

**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  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Lohmann called the meeting to order.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of the victims of 9/11 and the fallen soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**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, Engineer Ray Koenig and Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer.

**GUESTS:** Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Tom Stluka, Bob Tully, Roger Heldt, Noel Biery, Thomas Camilleri, George Schuitema, J. Verhulst, Joe Suppes and Pam Hoffman.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 28, 2007 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes with a correction to Page 6, Paragraph 5, under the Village President's report, changing the words to read "covered" containers, instead of "sealed" containers. Trustee Ahrendt 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) Bills were presented for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$4,338.64 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann noted the payment for concrete for the food stand will be reimbursed back to the Fourth of July Commission because the concrete is being donated.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve payment of a bill to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in the amount of \$10,025.33 for the Village's share of Route #1 construction. Engineer Koenig reported this amount was the overage of additional watermain improvements done in conjunction with the Route #1 paving project. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Bob Tully, of Teapots Café located at 610 Gould Street, was present and reported that he closed the previous Friday on the Bud VonAlven property next door to him. Mr. VonAlven has a few days to get everything out of the buildings before Mr. Tully will take complete possession. Mr. Tully stated that the well on the property was pumped out and the Will County Health Department has been contacted to find out what needs to be done with it. Mr. Tully is getting estimates for improvements to the property and thanked the Board for the extension to get this all done. President Lohmann commended Mr. Tully on the job he did with his café.

Joe Suppes was present on behalf of Arlene Graham indicating that the Village issued an invoice for the cutting of high weeds at Ms. Graham's Dixie Highway property when she was in the process of losing the house to foreclosure and subsequently moving out. Mr. Suppes explained that Ms. Graham is having money problems and can't afford to pay the \$90 grass cutting bill. She didn't understand why she got a ticket because she thought she had someone else cutting the grass for her. Mr. Suppes said Ms. Graham didn't feel she should have to pay this bill. Mr. Suppes talked to Code Enforcement Officer Riechers and she would not void the ticket. Mr. Suppes also explained that Ms. Graham did not own the house before the bank chose to foreclose. The Board members agreed that the foreclosing bank would be responsible for the grass cutting bill. Mr. Suppes noted that Ms. Graham does want to pay the June water bill. After much discussion, Trustee Wehling made a motion to transfer all outstanding Village fees to the bank foreclosing on the house. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Tom Camilleri of 263 Aspen requested a variance for a 6' fence already in place in his back yard in Prairie Crossings Subdivision. Mr. Camilleri obtained Homeowner's Association approval and applied for a building permit. The permit was issued with notations stating that the fence must not exceed 5' but he put up a 6' high fence. Part of the fence is 6' but some areas are taller and shorter than that. He built it at different heights because of the slope of his property. The fence was built in violation of the building permit specifying a 5' height requirement. Some Board members expressed concern that the shortest part of the fence is at 5' 4" which is a direct violation of Village code. Part of the fence is 8' in height. Some Board members suggested to step the fence down instead of it being

level on the top or cutting the fence to put it into compliance. Mr. Camilleri asked if he could apply for a variance, pay the \$750 application fee and appear before the Planning and Zoning Commission. Administrator Barber suggested to table the matter until the next meeting to give Board members a chance to look at the fence so they can better understand the issue. The matter was deferred until the next Board meeting.

#### **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. Treasurer Collins noted that the balance of the Operations & Maintenance (O & M) Account dropped below the \$60,000 minimum last month but has rebounded above the minimum this month. Treasurer Collins reported on CD’s, fund balances and tap-in fees compared to last year at this time.

A list of bills totalling \$215,267.68 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 Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A sales tax analysis report on collections since 1990 was provided in the packet for review.

The Board considered an ordinance establishing a Fourth of July Commission. A copy of the ordinance was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Kuhlman asked some questions about the ordinance. The ordinance indicates that money raised through the celebration “also provides a source of income to participating civic organizations and specified community projects”. Trustee Kuhlman said that he requested funds in the past to go towards a skate park and the Fourth of July Commission denied his request. Trustee Kuhlman asked if the Fourth of July Commission knew that the ordinance says money raised is to go towards other things outside of Firemen’s Park. Trustee Kuhlman wanted the Fourth of July Commission to be aware of this. Administrator Barber asked if the Fourth of July Commission should be asked to pay towards the maintenance of Firemen’s Park. This is an idea some people are asking since there is no park district or tax dollars to pay for maintenance costs. After some discussion, it was decided that Section One, the last line in the paragraph to change the word “specified” to “support” community projects.

ORDINANCE#1072 - An ordinance establishing a Fourth of July Commission, with the change to replace the word “specified” to “support” community projects, in the last line of Section One. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1072. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered an ordinance establishing a Beautification Commission. A copy of the ordinance was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Gardner asked if there should be something denoted that addresses the powers of the Commission.

ORDINANCE #1073 - An ordinance establishing a Beautification Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1073. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An Economic Development Committee meeting with Trinity Industrial is scheduled for October 4, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

The next Village Board workshop meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2007, 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Items for the workshop include the Tree Board ordinance, architectural codes, a meeting with the new Village Auditor to go over the contents of the audit, some recommendations on the future use of some of our funds and the future financial picture of the Village.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the next Senior breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. at Cardinal Creek Golf Course.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the CERT Program funded by the Will County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and those certified in the program. A training drill may be held for the participants.

The Board discussed the conversion of the sirens to the 800 MHZ trunking system.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Trick-or-Treat hours from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that the recent mosquito abatement sprayings have been rescheduled. Spraying began September 10<sup>th</sup> but was delayed due to rain. Spraying will be conducted September 11<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Cowger indicated that there have been requests for extra sprayings, but money was not budgeted.

Chief Weissgerber reported that he hopes to have two people hired as crossing guards for the new Junior High School. Background checks are being conducted on the candidates. The crossing guards will be employees of the Village, and the Village will be reimbursed for all costs by the School District.

### **C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE**

Yardwaste bag giveaway days are scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. until noon at Firemen's Park.

Superintendent Cowger reported that trees have been taken down as scheduled and the trimming of trees is on-going.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the field tile investigations at 1434 Crooked Creek and at Children's Plus. He said the tile was dug up and repaired at Children's Plus and everything seems to be working okay. At 1434 Crooked Creek it was believed that the resident breached the storm sewer tile when digging their storm tile around their house. The building inspector is working on implementing an affordable solution to the problem.

The Board considered a proposal from Baxter and Woodman to conduct a street sign inventory. Administrator Barber estimated 500 regulatory signs would be eligible for this study through the Illinois Department of Transportation. Engineer Koenig asked questions about the inventory. The Board discussed the Miller Street dead-end at the railroad tracks and whether a sign should be installed at that location. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve a proposal from Baxter and Woodman to conduct a street sign inventory for an amount not to exceed \$8,000. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve an application to IDOT for replacing up to \$25,000 in Village street regulatory signage. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A discussion regarding the hiring of a seasonal worker to assist with leaf collection was deferred until the next Board meeting.

### **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 July and August were provided in the packet for review.

Engineer Koenig reported on the construction of well #5. The preconstruction meeting was held last week for the well pump. The pump will be slipped into the well in early November. The Board discussed testing the pumping of the well before it goes online.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the repairs to well #4. Everything is now operating as it should. Total repair costs will be known by the next Board meeting. A surge suppressor has been installed on the line to provide protection in the future.

#### **E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The Board considered a bid award to George's Landscaping of Joliet for improvements to Firemen's Park. \$380,000 is budgeted for this project, with \$190,000 being reimbursed by the State through the OSLAD Grant program. Trustee Wehling reported on the timeline of the entire project. George's Landscaping got the bid amount down to \$378,457 and explained the changes made to include this amount. It was thought that the majority of the amount qualified to be reimbursable by the State. There were some concerns about what items were not eligible to be reimbursed by the State. There was much discussion. Concerns were expressed about unknown overages that may affect the total project cost. It was discussed whether the project would be completed in time as not to interfere with the 2008 Fourth of July celebration. Trustee Wehling made a motion to award a bid in the amount of \$378,457 to George's Landscaping subject to the State approving what was sent to them relating to what was switched in the plans for Firemen's Park. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling reported that two backstops are up and the dugouts are fenced in Welton Stedt Park. Infield construction has been delayed but progress is being made. Public Works will be responsible for watering the field.

Trustee Wehling reported that Nantucket Cove Park has been completed. The developer owes the Village money and trees for the park.

#### **F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

Clerk Conner reported that someone has been hired to do work at the barn at 1202 Dixie Highway, now owned by Betty Nicks. No work has been done yet, and no action was taken on this matter.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to meet on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Items on the agenda include a workshop on the proposed Trinity Industrial Development intermodal park north of town, and a workshop on accessory structures.

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

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided for review.

The Board considered a motion authorizing the acceptance of Units #1 through #8 of Hunter's Chase Subdivision based on the following conditions: \$336,011.95 maintenance bond be posted, record drawings (as built) delivered, and driveway at 1671 Mallards Cove. Engineer Koenig reported that Baxter and Woodman approved these units quite a while ago. Trustee Cleary made a motion to authorize the acceptance of Units #1 through #8 of Hunter's Chase Subdivision based on the above conditions. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

### **G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Lohmann reported that he doesn't know if a CMAP Committee has been formed yet, regarding the Facilities Planning Area expansion petitions the Villages of Beecher and Crete have submitted.

President Lohmann provided results of the intergovernmental meeting held August 29<sup>th</sup>. The group was somewhat favorable about a TIF District for the proposed intermodal park. Economic Development Coordinator Meyer is getting information on School District taxes collected in that area.

Washington Township Supervisor Bob Howard is still working towards an open space initiative.

A joint School Board, Village Board and Fire Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a proposed template annexation agreement and the fees associated with this agreement.

State Representative George Scully has requested local representation at the State budget hearing scheduled for Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Homewood-Flossmoor High School. Trustee Szymanski will attend the meeting.

State Representative Lisa Dugan will also be holding a meeting at Kankakee Community College. President Lohmann will inform the Trustees of the exact date.

Administrator Barber will attend a Will County Government League legislator reception and breakfast at Harrah's in Joliet from 9-10:30 a.m. on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Szymanski may attend the event with Administrator Barber.

### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

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 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk