

**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 29, 2007 -- 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 Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Attorney Tim Kuiper and Treasurer Nelson Collins (arrived at 7:42 p.m.).

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Kevin Bouchard, Steve Lazzara, Gary and Margie Cook, Scott Goldstein, Joyce O'Keefe, Jerry McCullough, Tom Brislane and Dennis Koehn.

Approval of the minutes of the May 15, 2007 Board meeting was deferred until the next meeting due to the Clerk being out of town the previous week.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) Bills were presented for the Beecher 4th of July Commission. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,821.39 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked Clerk Conner about a letter she received from the Will County Clerk about conducting in-person absentee voting for Washington Township residents as well as Village residents. President Lohmann had some concerns due to the time it takes Village staff, not having the space in the Village Hall and not receiving some type of compensation for this service from the Will County Clerk. Dennis Koehn, Washington Township Trustee, indicated something may be able to be worked out with Township staff. During the election period they could staff the Township offices full time to accommodate absentee

voting. Clerk Conner will contact the Will County Clerk's Office and see if something can be worked out to allow Washington Township to conduct in-person absentee voting.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Tom Brislane complained about the no trespassing signs around the Preserves at Cardinal Creek Subdivision and at Cardinal Creek Boulevard by the driveway at the new Junior High School. Attorney Kuiper provided an opinion that if the signs are on the parkway/right-of-way they should be removed. Signs could be put in the median since it is private property but will not be allowed on public right-of-way. Chief Weissgerber provided a report on reasons the developer may have put the signs up, possibly due to union issues. Trustee Wehling suggested making a list of all no trespassing signs in the Village. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to authorize staff to send all developers a letter that has no trespassing signs in Village right-of-ways to remove the signs. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

Joyce O'Keefe of Openlands provided an overview of the Trim Creek Watershed Plan. Scott Goldstein of the Metropolitan Planning Council went through six major recommendations in the plan. President Lohmann commended Washington Township, the Beecher Community School District and the Washington Township Drainage District for working together on this plan. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to accept the final draft of the Trim Creek Watershed Plan. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Jerry McCullough of Spectrum Insurance, the insurance broker for the Eastern Will County Council of Mayors, explained the proposal for a new health insurance plan for Village employees. Administrator Barber noted that this plan was discussed at the budget workshop and was the budgeted plan. Mr. McCullough explained the history and the proposal for a change in the health insurance plan. The Board asked questions and there was much discussion. The new plan is a high deductible health insurance plan to be used in conjunction with an HSA (health savings account). The money the Village will save with a high deductible plan will be used to self fund the deductible for each employee by creating a health savings account and placing the deductible amount in these accounts for each employee. It was the consensus of the Board to support the concept of the new health insurance plan for Village employees.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the Beecher Fourth of July Commission to provide payment for service and materials not to exceed \$20,000 to any one vendor or \$50,000 in aggregate between June 1st and September 1st, 2007. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1069 - An ordinance authorizing the issuance of a 10-year installment contract in the amount of \$380,000 with First Community Bank and Trust at an interest rate of 4.19% for improvements to Firemen's Park. Two bids were received for this contract and First Community Bank and Trust was the lowest bid. Attorney Kuiper explained this ordinance. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve Ordinance #1069. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board continued their discussion on the future of parks and recreation in the community. Establishment of a Park District, Village property tax for parks, a Washington Township Park District, a Washington Township tax levy for parks, the Village imposing an amusement tax for parks, and the Village or Township granting commission status for parks and recreation were issues discussed. President Lohmann noted that an amusement tax is a very vague law as to how money could be used, etc. Trustee Wehling reported that all possibilities for park plans are in very infant stages. A committee has been formed with Washington Township and the Village to discuss the future of parks. A joint venture is needed for this. Current costs of maintaining parks was discussed and if user fees would be enough to support the parks. Trustee Wehling asked if another survey or referendum should be done, and suggested holding a referendum at the time of the 2008 presidential election. No action was taken on this matter.

The Board considered a template annexation agreement for residential and mixed use developments as it pertains to fees. Administrator Barber asked what the Board's stand was on annexation fees and looked for a consensus from the Board. Trustee Szymanski suggested a workshop be held to discuss this complicated issue and asked about the input of other taxing bodies. Trustee Cleary felt the Board should make the School District stick to the original plan for impact fees. Trustee Wehling recommended looking at the quality of homes to determine impact fees. Attorney Kuiper explained the concept of setting the same fee for everyone and adjusting it based on the quality and amenities of the house. This subject will be discussed at the Joint Taxing Body meeting on May 30th.

The Board will discuss an architectural code for the Village at the May 30th Joint Taxing Body meeting.

The Board considered reaffirmation of the municipal facilities plan for the Village. A copy of an outline of the municipal facilities plan was provided in the packet for review. Administrator Barber explained the need to reaffirm the Board's position on this matter before more money is spent on this project. The Board was asked what location they wanted for the facility. Trustee Wehling commented that the previous Board made their decisions based on many architectural presentations to the Board and that it was not fair to ask the new Trustees to make a decision without having all of the information that the previous Trustees had. It was the consensus of the Board to continue discussions on this matter at future meetings.

The Board considered reaffirmation of resolutions pertaining to the third regional airport now called the South Suburban Airport at the Peotone site. Contained in the packets were a series of resolutions which had been adopted by Village Boards in the past and now warrant reaffirmation by the new Board.

1. Resolution #90-7 and #97-11: Opposed to an airport within 15 miles of the Beecher village limits.
2. Resolution #2001-01: Oppose land banking by the State until the FAA issues a record of decision.
3. Resolution #2005-14: Oppose the use of eminent domain or threats of eminent domain until after the FAA issues a record of decision.
4. Resolution #2005-15: A Statement of policy on how state-owned land in the third Airport footprint should be transferred in the event an airport is not constructed.
5. Resolution #2006-01: Support for an airport authority if an airport is constructed, consisting of seven members: three from the Will County Executive office with one being from the eastern six townships, two members from the five iron ring communities, one from south Cook County and one from Kankakee County.
6. Resolution #2006-02: Support for the Eastern Will County Growth and Regional Cooperation Act (Development District).
7. Resolution #2006-08: Opposition to the Abraham Lincoln National Airport Commission (ALNAC)
8. Statement of policy on issues the Village of Beecher presented to the FAA and IDOT Regrading the master plan for the third regional airport at the December 19, 2006 public Hearing.

President Lohmann explained some of the resolutions. It was the consensus of the Board to support all of the above resolutions.

The Board considered reaffirmation of the resolution approved in 2006 endorsing the planning and construction of the Illiana Expressway. It was the consensus of the Board to support this resolution.

The Board considered the reaffirmation of the resolution in support of the reconstruction of Church Road from Dixie Highway to Racine as a Class II truck route. Trustee Cleary asked if there could be a possibility that the State could designate Church Road as the Route #1 bypass. Some discussed followed. It was the consensus of the Board to support the resolution in support of the reconstruction of Church Road as a Class II truck route.

The Board considered the reaffirmation of the Village's position on the proposed Centerpoint project at the south end of Crete. A copy of the March 6, 2007 letter from President Lohmann to Centerpoint was provided in the packet for review. It was the consensus of the Board to support the Village's current position on the Centerpoint project.

The Board considered whether to continue support for the Reed Street improvement project. Three years ago the Board submitted a request for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Funds to improve the old downtown area, which included Gould and Penfield Streets. In 2006 the Village was advised that the Governor of Illinois approved a \$385,000 grant for the Reed Street portion of this overall project. President Lohmann asked if the Board wants to do this. President Lohmann spoke to a railroad representative and they have some problems with railroad property on Gould Street as to where some of the improvements are proposed. There were concerns about the costs involved. Some Trustees felt the money could be better spent. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to decide not to accept the grant from the State of Illinois for the Reed Street improvement project. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered a strategic planning process and resolution of goals and objectives for the Village to pursue. This matter will be discussed at the May 30th Joint Taxing Body meeting.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:34 p.m. to discuss threatened litigation. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to return to regular session at 9:45 p.m. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann said that he has had discussions with MGM Development on plans to build a new grocery store, golf clubhouse and hardware store. MGM is asking for sales tax incentives for the entire project. This matter was discussed with the Economic Development Committee, which considered providing the same incentives Knuth's Country Market received, but nothing else. The Board was asked if two grocery stores could survive in Beecher. The Board discussed if this project should be linked with MGM's residential project. The Economic Development Committee supported the project but expressed concerns about public opinion and if incentives should be given. The consensus of the Board agreed that Jack Mayher of MGM will

be told that we are willing to look at his project but the Village will not link it with his residential project. Incentives may be considered but would be linked with the individual business owner and not the property owner.

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

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk