

**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  
JUNE 13, 2011 -- 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, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**GUESTS:** Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, George Schuitema, Kim Koutsky, Kim Coleman, Ken Bengel, and Guillermo "JR" Delgado.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 9, 2011 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 23, 2011 Joint Taxing Body meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

**AYES:** (4) Trustees Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and President Lohmann.

**NAYS:** (0) None.

**ABSTAIN:** (3) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt and Wehling.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Clerk Conner asked Board members to let her know if they intended to participate in the Fourth of July parade.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Kim Coleman proposed a historical museum for juggling and provided a handout with additional information. She came up with the idea because Ken Benge, her father, is a world champion juggler from the 1970's. She felt it was a unique idea that would bring people to Beecher. Ms. Coleman asked for assistance in finding an appropriate building, perhaps the old grocery store at the corner of Dixie Highway and Indiana Avenue. She plans to do a fundraising drive to do this and is looking at other funding options. President Lohmann recommended she start with the new state officials and investigate grant opportunities. She is looking at a two-year timeline for this. It was suggested she also talk to the Chicago Southland Visitors Bureau to see what help they can provide. It was the consensus of the Board to support her plan and work with her.

JR Delgado, resident from Mallards Cove, asked if there were any funds in the budget to paint over the graffiti in the park in Hunter's Chase Subdivision. Public Works will take care of this.

**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. Trustee Cleary made a motion approving the report of the Treasurer and all account activity for the month of May. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

A list of bills totalling \$101,419.03 to be paid was available for review, plus a bill to Woldhuis in the amount of \$268.75. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills plus the Woldhuis bill as presented. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of a bill to HD Waterworks for the Oak Park Avenue watermain project in the amount of \$660.00. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the month of April and the close of the fiscal year were provided in the packet for review.

A report on revenues for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2011 was provided in the packet for review.

A letter from Comcast on customer service assurance was provided in the packet for review.

ORDINANCE #1144 - An Ordinance adopting the prevailing wages for the Village of Beecher. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1144. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber provided results from the June 4<sup>th</sup> Bike Rodeo. Approximately 50 children attended the rodeo and four bikes were given away: two from the Police Department and two donated by Washington Township. The Police Department paid for their two bikes but will be reimbursed for them by some local businesses through donations.

Chief Weissgerber is waiting on some equipment that needs to be installed on the new squad car. He hopes to have it in service by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

President Lohmann reported that a stop sign flipped upside down in town. Public Works will investigate.

According to Trustee Cleary, the School Zone sign on southbound Cardinal Creek Boulevard is still missing. Public Works will install a new sign.

The Dangerous Intersection sign for Cardinal Creek Boulevard came in today and will be installed soon. Kids are also turning the street signs in town. Public Works has been turning them back when that occurs.

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

The Streets and Alleys Committee has met multiple times and discussed streets needing to be repaired. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of streets to be repaired as approved by the Committee for the 2011 road program. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

The Board considered authorizing Village Engineer Baxter and Woodman to complete the 2011 road program. The Board discussed why this engineer was chosen to do this project. Trustee Cleary expressed concerns about using Baxter and Woodman because of previous discussions of the Board. It was the Committee's recommended to use Baxter and Woodman for this project. Trustee Szymanski made a motion authoring Baxter and Woodman to complete the 2011 road program for a fee not to exceed \$5,300 for a public bid process and \$4,800 for soliciting three proposals. A copy of the proposal was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (1) Trustee Cleary.  
Motion Carried.

Summer banners and flags have been put up.

Larvaciding and inspection of catch basins has been completed for the summer. 150-day tablets have been installed in all open water areas. Mosquito spraying will be conducted again June 16<sup>th</sup>. It was discussed if the briquettes that were put in catch basins were still there after all the rain that was received. It would be costly to install briquettes again. Public Works will spray at least once per week prior to the Fourth of July.

Paint striping is scheduled to begin next week.

An update was provided on the Fourth of July celebration. Brochures were provided to the Board for review. Trustee Szymanski provided an overview of festival activities.

Administrator Barber provided information on the new bid specifications for a refurbished truck. Trustee Szymanski reported on the history of the purchase of refurbished equipment and explained why they chose to look at a truck from this company and how comparison pricing was done for this purchase. After some discussion, Trustee Szymanski made a motion waiving the bid requirements for the purchase of a refurbished truck due to the nature of the purchase. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize payment in the amount of \$55,599 for a 2005 International 4300 dump truck from IMEL Medium Duty Trucks of Bluffton, Indiana. The truck is \$599 over budget according to Administrator Barber. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski met with one of the Pine Street residents about his flooding problems earlier in the day. They identified one problem that may be a quick fix to help the matter. Trustee Szymanski will try and schedule another meeting with Church Road property owners to again try and work out a solution to the flooding problems.

#### **D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE**

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

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that asphalt paving has been completed at the Oak Park emergency watermain repair site. The hydrant needs to be relocated and one more piece of pipe must be tied in. Dirt will be leveled off in the area.

The Indiana Avenue watermain between Dunbar Street and Oak Park Avenue ruptured three times in 24 hours after a house fire. Trustee Kypuros was working with Public Works that day and said Public Works did a phenomenal job fixing all the breaks. That piece of watermain is scheduled for replacement.

Superintendent Cowger reported that hydrant flushing was done the week of the three watermain breaks. Two questionable hydrants were taken care of.

The Village water system was flow tested by the Fire District and I.S.O. in May. Superintendent Cowger stated that he has not received the written report from the Fire Department yet. He was told verbally that we are within parameters where we should be.

Watermain hot patch repairs have been authorized and were being completed.

A list of current Public Works projects and jobs were provided in the packet for review. President Lohmann noted a new project to be added to the Public Works list: the retention pond in Lion's Club Park was washed out and collapsed culverts under the walking path due to the heavy rain. Public Works will be pulling pipes out and replacing them with a larger size.

Trustee Cleary asked about the Oak Park watermain project.

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

Trustee Wehling reported that the financing looks good as far as money needed to complete the Veteran's Memorial. The Committee needs to work on obtaining additional money to maintain the memorial. The Committee has determined wording for plaques for the memorial. Sample engraved bricks will be available at the Fourth of July booth so people can see what they will look like.

The Welton Stedt Park southwest infield is complete. According to Trustee Wehling, all ballfields in town appear to be in use.

Trustee Wehling reported that the lights are fixed on Firemen's Park #1 and are working well. The cost was \$2,500 for repairs. Replacement of breakers was discussed. Poles will need to be replaced in the next 3 to 5 years.

The Board considered re-establishing the Parks Commission to address the issue of Firemen's Park parking lot. According to Trustee Wehling, a representative is needed from Washington Township and the Fire Department to try and come up with a sharing agreement to repair and maintain the parking lot and determine funding. Trustee Szymanski asked if we need another Parks Commission established or can the Parks Committee just meet with these groups to resolve this matter. It was

decided to have the Parks and Recreation Committee meet with Washington Township and the Fire Department to address the issue of Firemen's Park parking lot and not establish a new commission.

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

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

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

An update was provided on the Stough Group project for senior housing on Church Road. Construction is now planned for Spring, 2012.

Administrator Barber reported that he and President Lohmann met with Tom McDonnell of Castletown Homes. They need to complete the subdivision this year or renew their letter of credit. A decision will be made in August or September.

Administrator Barber reported that MGM Development had a purchaser to buy the subdivision. The purchaser proposed taking over our cash escrow account and finish the project themselves, which was not approved. The purchasers have since backed out of the project. Administrator Barber expressed concerns if the subdivision sold, if the separate parcels could be owned by multiple owners and the issues this could create for the Village.

The Board considered options for the fine grading of lots in the MGM and Montalbano subdivisions. It was discussed to have Public Works complete this work after hours for overtime pay. Trustee Ahrendt asked about this. Concerns were expressed about insurance issues and if they would be paid at time and a half. President Lohmann was also concerned about wear and tear on equipment on a job that is not the Village's. It was an option to do in-house without getting an engineer involved. The properties don't have to be put to final grade, they just need black dirt put in to fill low spots. Administrator Barber was concerned about asking for bids and making them comparable to each other so all bidders were bidding on the same exact results. He asked if the Board wants to do this or just let it go. There have been problems with erosion and breeding mosquitos due to standing water. Trustee Ahrendt asked if this is the Village's responsibility to do this. Trustee Szymanski felt this should only be done if all other infrastructure can be done first with available money. Concerns were expressed about using this money for private property and if enough will be left for infrastructure issues. Trustee Szymanski suggested the Village identify the real problem areas and do something with those only. Trustee Kypuros had concerns about the adjoining residents and how it affects them. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to authorize enforcement on the bank that currently owns the property for these violations in an attempt to get them to resolve the problem before the Village does any work to resolve issues on private property.

President Lohmann met with Vince Igoe to discuss erosion and weed control in Prairie Crossings South Subdivision.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion referring a plat of resubdivision to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) for Chuck Onik at 902 Catalpa Street. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.  
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion referring a request to the PZC for echo housing at 745 Corning Road, within 1.5 miles of the Village's planning jurisdiction. This is for Lester and Pat Peters who have a terminally ill parent that needs extended care. The Village has not received Washington Township's recommendation on this yet. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.  
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

The PZC will have their first meeting in a year, on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:15 p.m. at the Washington Township Center.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion approving a proposal to powerwash and paint 97 hydrants in the Montalbano and MGM Subdivisions from the Village of Beecher in the amount of \$4,947.00 or \$51 per hydrant and authorizing the Treasurer to make reimbursement to the Village for same upon completion.  
AYES: (4) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (1) Trustee Szymanski.  
ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Kypuros.  
Motion Carried.

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

President Lohmann reported that there would be Illiana Expressway presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. He will attend the Wednesday presentation.

An update was provided on the third airport.

The impact of redistricting the Village was discussed. Beecher is being split into two different senate and representative districts in the new redistricting plan.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve an agreement with Will County to opt-in as a member of the Will County Community Development Block Grant Program for an additional three years. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.  
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber provided results of the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Joint Taxing Body meeting.

President Lohmann reported that he had a meeting in Monee with other area mayors and the Chief Judge to discuss the court fee situation. President Lohmann said the Village is paying taxes and shouldn't have to pay for court fees. Administrator Barber reported that it was learned that there are other branch courts in Will County that are not paying any fees. A branch court is also being considered in Crete by the Will County Sheriff's substation. The Will County Executive is talking about putting in another sheriff's substation in Elwood.

President Lohmann appointed Kevin Bouchard and Jonathan Kypuros to the Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve President Lohmann's appointments. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered establishing a Youth Commission. The Police Department is bogged down and not having time to do the youth programs. Trustee Kypuros volunteered to head this Commission and said he would run it with volunteers. It will still need to be determined how many will be on the Commission and who. George Schuitema suggested getting a youth from the High School to be on the Commission. Trustee Kypuros also wants to invite someone from Beecher Recreation to be on the Commission. Trustee Kypuros will bring a recommendation for who to serve as Youth Commission members to the Board for approval at a future meeting. It was the consensus of the Board to approve the concept.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

President Lohmann received a request from Comcast to attend an event recognizing Beecher High School student Timothy Johnson of Beecher as a 2011 Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Award winner at McCormick Place on June 14<sup>th</sup>. President Lohmann and his wife will attend the awards ceremony recognizing his achievements.

Administrator Barber reported that he is now a member of the Municipal Utility Franchise Committee through the Will County Governmental League (WCGL). This Committee is to negotiate pooling of residential electric rates to get better rates for residents. A county-wide referendum would need to be held to do this.

Administrator Barber will be out of town the rest of the week at a conference.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.



Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk