

**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
JANUARY 14, 2008 -- 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, Kuhlman and Wehling (arrived at 7:40 p.m.).

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Bud Cowger, Engineer Ray Koenig, Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer, Attorney Tim Kuiper, and new police officers Russell Ledezma and Jamie Hawkins.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Kevin Bouchard, Bob Howard, Tom Brislane, Dan McKay, Kim and Betty Koutsky, R. Kikkem and Ron Reichert.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the December 18, 2007 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes with the following corrections: Page 7, first paragraph, last sentence states "No liquidated damages were awarded" should state "Liquidated damages were not recommended."; Page 8, last paragraph, first sentence, last word "meeting" should be replaced with "Christmas dinner"; and Page 8, last paragraph, last sentence, after the word "requests" the remainder of the sentence was deleted. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Wehling.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Bills were presented for the Beautification Commission (\$41.48) and the Beecher Fourth of July Commission (\$708.05). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$749.53 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

3) Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize the Fourth of July Commission to expend an additional \$750 for a new hot water heater and venting for the new hood for the new food stand. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Clerk Conner swore in two new police officers, Russell Ledezma and Jamie Hawkins. Chief Weissgerber introduced the new officers to the Board.

Ron Reichert, 431 Fairway Drive, congratulated Public Works on their job on snow removal but expressed concerns about sidewalks along Dixie Highway and them not getting cleaned. Kids coming from the high school had to walk along the road after the most recent snow. Mr. Reichert asked what could be done about this. He suggested that the Village send notices to the businesses along the highway asking them to shovel their walks. Administrator Barber noted that this matter had been discussed by the Board previously. The Village would need a skid steer to clear the sidewalks and it must be done within a couple days of a snow. This is because when the State plows Route #1 they throw snow on the sidewalk and it is difficult to move. It was felt that if the Village would be clearing Route #1 sidewalks, they should also do sidewalks near the Beecher Elementary School, Zion Lutheran School, etc. Options were discussed. The Streets and Alleys Chairman and the Village Administrator will look further into this matter.

Washington Township Supervisor Bob Howard was present and read aloud a letter he wrote addressed to the Village Board that related to a previous Township meeting where it was reported in the newspaper that the Township had a lack of trust for the Village. He reassured the Village Board that this is not the feeling of the entire Township Board and he wants to continue working together on the Dial-a-Ride program and other issues that will benefit the residents of Washington Township. Bob Howard pledged his support of the Beecher Village Board and asked that one person's views not represent the policy of the entire Township Board. Bob Howard discussed the Dial-a-Ride program with the Village Board and talked about grants, donations and estimated costs. Washington Township is looking into a \$13,000 grant which would fund most of the program. Their attorney is reviewing the intergovernmental agreement that was prepared by the Village Attorney. How the bus may be used and establishing a policy for the program was also discussed.

Dan McKay, 544 Park Street and owner of Beecher Veterinary Clinic on Route #1 expressed concerns about snow not being removed on sidewalks along Route #1. Mr. McKay was informed that the matter is being looked at, as noted above.

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. Treasurer Collins noted the reduction in tap-in fees collected since last year at this time and other decreases in revenues since last year.

A list of bills totalling \$231,863.42 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Szymanski noted add-ons to the list of bills under non-approved items. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

Budget preparation has begun. Department Heads are due with their budget requests by January 18th. On Tuesday, April 1st, a budget workshop will be held, and on Tuesday, April 28th, a public hearing will be held on the budget and the appropriation ordinance will be considered.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize a Village Board workshop on the proposed budget at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1st at the Washington Township Center. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize a public hearing for Monday, April 28th at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of considering an appropriation ordinance. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

A Village Board workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, January 22nd at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the proposed five-year financial plan and changes to the Village's personnel manual. The meeting is scheduled to end by 9:00 p.m. and an agenda was provided under separate packet.

RESOLUTION #2008-01 - A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a new 12-month agreement for the purchase of electricity by formal bid process through Northern Illinois Municipal Electrical Cooperative (NIMEC). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adopt Resolution #2008-01. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Wehling.
Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the basketball game held the week of January 7th between the Police Department and Zion Lutheran School children. Another game is being planned.

Trustee Wehling arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Trustee Kuhlman reported on the notice of bid letting for the Fourth of July Commission for the purchase of the car to be raffled off at the 2008 Fourth of July Festival. Trustee Kuhlman wanted to inform the Board that the car would be bid out this year.

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held to discuss the resignation of a full-time police officer and offering the position to a person on the current list of candidates.

Trustee Cleary asked about the smoking ban ordinance and what is being recommended. A draft ordinance was provided in the packet for consideration. Chief Weissgerber explained how the reporting of complaints would be handled. It was previously recommended to wait on passing the ordinance to see how this law is being enforced elsewhere. Chief Weissgerber discussed using a compromised ticket program and how it would work better for the Village. This matter is still being looked into.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Public Works Superintendent Cowger provided an update on the condition of equipment being used for snow removal.

A copy of the letter sent to Mr. Ruhe and Mr. Hearn regarding the results of the Village's investigation of drainage problems was provided in the packet for review.

A letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) acknowledging the Village's withdrawal from an agreement for \$385,000 in grant funds for Reed Street Streetscape improvements was provided in the packet for review.

An update on the resurfacing of Route #1 was provided. The State does not plan to resurface Route #1 between Church Road and Pasadena when resurfacing is scheduled between Goodenow and Church Road in 2010.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The Water and Sewer Department monthly reports were included in the packet for review.

The Water Billing Register for the months of November and December were provided in the packet for review.

Engineer Koenig provided an update on well #5. Engineer Koenig is still struggling with ComEd to get power to well #5. At this time, ComEd has this work scheduled for the week of January 28th.

Superintendent Cowger explained the history of the SCADA system, in regards to well #5. Trustee Gardner asked if Kamp Synergy had a computer program that was not compatible with other programs which would make them exclusive to repairs and upgrades. Beecher is connected with Kamp Synergy since they originally installed the program and have made all repairs and upgrades. They have always provided good service. Trustee Gardner made a motion to waive the bidding requirements for the installation of a SCADA system in well #5. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to award a bid to Kamp Synergy in an amount not to exceed \$23,900 for the installation of the Scada system in well #5. A copy of the proposal was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman asked about the water pumped vs. billed ratio.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Due to weather, there was nothing new to report on the Firemen's Park/OSLAD Grant project.

Superintendent Cowger provided a brief report on the maintenance plan for Village parks. Trustee Wehling noted that the Village needs to work closely with Beecher Recreation on park maintenance.

The Board discussed rules for the use of Firemen's Park. President Lohmann noted that Village staff had questions about park rental fees, liquor fees, etc. Trustee Wehling tried to address some of the questions. Trustee Szymanski asked if a group renting the park could use the food stand for preparing food. Questions were asked about who polices what part of the park is used. Chief Weissgerber reported that the Village has an ordinance which does not allow consumption of alcohol on public property. The Board discussed the issue of alcohol on public property and whether it should be allowed in Firemen's Park. Trustee Szymanski noted that the entire park has changed

in the last few years and maybe the Board should look at redoing the rules. The Park Board will review the rules and recommend any changes.

Trustee Wehling said residents that border Hunters Chase Park provided a petition requesting an additional street light in that area. According to staff, residents are having problems with loitering in and around the park. However, the petition was not specific as to why the residents wanted the additional light or what the specific issues were. Trustee Wehling had the petition in his mailbox but did not know any more about it. Chief Weissgerber and Trustee Wehling will look further into this matter.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to accept public improvements at the Garden Homes of Prairie Crossings South, Unit II, upon receipt of a maintenance bond in the amount of \$12,729.80. This is currently known as Keenan Court, built by TWR. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve a proposal from Baxter and Woodman Engineering to prepare plats of annexation for 30 acres of land on the west side of Dixie Highway, north of the Ohlendorf property, for an amount not to exceed \$4,000. It was learned that the Schwalm and Riemersma pieces of land were never recorded as being annexed. Plats of annexation need to be made and recorded with Will County. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Village Board is scheduled to meet with the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) in a joint session on Thursday, January 24th to discuss the roles of the Village Board in the planning and variance process and views on fences.

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

Trustee Cleary asked about a fence permit issued in December. The Board previously approved to only give permits for fences for a three-month period of time. Trustee Cleary asked how this fence would be done in three months with the winter weather. Staff didn't know the details of this permit and will have to look into it.

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

An update was provided on the special census. Seventy applicants were tested on January 3rd. The special census has started and is scheduled to wrap up in the end of February.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann asked Superintendent Cowger about the Public Works mutual aid agreement with other towns. President Lohmann suggested that Beecher offer assistance to Watseka with their flooding problems. Village Staff will call Watseka and offer manpower and equipment if needed.

An update was provided on the CMAP Water Resources Committee meeting held January 9th. CMAP decided not to make a decision on the area in dispute. Annexation may have to occur to get the property into a Facilities Planning Area (FPA).

The Board considered a Facilities Planning Area expansion for the east side of Beecher for all areas west of Cottage Grove from Offner to Corning Road. President Lohmann referred to an area squared off on the map provided in the packet. Board members reviewed the map and discussed what areas should be included in the FPA. After some discussion, Trustee Wehling made a motion to authorize the Village Engineer to submit a proposal to expand the Village's FPA to include the area south and west of Eagle Lake and South Park, which are not currently in the Village's FPA. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann has asked CMAP if Beecher could get their application fees back for the FPA area previously applied for and not approved. CMAP is checking into whether or not they can refund the fees.

The Board considered the concept of treating leachate from the Sexton landfill. Administrator Barber reported that Mr. Daniels from Sexton called and asked if the Village was interested in this. The Village would need to update the 2001 study. It was discussed that maybe the Village would just need to ask for Sexton's most recent report on their current treating of leachate. Board members were asked if reports came in okay, if they would support it or not. It was the consensus of the Board to look at updated studies before making a decision. Trustee Kuhlman expressed concerns regarding some things indicated in a study in the packet from Baxter and Woodman. The Board will look at new data before making a decision.

President Lohmann requested a closed session be held to discuss pending litigation regarding a flood complaint at 1434 Crooked Creek.

It was the consensus of the Board not to hold a legislator forum at an upcoming Village Board meeting.

The Board discussed the impacts of legislation for bailing out of the RTA and the CTA. The Illinois legislature is nearing approval of a 0.5% sales tax increase in the six county metro area. This might affect the Village's sales tax agreement with Beatty Lumber. With the changes in the tax rate

Beatty Lumber may choose to terminate the agreement and run their orders through Seneca or Morris. This could impact the budget next year by approximately \$65,000.

H. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber stated that the meeting with Beatty Lumber and the Economic Development Committee is scheduled for February 26th at 5:00 p.m.

Trustee Wehling reported on the last Beecher Recreation meeting he attended. Trustee Wehling wants to set up a committee to look into a Park Department, and wants to include Beecher Rec in these discussions. A meeting was scheduled for January 29th at the Village Hall and Trustees Wehling and Ahrendt will attend.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:13 p.m. to discuss pending litigation, the resignation of a police officer and the hiring of a new police officer. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to return to regular session at 10:04 p.m. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to authorize the Chief of Police to offer Russell Ledezma a position as a full-time Police officer. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Wehling 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 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk