the field engineer to get approval and then will buy the material to do the work.

A sewer plant construction update was provided. Documents have been submitted for obtaining the loan and bid letting. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has advised the Village not to go to bid until they provide a loan commitment since there are currently 25 projects waiting for loan approval and the IEPA has only one reviewer. Baxter and Woodman is asking the IEPA for a letter of commitment so we can go to bid and hold the bid for 120 days. The IEPA does not know if there will be sufficient funding to provide Beecher with a loan this fiscal year, and that Beecher may have to wait until after July 1, 2018 when a new appropriation is made. There is reason to believe that many of these projects will be deemed incomplete and be tabled. The IEPA has agreed to discuss this matter with our engineering team on a conference call set for September 7th. Until that time everything has now been placed on hold.

The Village Board needs to consider how to pay back the \$350,000 owed to First Community Bank on February 1st for the design work. The first disbursement of the IEPA loan funds for design was going to be used to pay off this loan but this reimbursement is not going to happen before the loan matures. The Village could short-term borrow off another fund to pay off the loan or ask for another loan to replace it. The finance committee and the Public Works committee will hold a joint meeting in October to discuss options for paying off this loan.

Bid letting for crack sealing has been done. The results will be provided to the Board for consideration at the next meeting.

The Village has sent a letter to (IDOT) requesting Route #1 resurfacing from Goodenow Road to Church Road be added to the new IDOT five-year plan since it was not included and it was felt this road will need repaving in the next five years. IDOT has responded and does not agree the road will need to be paved in the next five years but said they will monitor the condition of the road.

An update on Route #1 shoulder widening was provided. The bid was awarded and a pre-con meeting was held, but no work has been done.

The Board considered authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a contract with Smits Farms for the disposal of leaves for 2018-2023. Trustee Kypuros said there is another option to take the leaves to Rainbow Farms for free but with the mileage and lost time off the street for Public Works it wouldn't save any money. Trustee Kypuros said this contract has been looked at with other options and this was recommended to be approved as the best option. Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a contract with Smits Farms for

the disposal of leaves in the amount of \$4.25 per cubic yard for 2018-2023. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing payment in the amount of \$7,500 to the IEPA as a license fee for the operation of the Beecher Wastewater Treatment Plant. The IEPA issued a new operating permit for the Village to go to 1.2 MGD and the Village now has to pay an additional \$7,500 license fee, so our fee will now be \$15,000 per year. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Fall hydrant flushing began this week beginning on Sunday and will occur during the night time hours, being completed by Friday morning.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Meyer made a motion authorizing the addition of railing to the Gould Street boardwalk in the amount of \$2,356.15. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

The project is short on railings for the ramps up to the boardwalk since the railings were not part of the original architectural print or bid. The boardwalk was raised to make it level but now there is more than a 17" rise on the ramps requiring a railing. There is also one large drop-off between buildings since the deck was raised to make it level throughout the job. Trustee Meyer recommended that the additional rail work be done using a portion of the \$5,000 in funds set aside for ditch work in the Trim Creek Business Park since the work has been deferred. Trustee Kypuros asked if this is where we want to take the funds from to pay for this. He suggested taking the money from reserves and doing an appropriation to keep the project cleaner. Board members had no objections to using reserves for the additional amount.

AYES: (6) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An I-394 Lincoln Corridor Enterprise Zone update was provided. A website is currently being developed. Steger, Sauk Village and Chicago Heights currently have projects that have been applied for and received tax benefits through the zone this year.

A senior housing project update was provided. President Szymanski has had conversations that some may be hesitant to do the project due to no funding available from the State. He discussed the project with one potential developer who said they would continue looking at it but would not commit to anything yet. President Szymanski is looking for something that offers an adult living facility. This could be a project to be discussed in the strategic plan.

A Facebook page update was provided. A price was received from Constituent Outreach

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Consultants to set up a Facebook page, take care of graphics, train staff and 6 months of support for \$1,500. Trustee Meyer said it would be useful to have them to set it up for us to make sure it's compliant with current laws. This matter will be considered at next meeting.

A Sesquicentennial update was provided. Trustee Wehling said the Historic Preservation meeting showed some interest in this at their last meeting.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski provided a CSX/Crete Intermodal and Will County freight mobility study update. Planning continues for the Crete project but there are rumors that CSX may close the Barr yard which is in our mainline on the south side of the city. Crete is close to signing with CSX.

A South Suburban airport update was provided. President Szymanski met with other mayors in eastern Will County and Congresswoman Kelly last week to discuss the future of the airport project and property.

The Board considered a proposal to use an outside facilitator for the strategic planning process. According to the Administrator Barber the cost of outside facilitator would cost \$5,950 and is not budgeted. The funds could come from sales tax reimbursements. The strategic planning process can be done by a facilitator or done in-house by Administrator Barber. Some Board members expressed that they would like to go to an outside firm to get a fresh look at things. Trustee Kypuros recommended going through the planning process with the Administrator to give the newer Board members who haven't been through this process before a chance to see how the process works. After some discussion, it was agreed to have the Administrator do the strategic planning process and if it is found that the Board does not have a consensus that an outside firm can be hired to do planning next fiscal year and the expense can be put in the budget.

H. OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Basile said that on November 9th Prairie State College will be holding a Vietnam Veterans ceremony which Beecher veterans will be invited to participate in. Trustee Basile will be contacting the Amvets to invite their members.

H. NEW BUSINESS

President Szymanski asked that the RV parking in side yards behind the front property line issue brought up earlier in the meeting be put on the next Board meeting agenda.

Resident Tom Pavlik commented that in the winter when Route #1 is plowed there is nowhere to walk since the sidewalks are blocked and questioned if the sidewalks are supposed to be plowed. Board members commented that this has been an ongoing problem in past years and difficult to address.

Trustee Mazurek reported the next Youth Commission event is September 23rd at the Forest

Preserve. More information will be available at the next meeting.

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

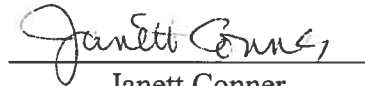
AYES: (6) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk