

**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  
JUNE 26, 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 and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Kypuros.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger, Police Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber and Attorney Tim Kuiper.

**GUESTS:** George Schuitema and Joy Flora.

President Szymanski stated that Trustee Kypuros was not present at the meeting because his baseball team was playing in the championship tonight at Firemen's Park.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the June 12, 2017 Board meeting. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**CLERKS'S REPORT**

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

**RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE**

Joy Flora who lives at Indiana Avenue and Prairie wanted to thank the Board for the historical plaque for their home. She was appreciative of the Village doing this.

**A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

The Board considered amending the Village Code pertaining to committee structures of the Village Board that are incorrect due to a codification error. Trustee Kraus brought the error to the Village's attention.

gc

ORDINANCE #1265 - An Ordinance amending the Village Code pertaining to committee structures of the Village Board. Trustee Basile made a motion to approve Ordinance #1265. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Village has received the lowest bid from Constellation Energy for street lighting. The current rate we pay is 3.222 cents per kwh. The rate is going up to 3.803 cents per kwh effective June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Village has selected the three year bid of 3.117 cents.

The ComEd annual report for Beecher was provided in the packet for review.

The audit process has begun. Initial field work has been completed and the full audit team will be on site the last week of July to review our financial records for the prior year.

The Village has locked in natural gas prices for 25 months with Santanna Gas, at a price of \$0.0459 per therm.

The Village's new bond rating from Standard and Poors has dropped from an AA+ Strong Outlook to an AA Negative Outlook.

Trustee Basile made a motion authorizing a temporary loan (not to exceed seven days) from the General Fund up to the amount of \$20,000 for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission celebration. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

A park rules update was provided. The Attorney has provided a draft of the rules and the Public Buildings and Properties Committee and Public Safety Committee will meet this week to consider the proposed rules.

Firemen's Park ballfield lights have been repaired. There was a short in the electrical panel.

Superintendent Cowger provided an update on maintenance of Depot Park. Bells have been painted, flowers planted and he is working with the Beautification Commission about planting of perennials for the park.

**C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

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

gc

The Board considered an Ordinance amending the Zoning Code on the use of solar panels and solar energy. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) has been working on a draft and unanimously approved the draft at a public hearing held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

ORDINANCE #1266 - An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code pertaining to the use of solar panels and solar energy. Trustee Mazurek made a motion to approve Ordinance #1266. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The PZC will hold a public hearing on July 27<sup>th</sup> for a variance for a second detached accessory structure at 607 Penfield Street.

The Village has submitted an application for a Local Technical Assistance Grant from C.M.A.P. to update the land use plan. A copy of the application was provided in the packet for review.

**D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

The Emergency Management monthly report was provided for review.

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

A Hodges Street railroad crossing update was provided. The seven day traffic count during a non-school week showed 300 cars eastbound and 300 cars westbound per day. A request has also been sent out to the Fire District and School District regarding their opinion of the crossing. The Fire Chief has expressed concerns about closing the crossing since it limits the ability to attack a fire in the old downtown area from two directions and he would be opposed to that crossing being closed. The School District has not yet discussed its position. A count of traffic when school is in session to see the difference in numbers also needs to be done. The residents within a one block area of the crossing will also be surveyed to get their opinion.

The Committee plans to meet to discuss a non-highway vehicle ordinance, recreation vehicle parking regulation changes and nuisance code updates.

**E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

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

A sewer plant design update was provided. A follow-up meeting was held on June 6<sup>th</sup> to resolve all outstanding issues and the plant is now 90% designed. Around July 15<sup>th</sup> the plans will be submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for review and once those plans are approved the Village will go to bid on the project in September. Bids will be opened in October and

we will then meet to decide what to leave in the project and what to cut depending on the IEPA loan offer that is made. We will need 120 days on the bid because the IEPA is slow in approving loans.

The Penfield Street watermain is over 50% complete and moving smoothly. Superintendent Cowger reported that pressure testing of the main should be conducted by the end of the week. Almost all service lines east of the bridge will be transferred over. No work will occur over the Fourth of July festival weekend.

Trustee Mazurek made a motion to approve a change order to the Penfield watermain project to include an extension of water main north from Penfield to Park Street on Birch at an amount not to exceed \$71,050. This would connect to long service connections to one hydrant and provides a loop for this block. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger provided an update on curb and sidewalk repairs. The two projects will occur beginning the week after the Fourth of July.

The IEPA conducted a compliance field inspection of the sewer plant. The report was provided in the packet for review.

The IEPA will be conducting a compliance inspection of the Village's MS4 stormwater discharge to creek permit.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has notified the Village of a shutdown on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This will delay the shoulder widening of Route #1 and mowing of state rights of way.

A Chestnut/Willow street light update was provided. The Village met with ComEd to determine where the electrical service lines would go. They want to put up the lights and run the cable to their transformers in the rear yard easement and then these become Rate 25 lights owned and maintained by the Village. The Village would have to secure the easements between the homes in order to dig in the cable. There are already two property owners that do not want any poles on their property. A new solution was found by Staff. Two places have been staked out on Chestnut. The wire must be run and pole put up off of one transformer.

Trustee Basile expressed problems with the Chestnut/Dixie traffic light. It needs to be programmed to get a green light coming from the west at the same time as traffic coming from the east otherwise there is a long wait coming from the west. Chief Weissgerber reported that Meade Electric was out there doing some work last week which may be related. Staff will contact IDOT to try and get this problem fixed.

**F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

A Gould Street boardwalk update was provided. Work is scheduled to begin after the Fourth of July. After discussion at the last meeting, an aluminum railing was decided to be installed at a total project cost of \$49,311 which is under the \$50,000 budgeted amount.

A report on the H.I.T.S. grand opening at Balmoral Park was provided. Trustee Wehling reported that it was a great time and a great event. A lot of nice updates have been made to the park.

The Committee plans to begin work on a Facebook page after the Fourth of July to be hopefully up and running by the Fall. Constituent Outreach Consultants (COC) will provide a quote for setting up the page so they will be contacted after the Fourth of July.

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

A CSX Intermodal update was provided. Last week it was learned that they are still proceeding with planning, but unclear if it's just planning or actually planning to build.

President Szymanski said he would like to refer the plan for a Sesquicentennial in 2020 to the Economic Development and Community Relations Committee.

A response letter from IDOT on additional lighting needed on Route #1 from Goodenow to Church Road was received. IDOT said there is not enough data to support it but they will look at it.

Administrator Barber reported on the state budget update. There is a proposed possible 4-year real estate tax freeze and 10% reduction in LGDF effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

President Szymanski requested an Executive Session be held to discuss contracts with personnel.

### **H. OLD BUSINESS**

Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to return to regular session at 8:24 p.m. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lieutenant of Police. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1267 - An Ordinance authorizing an employment agreement with the Village Administrator. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve Ordinance #1267. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1268 - An Ordinance authorizing an employment agreement with the Chief of Police. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve Ordinance #1268. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1269 - An Ordinance authorizing an employment agreement with the Public Works Superintendent. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve Ordinance #1269. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1270 - An Ordinance authorizing an employment agreement with the Office Manager. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve Ordinance #1270. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Mazurek reported that the Youth Commission will hold the Movie in the Park on July 21st.

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

AYES: (5) Trustees Basile, Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner  
Village Clerk