

**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 13, 2007 -- 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.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Bud Cowger, Public Works Crew Leader Floyd Burger, Attorney Tim Kuiper, Engineer Ray Koenig and Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Jay Bradarich, Dale Serig, Larry Young, Joan Kuhlman, Chuck Hoehn, Ken Hameister, Dave Lagesse, Bill Voss, Kevin Bouchard, Tom Brislane, Don McWhorter, Marilyn Rossler, Phil Serviss, Brian Claus, Bob Howard, Debbie VonAlven, Thomas and Nadine Panici, Brian and Danna Neville, Andy Blair, Harold Bruns, Andrew Ahrendt, Laurie Summers, Nikola and Mary Pritza, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Ruth and Joel Buikema, Duane Temme, Mary Schwer, Al Rago, Scott Soppet, Tom and Anna Jean Sheldon, Joseph Venturella, Annette Schwer, Steve Lange, Marge Caldwell, Marilyn Mester, Jack and Sherrill Lehmann, Karen Scrementi, Lynn Nichols, W. Lee Deutsche, Brad Coats, Nadine Koretsky, Jill Hornick, Patricia Behrens, Charles Grady, George Blomus, Chuck Bruti and Mike Depasquale.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 9, 2007 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes with a correction to Page 4, second paragraph under Streets and Alleys Committee, line two, change twelve 2-1/2" caliper trees to eleven 3" caliper trees. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 23, 2007 Board meeting and the October 30, 2007 Joint Taxing Body meeting. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Cleary.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided.
2) Clerk Conner provided a copy of the ballot for the 2007 Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) election. Administrator Barber was authorized to cast a vote on behalf of the Board.
3) Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment to Maxwell's Restaurant in the amount of \$1,269.60 to rebate the Village's portion of their real estate tax bill. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

4) Bills were presented for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission (\$9,287.21) and Beautification Commission (\$25.46). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$9,312.67 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1078 - An ordinance amending the Beecher Zoning Ordinance establishing an I-T intermodal terminal planned development zoning district. The Planning and Zoning Commission, after due notice and public hearing, voted 5-1 to recommend approval of the amendment. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1078. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Guests in the hallway were encouraged to come into the room if they wanted to testify in the public hearing.

A public hearing was held at 7:10 p.m. to consider a pre-annexation agreement with Trinity Industrial Development consisting of 740 acres of land in an area roughly bounded by Church Road on the south, Ashland Avenue to the west, the Washington Township Line (Offner Road) to the north, and the UP/CSX railroad tracks to the east.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

More discussion pertaining to the intermodal facility continued into the regular Board meeting.

A resident from 28345 Streamwood Drive asked what Trinity Industrial Development was bringing to the community in their development proposal.

Thomas Panici asked about the Fire Station mentioned in the agreement and who would be paying for it. He asked about recapture fees for Beatty Lumber. He asked if the Village would annex the area without an agreement with Trinity Industrial Development so Crete would not annex the property. The properties would only be annexed if the property owners were willing to do so.

Administrator Barber addressed some of the questions asked during the public hearing. He also explained the Facilities Planning Area (FPA) that Beecher and Crete are both trying to obtain. Chief Weissgerber answered questions about truck enforcement. Administrator Barber stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission must meet again on the concept plan.

Charles Grady from Ashland Avenue, Beecher, asked about a Beecher bypass. He heard the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) say at a meeting that a bypass was not going to happen.

George Blomus asked about Crete's plans for annexation down to Eagle Lake Road.

A member of the audience asked about eminent domain.

In response to some comments from the audience, Beecher resident Marilyn Rossler spoke that information has been available on the cable channel and in the newspaper about this project, unlike Crete who handled the Centerpoint project very quietly. She gave the Village Board credit for keeping information available to residents.

A member of the audience asked if a feasibility study has been done about the impact of trucks and the intermodal facility on residential housing.

Scott Soppet, 727 Gould Street, asked why there were size changes on the Trinity Industrial Development project, depending on which paperwork was considered. Numbers provided previously were approximate. According to Jay Bradarich, 671 acres is the final number.

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 some changes to the format of his report.

A list of bills totalling \$224,956.38 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the October 29th Fourth of July Commission meeting. The new food stand has been completed on the outside and work is being done on the inside. For the 2008 festival, the commission will have the popular band American English. Great American Shows will be doing the carnival in 2008 but does not have as many food vendors as previous carnivals, therefore the commission will have to handle more food.

A Village Board workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber provided an update on the towing fee ordinance and provided a copy for review. This ordinance would assess an administrative fee in handling police tows. This matter is for review only at this time.

Chief Weissgerber had no reports of problems on Halloween. Trustee Cleary asked about a van that dropped off people on Halloween and was concerned who these people were and why they were there. It was believed these were solicitors. Chief Weissgerber will look into the matter.

An ESDA exercise is scheduled for Monday, January 7th to discuss setting up temporary shelters.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the PAKT program. The kids in the program are doing very well and winning trophies for karate.

President Lohmann asked about the trip to the museum. Chief Weissgerber reported that 20 children plus chaperones went on the trip.

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held to discuss an employee disciplinary matter.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that 17 loads of leaves have been collected so far this season. Public Works will probably be collecting leaves into December, since leaves have not been falling quickly this year. Public Works Superintendent Cowger stated if any additional leaf bags were left over after November 26th, that he would pick them up and put them on the brush pile.

Superintendent Cowger provided a report on the tree planting program for 2007.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to withdraw the application for the Reed Street streetscape project due to the inability to provide local matching funds. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve the Tree City USA application for 2007. A copy of the application 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 Ahrendt asked Administrator Barber when yardwaste bag pickup would end, and it was reported that it would end on November 26, 2007.

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 September and October were provided in the packet for review.

Engineer Koenig reported that the brickwork and driveway were completed last week on Well #5. The electrical and mechanical work are on-going.

Trustee Cleary asked if all repairs had been made to well #4 from the lightning strike this summer. Engineer Koenig reported that everything has been fixed. The neutral line has not yet been installed but the surge suppression is in. The insurance check is still forthcoming.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that work has begun on the Firemen's Park OSLAD Grant project. It is hoped to get the parking lot, walking path and concrete pads in this year. Trustee Wehling also hopes to get some seeding done this fall so it germinates once it begins getting warm next year. Superintendent Cowger will look into getting the seeding done.

The Fourth of July Commission approved \$4,000 for the installation of a watermain from Woodward Street into Firemen's Park for the bathrooms, and \$10,000 for upgrading the electric lines to the bathrooms from 200 amps to 800 amps at a cost of \$10,000. Work on the waterline is scheduled to begin on November 14th. The electric upgrade is not scheduled to begin since the price came in too high.

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park. Public Works mowed the infield as discussed previously. The fence along the pond and paving the pedestrian path was discussed. The limestone path is mushy and more limestone may be needed in the spring.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE #1079 - An ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a pre-annexation agreement with Trinity Industrial Development for 671 acres in an area roughly bounded by Church Road on the south, Ashland Avenue on the west, the Washington Township line (Offner Road) to the north, and the UP/CSX railroad tracks to the east. A copy of the ordinance and the agreement was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1079. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the Trinity Industrial Development concept plan. After a two hour public hearing held on Thursday, October 25th at which 19 people testified, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved a motion by a vote of 7-0 to table consideration until its November 29th meeting so that it can deliberate on the testimony provided and allow time for the petitioner to present new information in response to some of the questions and concerns that were raised at the hearing.

John Schiavone, resident of 543 Penfield Street was present to explain his request for a variance for a fence in a front yard setback and a variance for an additional accessory structure (a shed) when he already has one accessory structure (a screen house). Mr. Schiavone answered questions from the Board. Three conditions were set at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting and are included in the ordinance wording. Resident Larry Young commented on concerns about access to the easement on the property and drainage. Mr. Schiavone stated that if bottom of fence needs to be raised due to drainage that he would cut off a few inches. Trustee Ahrendt asked about the additional accessory structure.

ORDINANCE#1080 - An ordinance granting a variance for a fence subject to three Planning and Zoning Commission conditions and amending the ordinance to deny the variance for an additional accessory structure. Attorney Kuiper will redraft the ordinance. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1080 with the change as noted. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the request for rezoning from R-1 to B-1 special use for storage buildings on the west side of the 700 block of Reed Street. The petitioner withdrew his request after learning that sanitary sewer had to be extended to the property.

President Lohmann asked for a recommendation from the Board for that property since everything that has come before the Board has been denied. President Lohmann proposed that the property could be donated to the Village and kept as open space and the property owner could write off the donation on their taxes. President Lohmann will look into the matter.

The Board considered a request for R-1 upon annexation to allow for the development of 22 single family lots, known as Prairie Meadows Subdivision. Developer Chuck Bruti was present to explain his proposal. Mr. Bruti's engineer, Joe Schudt indicated that they have done a traffic study since the project was previously denied due to traffic issues. His traffic study indicated traffic would not be a problem so he wanted the Village to reconsider his project. Trustee Wehling raised concerns that many of the residents on Woodward Street are senior citizens and asked if the traffic study addressed this. There was much discussion on the dead end street and only having one way in and one way out of the subdivision. Trustee Ahrendt felt a major issue previously was to have additional access to the subdivision. This new information still does not address that problem. Trustee Cleary raised concerns about more residential units in close proximity to the sewer plant. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to table the request in order to obtain more information to be considered at the next Board meeting. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Engineer Koenig reported that he does not know if Fieldgate Subdivision is ready to move forward at this time.

An update was provided on the special census. Administrator Barber reported that a rental agreement has been obtained for a Census office for \$900 per month in the old Knuth's building at Indiana Avenue and Dixie Highway. The hiring process for census takers has begun.

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

The code enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Board discussed the condition of the retention pond at Prairie Crossings South (behind Orchard Lane). Concerns have been raised about erosion into the cement trough, weeds not being cut around structures, and sewer lines filled with silt. Engineer Koenig reported that a meeting has been scheduled for November 15th with Mr. Sova and Mr. Sligo to address the concerns.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The meeting to consider the Crete and Beecher FPA requests has been scheduled for November 28th at 11:00 a.m.

All Board members were present at the October 30th Joint Taxing Body meeting, therefore no detailed report was needed.

President Lohmann reported on the SB 1429 (streamlined sales tax) hearing held on October 24th. A full study is being commissioned on the impacts to municipalities as a result of the proposed bill. According to President Lohmann he is not confident that this will ever happen, the Board will have to wait and see.

A notice of the Will County Governmental League's Christmas dinner was provided in the packet for review. Trustees should let President Lohmann know if they are interested in attending the event.

A report was provided on the scope of services for the Eastern Will County regional sewer study since the matter was discussed at the intergovernmental meeting.

President Lohmann appointed the following to the Fourth of July Commission and Beautification Commission:

4TH OF JULY COMMISSION

Officers

Chuck Hoehn, Chairman
Jerry Meyer, Vice-Chairman
Nelson Collins, Treasurer
Chris Szymanski, Secretary
Greg Szymanski, Assistant Treasurer
Paul Lohmann, Village Representative

Other 4th of July Commission Members

Bob Barber
Joe Gardner
Steve Reising
Steve Koehn
Greg Ohlendorf
Ron Kuhlman
Bob Howard
Patty Meyer
Brad Coats
Bill Voss
Irene Brothers
Kevin Bouchard
Patti Nissen
George Obradovich
Laura Ranger

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Steve Weishaar, President
Barb McWhorter, Treasurer
Jackie Hameister, Secretary
Harold Lattz
Sandy Lohmann
Paula Weishaar
Paul Lohmann

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve President Lohmann's appointments to the Fourth of July Commission and Beautification Commission. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann will be meeting with a representative from Eastern Will County Senior Services to get some input on a dial-a-ride program. The Village will work with Washington Township on this matter. The Village will be obtaining a new 11 passenger bus from PACE for a lease price of \$100 per month for five years if the Village agrees to operate a dial-a-ride program within Washington Township. More information will be forthcoming.

Administrator Barber explained the problems of drainage issues on private property (Ruhe/Hearn) located in the 200 block of Pine Street. An engineering report on this drainage dispute was provided in the packet for review. Attorney Kuiper explained the issues involved in this matter, but could not provide an opinion because it could involve future litigation. Trustee Cleary recommended the Village establish the overland flood route in this subdivision that the engineer designed in the original plan. There was much discussion. It was decided to table this issue until the next workshop meeting.

H. NEW BUSINESS

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Gardner made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 10:05 p.m. to discuss an employee disciplinary matter. 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 10:20 p.m. Trustee Cleary 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 Ahrendt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk