



SPECIAL EDITION OF The Beecher Bulletin

A MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT *(Regarding the future re-location of the Beecher Village Hall)*



On behalf of the Village Board, I am writing this letter to explain to Beecher residents a series of events which have occurred over the past six months which I would like to refer to as opportunities.

Over the past six months, we were approached by several individuals or groups wishing to buy the Cardinal Creek Golf Course, Buddys Drive-In, Striker's Bowling Lanes and other associated parcels of land. During discussions with those individuals a question was raised whether or not the Village would be interested in the purchase of any or all of those properties. After a presentation to the Village Board, it was clear that we should do everything possible to try and preserve the Golf Course, first as a viable business, and second as green space. At the time, it appeared we were not in a position to purchase any of those properties. Thereafter we were once again approached by two individuals who identified themselves as the new owners of the properties mentioned above and further discussions followed. Specifically, we were asked if we were interested in purchasing the old bank building just north of Buddy's Drive-In for a Village Hall at a very low purchase price. The Village Clerk, Administrator, Trustees and I looked at the building which has now been empty for almost seven years, and determined the building would more than double our current office space and could include a board meeting room.

We were then called by Inland Bank, the current owner of the property, asking if we were still interested in the bank building. We asked them for a price but assumed it would be too high. Once again we were amazed at how low the price was. I immediately asked Village staff to produce a project budget for the building and a sketch of how the inside of the Village Hall could look. The Police Department, also in need of more space, would expand into the current Village Hall area. We made a presentation to the Village Board and had some rather lengthy discussions on the pros and cons of relocating the Village Hall from 724 Penfield Street to 625 Dixie Highway. To be more specific, the Village Board gave me authorization to continue negotiations with Inland Bank. After offers and counter offers, Inland Bank accepted our offer of \$125,000.



At 965 square feet, the current Village Hall is cramped. While the Village Hall could be expanded at its current location, it would be taking space from the Police Department which desperately needs more space, and any dollars spent to remodel the Police Department or Village Hall at its current location could be penny wise but dollar foolish.

The remodeling of the Dixie Highway building includes a small Village Board room for our regular meetings, sufficient office space, back-up power for emergency use, and a drive-up window for resident convenience. None of the above is available at our current location. In 2006 this building was appraised at \$525,000. We believe we can turn the building into move-in condition for approximately \$390,000, *which includes the purchase price*. We cannot begin to build a building on land we own for this price.

I firmly believe that this is the most cost-effective way to solve our space needs at this time, and keeps our options open for the future. We plan to complete this project using cash reserves we have saved over the years thanks to the hard work of current and past Village Boards. We do not plan to raise any taxes or fees to complete this project. In the future, a new Village Hall could be built in the old downtown or on land we own east of town near the Washington Township Center building possibly using the equity of the sale of the bank building. A future Village Board will make this decision. Building a brand new building is not an option at this time.

Once again I want to emphasize that we are not raising any taxes or fees for this project. We are using existing funds saved from past budgets where we overestimated expenses and underestimated revenues. The Village Board has voted to approve this project and I ask for your support as well. We hope to move into the new Village Hall sometime late this summer. I want to thank you for reading this letter and for trying to get an understanding of how the Village Board reached this difficult decision.

Greg Szymanski
Village President



Village of Beecher

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Village Hall Hours

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8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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