

**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 11, 2018 -- 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 Kypuros.

ABSENT: Trustee Wehling.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Greg Smith, Public Works Crew Leader Matt Conner and Treasurer Donna Rooney.

**GUEST:** George Schuitema, Judy Ogalla, Lisa Aprati and Dan Gabel.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 14, 2018 Board meeting. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.


Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Conner provided a report of tax income received.

**RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE**

Lisa Aprati, Manager of External Affairs, Southeast Region for Com Ed, and Dan Gabel, Load Specialist for ComEd, provided a presentation on permitting of solar farms and how they relate to the power grid. Beecher has had two solar farms proposed in the area recently. Mr. Gabel explained the state awarding process for the proposed projects which will be done through a lottery and most won't be approved. It was learned that the projects considered recently for our area haven't been approved by ComEd as of yet and each only has a one in seven chance of being approved by ComEd. The lottery process is completely random as to where these projects will be approved. Will County Board member Judy Ogalla explained that Will County would have to issue special use permits for these projects. The County has been educating themselves on the solar farms and their potential effects on the area and coming up with regulations to address some of the concerns. The County will put a one-year time limit on the special use permits. It was



discussed that this should be considered more on the Township level for their input because it is in their jurisdiction and not the Village's. Judy Ogalla offered to provide the Village a copy of Borrega's proposed decommissioning plan.

### **REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS**

A report was provided on the Beautification Commission. Their next meeting is June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Meyer provided a report on the Fourth of July Commission. Approximately \$24,000 in sponsorships have been received. Car tickets are now available.

Trustee Mazurek reported that the Youth Commission has sold tickets to win a golf cart as a fundraiser. The drawing will be live at Sit-N-Bull on Friday. Their next event is the Kid and Pet Parade during the Fourth of July festival. Trustee Mazurek thanked the Village for the regular contributions to help them with the events.

Trustee Basile reported on the Ribbon of Hope dedication ceremony that was held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. He listed all of the people who contributed to the dedication. If anyone wants to purchase a brick, forms are available at the Village Hall. President Szymanski thanked the Commission for their work to get this project completed.

In Trustee Wehling's absence, there was nothing to report for the Historic Preservation Commission.

### **A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review and Treasurer Rooney was present to answer questions. Trustee Kraus would like a more detailed breakdown of Village payroll and will work with staff on this. Trustee Basile made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Report of Financial Activity in the prior month. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the preceding month were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totaling \$132,474.17 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Basile made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2018-06 – A Resolution authorizing line item transfers to the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 budget to cover the adjustments required for the new collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters Local #700 covering the Police officers. Trustee Basile made a motion to adopt Resolution #2018-06. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2018-07 – A Resolution adopting a Personnel Manual for the Village of Beecher effective July 1, 2018. Some changes were made at the last meeting adding a Tier 2 for employees hired after July 1, 2018. Trustee Basile made a motion to adopt Resolution #2018-07. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Basile made a motion authorizing the payoff of \$350,000 loan from First Community Bank and Trust for engineering services related to the Beecher Wastewater Treatment Plant. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

There was nothing new to report on the generator project at the Police station.

An update was provided on the tot lot. Treasurer Rooney said a new account still needs to be created for the new tot lot. She is waiting on President Szymanski's annual appointments to determine who will be on the signature cards. Trustee Kraus will meet with Trustee Wehling to get an update.

There was nothing reported on the ballfield lights for Firemen's #2 field.

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

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

Trustee Mazurek reported on the status of a request for expanded outdoor seating and recreational area (beer garden) at The Gould Vault, 618 Gould Street. The hearing was continued because one of the property owners did not receive proper notice. At the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting testimony was provided on concerns about possible litter, noise and the proximity to the playground. No one was opposed, they just wanted safeguards. There was also a letter received from a property owner that was read at the meeting and entered into record, opposing the

beer garden. The PZC hearing will continue on June 21<sup>st</sup> and a recommendation made to the Village Board at the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The PZC is working on addressing some of the concerns of residents in the area. It was also noted that the petitioners were unprepared at the hearing and didn't provide the specifications requested so it needed to be continued.

A Comprehensive Plan update was provided. Teska Associates has unveiled a branding strategy for the new plan and a new website was built exclusively for the plan, which provides for public participation and input. A time-line of milestones for project completion was also provided.

Castletown Homes has submitted a request to modify the P.U.D. to convert six duplex units into six single family homes. This would decrease the density of the development, and single family is allowed in a R-2 District. However, Village Board approval is required to change the P.U.D. and there are some lot size and water/sewer service issues to be addressed. Trustee Mazurek made a motion to approve the request from Castletown Homes to modify the P.U.D. to convert six duplex units into six single family homes, subject to the conditions that engineering plans be resubmitted with TF and grading, one water and sewer line for each lot, the six lots shall remain in the homeowner's association to maintain the pond, and approval of sufficient capping of existing abandoned water and sewer lines. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

#### **D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Police Department and E.M.A. monthly reports were provided in the packet for review.

Chief Smith provided a new hire update. The candidate passed all required tests and will begin immediately as full-time.

Chief Smith said he attended a meeting with all area hospitals to discuss St. James hospital's closing. It was learned that St. James plans to close July 31<sup>st</sup>. It was originally thought that it was to close in October, so other hospitals are working to figure out how many more patients they will be getting sooner than expected.

#### **E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Water and sewer department monthly reports were provided in the packet for review.

The water billing register for the months of March and April were provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Kypuros provided a sewer plant construction update. The initial construction phase is underway and the official groundbreaking was held on Saturday morning.

Bid opening for the Dunbar watermain is scheduled for Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and bid award will be considered at the July 9<sup>th</sup> Village Board meeting.

Trustee Kypuros explained the process for the hiring/RFP for a new wastewater treatment plant operator. John Hernandez was selected as a contractual Class 1 Operator for the plant. A four year contract will provide 32 hours of plant operations per week for \$35,000 in the first year, \$37,000 in the second year, \$39,000 in the third year and \$42,500 in the fourth year. The Village is now paying \$45,000 per year to Baxter and Woodman for licensed supervision of plant operations which is about three hours per week. A copy of the contract and EPA paperwork that needs to be submitted was included in the packet for review. Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a contract with John A. Hernandez as a contractual Class 1 operator of the wastewater treatment plant. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros requested an Executive Session be held to discuss specific candidates for the hiring of an MMI position as recommended by the Committee to replace Floyd Burger. There will be action after the Executive Session.

The ComEd annual report for 2017 was provided in the packet for review.

ComEd will be replacing poles along Route 1 after July 1<sup>st</sup>. The hanging flower baskets have been placed in the old downtown. Flag brackets and electrical outlets will be removed from the poles.

A report was provided on the Gould Street restriping. Once the new stripes are laid to accommodate the stairways and handicapped parking we will then be cleaning up this area. Crew Leader Conner said weather is putting the contractor behind on the job.

Curb and sidewalk repairs are scheduled to begin after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Crew Leader Conner said they are waiting until after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to come up with a list and get pricing.

The MS4 stormwater discharge permit application and one-year action plan was provided in the packet for review.

Consideration of a request from Castletown Homes (Prairie Park subdivision) to take over the ponds in exchange for annual payments was tabled.

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

Trustee Meyer provided a Sesquicentennial update. A committee is being formed to begin work on the new chapter for the historical book. More updates will be provided as available.

WPAL went off the air without any issues. Village meetings are now posted on the Village YouTube channel and linked to the website and Facebook page.

A LOIS update was provided. Staff is in the process of adding and updating new commercial and industrial sites in town for sale into the system. Administrator Barber reported using some enterprise fund money to go into a newer website that is being more widely used. Most aren't currently using LOIS now.

Trustee Meyer provided an Economic Development update. The Village has received two industrial prospect leads from the Illinois DCEO. We have followed up on these leads and Beecher is one of 17 selected sites for project Trigger which involves 20 acres on Route #1 at the north edge of town, and project Forte, which is seeking 80 acres, is still in the process of choosing their finalists. Administrator Barber said the Village is off the list for the two leads but on the list for other future projects.

### **G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT**

President Szymanski reported that the Village has received an inquiry about a marijuana processing facility. Although state regulations may keep these facilities from locating in the Village at this time, such a facility is a permitted use in an industrial district as a greenhouse and if a facility got a license to operate in an industrial zoned parcel we would issue a building permit. The Board had no comments. This was for information only at this time.

President Szymanski reported that the Goodenow Road bridge over Plum Creek is being replaced which will require the road to be closed until Halloween.

President Szymanski reported that the Fuel Committee locked in fuel prices on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Our price for unleaded through February 28<sup>th</sup> is \$2.572 per gallon, and for diesel it is \$2.5970 per gallon.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. to discuss the candidates for hiring an MMI and President Szymanski requested to discuss another personnel matter. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kraus made a motion to return to regular session at 8:54 p.m. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to hire Kyle Mitchell as the new Public Works MMI employee, subject to drug test and physical. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to rescind the contract of Harold Cowger as Public Works Superintendent without cause. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was the consensus of the Board to have President Szymanski sign a month by month contract for Baxter and Woodman to run the water system until a water operator replacement is found. President Szymanski said he still needs to address some concerns about the contract when he meets with Baxter and Woodman.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk