

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER
HELD AT THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CENTER,
30200 TOWN CENTER ROAD, BEECHER, ILLINOIS
MARCH 25, 2013 -- 6:00 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, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

GUESTS: Todd Kraus, J.R. Delgado, Christine Szymanski, George Schuitema and Kim Koutsky.

A budget workshop was held to review the proposed budget for fiscal year 2013/14. Budget packets were previously provided to all those present. The Finance Chair ran the meeting and provided a department by department overview of the budget and a review of changes since last year's budget.

Some of the discussion included:

Trustee Ahrendt asked if legal services in the General Fund included money for the Village Attorney to attend Board meetings. There is some money budgeted for this but the Attorney only attends Board meetings on an as needed basis.

Trustee Kypuros asked if the Village ever tried to negotiate the Police Department union contract on our own without an attorney. Administrator Barber and Chief Weissgerber explained that they plan to use an attorney again because of how the contract negotiations went last time. The Administrator stated there is a cushion in the amount of this line item in case negotiations become lengthy. Chief Weissgerber indicated the labor attorney is also well versed in FSLA and knows what we can and can't do legally.

Trustee Kypuros proposed bringing back the SRO officer in the schools. He proposed supplying the school with an officer 4 hours a day for 3 days a week which would equal approximately 500 hours. President Lohmann said the school hasn't requested a SRO and Trustee Kuhlman, Chief Weissgerber and Lieutenant Emerson have met with School Superintendent regarding school security. President Lohmann said he talked to the School Superintendent who indicated they do not want an SRO at this

time. The school wants to beef up security and do their own training to begin with. President Lohmann and Trustee Cleary noted that no money is coming from the unincorporated area for this when kids from the unincorporated areas attend the schools. It was felt some money should come from the County or Township too and not just funded by Village. Trustee Kypuros wants the Village to be more proactive in the schools to prevent problems and proposed \$6,840 to be added to the budget for this purpose plus the cost of FICA tax. Chief Weissgerber was concerned that additional use of part-timers on the streets to cover the full-time officer when he is in the school could cause the union to try and force us to hire another full-time officer which would cost us much more. Concerns were also expressed that there should be officers in all the schools and not just the high school. Trustee Szymanski commented on meetings held with the school just after the Sandy Hook tragedy to express some of the safety concerns. Trustee Wehling expressed support for an SRO in the school full-time. Chief Weissgerber asked for a chance to tweak some existing numbers in the budget to see if this can be worked out. Trustee Szymanski said we might be able to find money in another fund to pay for this if we can't find enough in the Police Department budget but he doesn't want this plan to affect existing personnel. Administrator Barber noted that we need to be able to afford this expense over the long term and line item transfers can't sustain this long term.

Administrator Barber noted funds have been allocated in the Streets and Alleys Department to remove parkway trees that have been hit by the Emerald Ash Borer and replacement of a plow. Residents will be allowed to treat their own parkway trees for the Ash Borer if they wish so they can avoid losing their trees.

Trustee Kypuros asked if the Village ever considered silk flowers instead of the fresh flower baskets put up around town.

Administrator Barber said two items added in the Department of Buildings and Public Property include painting the exterior of Depot and replacement of the floor tire in the Village Hall lobby. Trustee Kypuros indicated he may be able to help get the floor prepared for the tile installation to save money but thought the \$2000 budgeted may not be enough.

It was budgeted to seal coat the walking paths in Hunters Chase and Firemen's Park this year.

The Capital Equipment Sinking Fund includes money to purchase a new dump truck with a plow.

Administrator Barber stated that \$59,000 in reserves are to be spent from the Water and Sewer Fund for capital improvements. It was discussed whether to replace the casing and trim bowls on Well #3. The money is in the budget just in case it is needed. It was also noted that turning of valves is budgeted.

Administrator Barber noted that the Village no longer has a full-time sewer plant operator which saves some money. The position is now contracted out.

The Village may look at getting a different planner to help with future planning relating to the Illiana Expressway and other planning issues.

The Public Safety Chair will be setting up a meeting with the Chief to discuss the SRO program.

The public hearing on the budget will be held on April 22nd.

When there was no further business to discuss, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner

Village Clerk