

**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
NOVEMBER 10, 2008 -- 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, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Bud Cowger and Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Kevin Bouchard, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Andrew Ahrendt, Joseph Venturella and George Schuitema.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 27, 2008 Board meeting and Public Hearing. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Two thank you cards from Dallas City were read aloud. 3) Bills were presented for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission (\$526.66) and the Youth Activities Account (\$742.50). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$1,269.16 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

4) A copy of a notice from the Illinois Municipal League for a series of training workshops was provided for review.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review and the Treasurer was present to answer questions. Administrator Barber noted that the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) account will be close to zero once existing bills have been paid.

A list of bills totalling \$214,419.07 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski announced that the referendum for the new Public Works facility passed and thanked the citizens for voting on the referendum. Staff is now moving forward with planning the project.

A report from the Illinois Comptroller releasing financial data on Beecher compared to other communities was provided in the packet for review.

A workshop meeting will be held on November 18th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the management letter from the Auditor, the yardwaste bag distribution program and cost-effective measures.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to cancel the Board meeting scheduled for December 22nd. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported that Halloween patrols reported no incidents or accidents and that it was a quiet night.

Chief Weissgerber reported that NIMS Certification was discussed at the recent Emergency Services Disaster Agency (ESDA) Executive Board meeting, and he is following up on who needs to still do this. Updating the disaster plan was also discussed. The ESDA trailer is fully stocked and ready to go. It was also learned that there is a new requirement to send a three-year schedule of any ESDA exercises to Will County EMA to obtain certification.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The parkway tree planting program has been completed. Public Works planted 12 sunset maples on Village parkways and another 12 sunset maples in Prairie Park.

The crack sealing program has been completed.

The leaf collection program and brush pick-up will continue until the week of Thanksgiving.

Holiday banner and decoration installation will occur the week of November 24th.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve an application for Tree City U.S.A. for 2008. A copy of the application was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman released the bridge study and a copy was provided in the packet for review. He noted a few minor things that need to be done. It was discussed if the bridge over the creek in Firemen's Park may have lead and what will need to be done to protect the environment while doing repairs. Mr. Koenig said the report should be good for 8-10 years but Public Works should still look at bridges every 1-2 years to catch any problems that may occur.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The Water Billing Register for the months of September and October were provided in the packet for review.

The Village received a new Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) operating permit for the sewer treatment plant. This means that the Village can operate the plant in its current condition without upgrades until October 31, 2013.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to authorize the Village President and Clerk to sign an agreement with Airbaud for a back-up transmitter on the Gould Street water tower. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The cost-effective measures report will be discussed at the workshop meeting scheduled for November 18th.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The \$190,000 grant for the OSLAD Project has been received and deposited.

Backstops in Welton Stedt Park have been started by the School District. Trustee Wehling has also been talking to Beecher Recreation to see if they could get the actual ballfields put in.

Water has been turned off in Firemen's Park and the bathrooms have been cleaned and locked up for the winter.

Trustee Wehling reported that the bike path and open space initiative will be discussed at the Forest Preserve meeting scheduled for November 17th.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Letters were sent to owners of dilapidated sheds and garages in the old part of town. Staff is now awaiting responses to the letters and proposed action plans.

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

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Village Attorney has advised Mike and Joanne Buchmeier to secure their building at 752 Penfield Street. Staff has not yet heard from Buchmeier's.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported on a request from the Beecher Beautification Commission to install a gazebo in Depot Park and to determine if the gazebo needs to be ADA accessible. The Commission has about \$18,000 on hand for this project and they wish to complete it in time for spring. Trustee Gardner suggested seating inside the gazebo. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve issuance of a building permit without a fee to the Beecher Beautification Commission to install a gazebo in Depot Park. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on Trinity Industrial Park. Dale Serig wishes to have property owners sign a letter of power of attorney for each property and also wants a pre-annexation agreement and zoning from the Village. Concerns were expressed about what could go on some of the properties with certain types of zoning. Some discussion followed. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize Marcy Meyer to contact property owners pertaining to Phase I of Trinity Industrial Park to determine if they are under contract with Dale Serig, after receiving advice of the Village Attorney. Staff will also advise Dale Serig of this. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Status was provided on MGM Development. Comments made by Jack Mayher to President Lohmann regarding MGM's ability to complete landscaping requirements on sold and occupied homes have led the Village to believe that other commitments to complete the subdivision may not be satisfied. As a result, the Village is taking action to either complete the remainder of the improvements by April 27, 2009, the date of expiration of a \$2.1 million letter of credit, or have the letter of credit extended to November 30, 2010. It was proposed to send a letter giving MGM until February 1st to make required improvements and if MGM does not complete the project, the Village will draw on the letter of credit. Ray Koenig of Baxter and Woodman said some of the work can't be done by February 1st because of the weather. Superintendent Cowger raised concerns about a large hole in the street on Blue Heron that needs to be fixed soon. Mr. Koenig said there is no way the repair will get done unless the Village does it and seeks reimbursement. Trustee Gardner recommended getting photos of the hole prior to repairing anything. Staff will have the Village Attorney send a letter to MGM to put pressure on them to make the needed repairs and let them know if they don't do repairs the Village will make the repairs and will seek reimbursement of costs. The Board also discussed homes that don't have yards yet but the homeowners have paid MGM for their landscaping. Attorney Kuiper will advise MGM if they don't make improvements by February, the Village will draw on their letter of credit.

On November 3rd, the Washington Township Board heard a proposal for a wind farm in the Beecher area. President Lohmann suggested having someone who knows about wind farms to come to a Board meeting and provide a presentation. He is looking at sample ordinances and how other areas are handling this. It will also be necessary to look at how this would affect property values around the wind farms.

President Lohmann and Administrator Barber will attend an Illiana Expressway meeting on November 13th in Manhattan. Will County will be the lead agency.

A special Will County Governmental League (WCGL) meeting is scheduled for November 19th at 6:00 p.m. in Joliet to hear a proposal for a new plan review process for developments of regional impact being imposed by CMAP. President Lohmann and Administrator Barber will attend the WCGL meeting.

An open space initiative hearing at the Washington Township Center is also scheduled for November 19th at 7:00 p.m. President Lohmann asked who could attend these meetings. Trustee Szymanski said he would attend the open space initiative meeting and other Trustees will also try to attend.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber reported on the impact of the economy on IMRF and how it will affect rates in the coming years.

The Village is having some website problems with putting PDF files on the site. Staff is working on fixing the problems.

Administrator Barber requested a closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

Trustee Cleary said there is no parking on one side of the street for two of the houses that will be in the housewalk. The police will take this into consideration for the housewalk.

Trustee Szymanski reported that the Lion's Club handed out 800 hot dogs on Halloween. The hot dogs were served from the new grill in Firemen's Park.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss personnel. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 8:33 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There was a brief discussion on cost-effective measures that will be discussed at the workshop meeting.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk