

**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
NOVEMBER 23, 2009 -- 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, Gardner and Kuhlman.

ABSENT: Trustee Wehling.

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

GUESTS: Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Andrew Ahrendt, Kim Koutsky, George Schuitema and Tom Stluka.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 9, 2009 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes with the following changes: page 5, Planning, Building and Zoning Committee, first paragraph, line 4, change "LED signs and political signs" to "outdoor LED signs," on line 5, replace "of local businesses" with PZC; and on page 4, 3rd paragraph, line 2, delete "on the bid letting" and replace with "services". Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given.2) Bills were presented for the Beecher 4th of July Commission (\$107.50) and the Beecher Memorial Tree Account (\$900). Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$1,007.50 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3. Clerk Conner asked permission to give the Beautification Commission 2009 Village ornaments to sell at the housewalk and to let them keep the proceeds. The Board had no objections. Trustee Szymanski suggested that Village ornaments could also be sold during the Breakfast with Santa.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Variance reports for the previous month were included in the packet for review.

ORDINANCE #1125 - An Ordinance adopting a tax levy for Fiscal Year 2009 collectible in 2010. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1125. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A Village Board workshop is scheduled for November 24th at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chief Weissgerber requested permission to hire a full-time officer. The Chief explained the cost of overtime to cover the open full-time position versus hiring someone full-time. Chairman Kuhlman recommended hiring the additional full-time officer. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to authorize Chief Weissgerber to hire a full-time police officer. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held to consider the hiring of three part-time police officers.

The Chamber of Commerce has invited Board members to be in the Festival of Lights Parade, according to Trustee Kuhlman.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Board considered an engineering services agreement with the SEC Group for construction observation on the Church Road west LAPP project. Board members asked questions about the SEC Group and why they were chosen. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve an engineering services agreement with the SEC Group in the amount of \$9,998.55 for construction observation on the Church Road west LAPP project. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed the use of engineering firms. It was asked if the Village should let Baxter and Woodman finish projects they have started. Some Trustees expressed an interest in meeting other

engineers that would be considered for hire. Trustee Szymanski recommended tabling this matter until the workshop meeting.

The last pass through town for leaf collection will be done on November 30th.

The last brush pickup will be conducted on December 1st.

Holiday decorations and banners have been put up throughout town.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger provided a report on snow removal and salt run plans for winter 2009/2010.

President Lohmann reported that Public Works does not have enough manpower right now and thinks Superintendent Cowger needs another employee to replace Joe Spanier. Staff has been through applications received and the candidates have been narrowed down to 15 people that would be good to interview. It was discussed at a previous meeting to fill the full-time position with part-timers for now. Trustee Gardner asked for more time to consider this. After much discussion, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to hire an additional full-time Public Works employee. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

A letter has been sent to Congresswoman Halvorson requesting funds for the replacement of the Penfield/Maxwell/Indiana Avenue water mains. President Lohmann reported that Ms. Halvorson was not aware that Beecher did not get granted the money to replace water mains.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve payment of a bill from the Bond Redemption Account to JMA Architects in the amount of \$4,147.04. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the new Public Works facility. The building of interior rooms will be discussed at the workshop meeting. A report from staff with costs of work was available for review.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE #1126 - An Ordinance amending the zoning code pertaining to digital display signs and political signs. A copy of the new draft ordinance was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1126. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) will hear a presentation on windspires and hold a hearing on time periods for uncompleted variances at its January 28th meeting.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize payment to Sunset Paving in the amount of \$3,900 for the repair of two trench failures in driveways on Sunset Boulevard from the MGM escrow account. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the January 11th Board meeting, there will be a consent agenda and short business meeting following an elected officials forum.

President Lohmann asked the Board for input regarding legislative initiatives. Trustees should advise Administrator Barber of any suggestions.

President Lohmann provided a report on the briefing by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission recently attended by himself, Chief Weissgerber and Clerk Conner. The Liquor Commission is pushing mandatory liquor training.

President Lohmann received an email from Representative Lisa Dugan advising that Kevin Owens is the new community outreach director.

H. NEW BUSINESS

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:29 p.m. to discuss the hiring of three part-time police officers. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 8:36 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk