

**MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT  
& BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER  
HELD AT THE BEECHER VILLAGE HALL,  
724 PENFIELD STREET, BEECHER, ILLINOIS  
JULY 31, 2007 -- 7:00 P.M.**

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 and Administrator Robert Barber.

**GUESTS:** None.

Administrator Barber showed Board members a print of the Firemen's Park improvements. There was some discussion on the new softball diamond on the print. Board members didn't think this was initially agreed to in the park plans.

President Lohmann reported he received a letter from the Union Pacific Railroad about Depot Park. The Village previously agreed to put up a fence between the depot and the railroad and the railroad wants the fence put up. They also want a fence put up between Lions Club Park and the railroad. Staff will get some pricing for fencing at the two locations.

Administrator Barber reported on the Freedom of Information Act request relating to impact and annexation fees from the Homebuilder's Association.

Administrator Barber reported that the Will County Forest Preserve wants the Village to sponsor their Fall Festival at Plum Creek Preserve. The Administrator asked the Board to establish a policy on giving donations to outside agencies. It was a consensus to consider requests on a case-by-case basis and to say no to the Forest Preserve's request.

Administrator Barber reported that auditor Peter Skinger will not be doing the audit this year due to illness. Staff is getting two local firms to provide a proposal on the audit but the bids have not been received yet. It was estimated at approximately \$14,000 for a three year agreement. After looking at the paperwork as to each firm's qualifications and clients, it was the consensus of the Board to use Smith, Koelling, Dykstra and Ohm because they audit mainly small towns and the other firm does much larger towns.

The Board considered a template annexation agreement and a listing of proposed impact and/or annexation fees to be provided to developer interests. There was discussion regarding how fees are supposed to be used and how the School District reached their fees. Board consensus was to recalculate the impact/annexation fees to total \$29,091.

There was discussion on a combined municipal facility. The main question discussed was whether to engineer the municipal facility site for Public Works, Village Hall and a Police facility or only a Public Works facility. The Board discussed the need to clarify with the architect what type of building is being designed to determine costs. It was the consensus to design for the whole municipal complex and not just Public Works. The architect will also be called and directed to scale down the project.

The status of revenues and expenses for the Village was discussed. Concerns were expressed that building permits are not coming in very fast so revenues are down. The General Fund is in good shape but the Water and Sewer Capital Fund is taking a hit. A capital spending policy was considered. The consensus of the Board agreed with the proposed spending policy. It was discussed to also include commissions of the Board in this policy. The policy will not be implemented until after the audit has been completed.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk