

**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
FEBRUARY 10, 2014 -- 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 Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Kim Koutsky, Deputy Treasurer Nelson Collins and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

GUESTS: George Schuitema, Chuck and Pam Hoehn, Kevin Bouchard, Mike Lau, Gordon and Frieda Wilson, Matt Rykiel, Bill Voss, Roland Rosenboom, Nathan Nohren, Patrick Moone and Bryce Loring.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 13, 2014 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a correction on Page 3, 4th paragraph stating in error that Trustee Kuhlman had scheduling conflicts associated with changing Monday meetings. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Clerk Conner announced the appointment of Patty Meyer as Deputy Village Clerk and explained her additional duties. 3) A report on credit card receipts for 2013 was provided.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: The Board considered a request for a temporary use permit for a storage container at Beecher Hardware. Matt Rykiel of Beecher Hardware explained he wants to put a storage container at the Southwest corner of the building. He wants to start up a tool rental component at the store and also needs to store his fork lift for unloading inventory. He is looking for this to be temporary right now because he doesn't currently own the property. He is asking for

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a five year permit. Mr. Rykiel explained that the container would be put up as close as possible to the building and painted the same color. He could put wood siding up to make it more attractive, plus pallets of product would be all around the container which would also cover it. It is possible that Beecher Hardware may purchase the building in the future and could possibly put up a permanent structure at that time. No parking spaces would be taken up with this container but the garden center would be moved which may take up some parking spaces. After some discussion, Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve a request for a temporary use permit for a storage container at Beecher Hardware at 500 West Indiana Avenue for a period of not more than five years. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board continued with the **Planning, Building and Zoning Committee** Agenda items.

The Board considered granting a Special Use Permit to Dutch American Foods for a fence in the front yard setback for a sugar silo. The fence is for security purposes. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) held a public hearing. No one testified and the PZC voted unanimously to recommend approval. Trustee Kypuros asked clarification of whether fence will be chain link or wrought iron due to some comments by the petitioner at the PZC meeting. All paperwork submitted was for a chain link fence so that is what is being considered for approval.

ORDINANCE #1203 - An Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit to Dutch American Foods for a fence in the front yard setback for a sugar silo. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1203. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered granting a special use permit for a gas station and mini-market at 730 Dixie Highway at the Southwest corner of Miller Street and Dixie Highway. The PZC held a public hearing which all Board members also attended. The PZC voted 4-2-1 to approve the Special Use Permit subject to seven conditions. A letter of response to the conditions from Casey's legal counsel was provided for review. Patrick Moone from Farnsworth Group provided photos of the site and a proposed site plan on the overhead. He explained plans for fencing, camera, parking, access, drainage and indicated they plan to add 7,000 square feet of green space. Casey's agreed to the first six conditions with clarifications (letter from Casey's legal counsel is attached to these minutes). Condition #6 requiring a right-turn lane from Miller Street to Dixie Highway was discussed. According to Casey's legal counsel, based on the traffic data produced by Casey's, the traffic flow and the cost associated do not warrant the construction of a right-turn lane. However, Casey's offered to pay for half of the cost associated with designing and constructing the right-turn lane if the Village pays the other half. The cost estimate was \$45,000-\$50,000 to put in the turn lane. Nate Nohren from Farnsworth Group provided the detailed results of the traffic study conducted of the

area. He explained the traffic counts at peak periods which were found to be in the morning when school is beginning and in the afternoon during evening rush hour and during school dismissal time. Mr. Nohren also provided the traffic expectations once Casey's is opened, including detailed forecasts of traffic volumes. Farnsworth Group also did a 2040 traffic scenario study and found it to still be within acceptable ranges for traffic so they didn't feel a turn lane was warranted. There was much discussion regarding the need for a turn lane.

It was discussed that the School District wanted to keep the fence on the rear property line as originally proposed. Mr. Moone indicated the fence will be shadow box style.

Trustee Wehling asked about brick on the back of the building. The petitioners said the back wall will probably be a steel back because it will be covered by the fence. Trustee Kypuros noted that all pictures presented so far have shown an 8 foot solid brick wall but 3-4 foot brick was now being discussed. The petitioners then clarified that it would be 8 foot brick on front and steel on the back. Trustee Cleary said that at the PZC meeting it was never indicated that the back would be steel. Trustee Wehling wanted the back of the building to be brick, the same as the front and sides of the building. President Szymanski said some of the back of the building will still be seen because the 8 foot fence will only be 6 foot high because of the elevation change of putting the fence on the property line. Attorney Kuiper said that brick on the rear wall was presented in the plans at the PZC meeting as a continuation of the same brick wrap around the entire building so that was what was approved at the PZC meeting.

The fence on the back of the building was then discussed. There was much discussion as to whether the fence will have a wrap around on the corner of the building for stability. Trustee Meyer stated she preferred the fence to wing out of the edge of the building as previously discussed. President Szymanski noted that the School District plans to also ask Dollar General to extend the fence to behind their building. The fencing is to keep students from cutting through the property. Trustee Kuhlman said he felt the Police should be able to drive around the building for safety reasons. There was lengthy discussion on the fence.

Trustee Cleary asked how it would be known that the carbon filters are not saturated. The petitioner said filters would be changed on a regular basis according to manufacturer recommendations.

Resident Gordon Wilson said he felt Casey's hasn't properly addressed the added traffic their business would impact on the area relating to a third turn lane. Trustee Kypuros asked if a right-turn lane can be put in in the future if it is warranted.

It was noted that the sidewalk will have to be reconfigured along the front of the property.

ORDINANCE#1204 - An Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit for a gas station and mini-market at 730 Dixie Highway (Southwest corner of Miller Street and Dixie Highway) subject to the conditions set forth in the ordinance as recommended by the PZC, minus #6 of the PZC conditions relating to the turn lane, that there is 8 foot of brick and that the fence comes directly off the building with the wings as specified by the Board. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve Ordinance #1204. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

92

AYES: (4) Trustees Cleary, Meyer, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

The Village will also meet with the School District to be sure they are happy with the fence.

The Building Department monthly and annual reports were provided in the packet for review.

A five minute break was taken at 8:15 p.m.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Trustee Ahrendt reported that the Beautification Commission has a new member, Jan Vanramshorst, who lives on Ashland Avenue. She is eager to get involved. Administrator Barber asked about ordering the hanging baskets. Trustee Ahrendt indicated that the next Beautification meeting is on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall when they plan to pick the color of the flowers. Administrator Barber asked if she could let him know as soon as possible so he can order the baskets. There was some question as to who ordered the flowers in the past. Steve Weishaar will also provide a letter to President Szymanski asking for appointment of the new Commission member.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that bid requests have gone out to eight local dealers for the Fourth of July raffle car.

Trustee Kypuros reported on the Youth Commission open bowling held on January 20th. Over 250 children participated. This Saturday the Youth Commission will host their annual Daddy-Daughter dance and the Mom-Son dance will be held on March 8th.

Trustee Wehling reported on the last meeting of the Ribbon of Hope Commission that was held on January 25th. Fundraisers were discussed. The Commission has approximately \$8,000 in their account. The Commission had a booth at the Tractors for a Cure event Saturday night.

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. Deputy Treasurer Collins also provided the Treasurer's report and annual budget for the Fourth of July Commission. Some discussion followed regarding the Fourth of July budget. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Report of Financial Activity in the prior month. Treasurer Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

A list of bills totalling \$111,495.82 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1205 - An Ordinance amending Title 3, Chapters 3 through 7 pertaining to the Commissions of the Village. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1205. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary asked the Board their thoughts again on changing the dates of Board meetings. Trustee Cleary recommended that the Village Board have regular meetings on the fourth Monday of each month instead of the second Monday of each month as we are doing now, so residents can attend both Village Board and School Board meetings. The Village can still hold their first meeting of the month on the second Monday, if needed. Trustee Cleary recommended to begin the meeting date change May 1, 2014. Attorney Kuiper said bills can still be paid the second Monday of the month and then can be ratified at the meeting on the fourth Monday of the month. Bob said the only issue he sees is if PZC meets on the fourth Thursday of the month it is possible an issue could have to wait to be voted on by the Village Board for five weeks. Trustee Ahrendt commented that if we go back to two meetings a month again as in the past we would still have a conflict. After much discussion Trustee Cleary made a motion to cancel the Board meeting on the second Monday in April and hold the meeting on the fourth Monday in April. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that he is still working with the Attorney on the Park Rule Ordinance update.

Trustee Wehling reported that he hasn't met with Superintendent Cowger and Beecher Recreation yet regarding the Welton Stedt park improvements. There is still time to work on this.

Superintendent Cowger met with Beecher Rec regarding the electrical drop for Firemen's #3. There will be two electrical drops. Field #1 needs its own drop. Superintendent Cowger said he needs to trench to put boxes in. Trustee Wehling is working with the Ribbon of Hope Commission to determine the location for their lights. Cost is yet to be determined.

The Board discussed letting bids for the Village Hall rehabilitation at 625 Dixie Highway. A list of the bid schedule was provided. Bids would be opened on March 5th and approved at the March 10th

Board meeting. Trustee Kypuros asked if we will be mailing any of the information out. There is a company that does municipal work that may be a good fit for this. Staff will email a bid notice out to Passion Company upon recommendation by Trustee Kypuros. Trustee Kuhlman said he would like to hire local contractors if at all possible. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve letting of bids for the Village Hall rehabilitation at 625 Dixie Highway. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Meyer, Kypuros, Wehling and President Szymanski.

NAYS: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed a proposal from Twin Supplies to replace all of the lighting fixtures in Village facilities for \$5,510.31. This is through a grant program with DCEO. Administrator Barber explained the details of this program. Money will be paid out of line items for electric power unused in the budget. Trustee Kypuros asked what savings we will see since we don't have to pay a bill on some of these accounts. Superintendent Cowger explained that we can't get parts for some of the existing lights we have and many of the lights are extremely old. Trustee Cleary indicated that once the old Public Works garage is converted in the future for sewer plant operations the building will have to have all new lights put in anyway so asked if these lights should be changed. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a proposal from Twin Supplies to replace all lighting fixtures in Village facilities, eliminating the old Public Works garage lights from this proposal. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered a proposal from Twin Supplies to furnish all of the lighting fixtures for 625 Dixie Highway and replace all exterior fixtures in the amount of \$4,485.50. This grant is more chancy to be covered according to Administrator Barber because we have to provide 12 months of electric bills for this building which has been empty for 7 years so this building may not end up being eligible for the grant. Lights would be installed by the electrical contractor for the building. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a proposal from Twin Supplies to furnish all of the lighting fixtures for 625 Dixie Highway and replace all exterior fixtures in the amount of \$4,485.50, if eligible for the grant. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Meyer, Kypuros, Wehling and President Szymanski.

NAYS: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman asked about potential costs of the Police Department moving into the Village Hall once the Village Hall moves to Dixie Highway. Not many changes would be needed since it will be used for basic office space and the furniture will most likely stay.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly and annual reports were provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported that school safety and security is on-going.

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An update was provided on security for the Beecher Mausoleum. Chief Weissgerber reported that the mausoleum is not within our Village limits so we wouldn't have any legal authority to take any action on this property. We would have to reach out to Will County to get permission to police this. President Szymanski said we can enter into an agreement with the mausoleum to contract with the Beecher Police Department for security services since it is within one mile of our Village limits. This would overlap Will County's jurisdiction. Trustee Cleary also noted that the road leading to the cemetery is private and could be difficult to get down in the winter. President Szymanski indicated that Sandra Thielman has indicated to him that she would just like patrols there.

Chief Weissgerber provided a Power Point presentation on the uses and benefits of a premium Nixle service. He also compared Nixle to Blackboard Direct and said Codespear is available for us through our dispatch center. He explained the costs and uses of each. The Community Relations Committee has already seen the presentation and has recommended that this be referred to the Public Safety Committee and shown to the Village Board. Possible participation in any of these will be decided at budget time.

D. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Water and Sewer Department monthly and annual reports were included in the packet for review. Superintendent Cowger reported that he will address the water loss ratio at the next Board meeting.

The Public Works Department annual report will be provided at the March meeting.

Staff is still waiting for a report from Simpson regarding valve turning.

Trustee Kypuros provided an update on the Prairie Avenue watermain installation. Due to the weather, work hasn't started yet.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the sewer plant influent wet well pump installation is scheduled for Wednesday.

It was reported that the Village has received a one-year extension of its disinfection exemption permit at the Sewer Plant.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the Safe Routes to Schools grant application was submitted last week. It calls for a \$148,000 project with \$118,400 being the federal share and the remaining 20% local match (\$29,600) coming from our Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Account. It is believed that costs will come in lower than expected.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Meyer provided a proposal to create a Village smart phone App. Trustee Meyer explained the Village wants to find ways to use technology to get information out to our residents. She described what the app does that Nixle doesn't and the different kinds of messages that could be

92

sent, linking of calendars of different taxing bodies and economic development benefits. She has been working with two different companies on proposals and provided a color packet of information for the Board to review. This would be used in conjunction with Nixle to keep residents connected and informed. Trustee Meyer did an informal survey on Facebook on the Beecher group. The smart phone app came in second most popular after texting and email. The costs were included in the packet. There is money in the Economic Development budget that would cover the cost of the app. Administrator Barber suggested something like this be paid for out of an operating expense in the budget and not as a capital expense. Trustee Meyer recommended the Constituent Outreach app over the Icity app. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve a proposal to build a smart phone app for the Village of Beecher using Constituent Outreach Consultants for cost of \$3,750. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber is checking with other taxing bodies regarding May 29th as a date for an Intergovernmental meeting. The January meeting was postponed due to bad weather.

Trustee Meyer reported that she is still working on the wayfinding signs.

An update on sewer service to Bernard Welding was provided. The Committee is working on an annexation strategy and has not yet met with any property owners between the Village and Bernards. A meeting will be held on Wednesday with a landowner.

Trustee Meyer provided a report on a meeting held with Buxton on retail analysis on the future of Beecher's retail trade. Trustee Meyer said it is expensive, so not something the Village can do now, but it provides some valuable reports. This may be used in the future with the Illiana Expressway or the South Suburban Airport.

Board members were asked to suggest articles for the Spring newsletter. Trustee Meyer said to let the residents know that there is no all clear for tornado warnings. Residents should also be informed about Nixle and the new smart phone app.

F. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski provided an Illiana Expressway update. Public hearings are scheduled. Four investment firms have indicated interest in building the Illiana.

President Szymanski reported that he and other area mayors met with the new County Airport Committee. Concerns were expressed about the impact of the airport and economic development issues. The Committee seems willing to work with us.

A report was provided on the last South Suburban Mayors and Managers meeting.

Administrator Barber provided an update on the Illinois Municipal Insurance Cooperative (IMIC). The Village has joined as a founding member, with 13 founding communities. This co-op is initially offering property, casualty and liability insurance and is self-funding the first \$15,000 of all claims.

An EASTCOM Board of Directors meeting update was provided by President Szymanski. At the meeting, South Chicago Heights and Steger were voted in as part of EASTCOM effective May 1st which should save Beecher \$16,500 in next year's budget. The EASTCOM Board also approved up to \$110,000 to be spent on microwave links between Beecher, Peotone and EASTCOM in Crete to improve fire department dispatching. This will require a new antenna on our water tower, and a stand-by generator to be installed at the water tower building.

ORDINANCE #1026 - An Ordinance authorizing the execution of an intergovernmental agreement for the Eastern Will County Communications Center. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1026. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber provided a Route #1/IL #394 update.

President Szymanski reported that the Tractors For A Cure event has been scheduled for Saturday, July 12th in Firemen's Park. Details of the letter to Dean Bettenhausen regarding the sale of alcohol and the use of the park was provided for review.

President Szymanski expressed thanks to Public Works, Police Department, office staff and Washington Township for all of the hard work being done due to the bad winter weather since November.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk