

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT &  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER  
HELD AT THE BEECHER VILLAGE HALL,  
625 DIXIE HIGHWAY, BEECHER, ILLINOIS  
MARCH 30, 2015 -- 6:00 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 and Kuhlman.

ABSENT: Trustee Wehling.

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

**GUESTS:** Frank Basile.

A budget workshop was held to review the proposed budget for fiscal year 2015/16. Budget packets were previously provided to all those present. Administrator Barber provided a summary of the budget materials provided.

The Board went through each fund in the budget and summarized the changes and made some cuts. The following is a summary of some of the discussion:

Administrator Barber went through changes in General Fund revenues. Trustee Cleary explained the situation with the new Governor possibly taking away some of our tax revenue. The current budget is without the possible cuts since we won't know for sure what the governor will do before we approve our budget. Therefore, President Szymanski issued an executive order to get approval for any purchases over \$500. Administrator Barber has also prepared a list of cuts supplemental to the budget for items that can't be spent without approval which equals the cost of potential state cuts.

Trustee Kypuros questioned legal prosecution fees in the Police Department budget and if prices were ever obtained from another prosecutor. Chief Weissgerber said we have not because if we got someone else it would be temporarily lower because tickets are down, but the cost would be going up. Chief Weissgerber could have the prosecutor bill by the hour, but it may cost more in the long run. If the Police get more aggressive the volume could triple. It was questioned if the Village was getting what they are paying for. Tom Knuth has reduced his fee by \$50 per month when asked by Administrator Barber. Trustee Meyer asked if Mr. Knuth currently provides a list of billable hours to know how many hours he puts in for a month and if this information could be provided. Trustee Kuhlman asked why

the productivity of the Police Department has decreased. Chief Weissgerber said there are many factors to consider, and explained what the officers do each day and why tickets may be down. President Szymanski suggested the discussion on this should occur at a Committee level and not at the budget workshop.

Trustee Kypuros asked about the need for seven sets of new tires in the Police Department budget.

Superintendent Cowger explained costs of mosquito abatement, tablets and licenses.

The Board discussed the Street Department budget. Trustee Kypuros felt the uniform allowance of \$500 per employee was way too high except for safety equipment. Public Works has a washer and dryer now. Trustee Kypuros felt the employees were spending the money because it was available. There was much discussion on uniform allowance for the Public Works Department. Trustee Cleary stated that all uniforms should be approved by the Department head, and should be kept at the Village garage and not used for anything else. President Szymanski proposed keeping it the same but make the employees account for what they need and what is being purchased. Trustee Cleary suggested limiting what the employees can buy in shoes, and that details should be listed in the policy. Administrator Barber stated the need for a written policy for the quartermaster system and a list of clothing allowed in the system. After some discussion, Trustee Kypuros proposed changing the uniform allowance to \$250 (\$150 for clothes and \$100 for shoes) and to create a policy. The consensus of the Board was to cut the uniform allowance from \$500 to \$250 per employee.

Trustee Kypuros questioned the Peotone Access League's (PAL) request for more money. After some discussion, the amount was cut to \$2,500 and agreed upon by the Board.

Trustee Kypuros questioned comprehensive insurance premiums being split with the Water and Sewer Department.

Administrator Barber questioned if this budget should include the proposed water rate increase since it has not yet been approved by the Board. It was discussed that an additional \$13,000 will need to be found in the Water and Sewer Department since it was recently learned that an employee plans to add family coverage to the Village's health insurance since their other plan is getting so expensive. Administrator Barber stated that if the budget doesn't include the rate increase, \$13,000 will need to be cut in other places within sewer since that's where the employee is paid from. Another option discussed was to increase the two eligible employees stipends for opting out of the insurance instead to make up for their loss and save the cost of fully covering them. It was the consensus of the Board to offer the employee an option to increase the stipend to \$470 per month to keep the employee and family off of the Village's health insurance.

The Board discussed increasing the budget in the Water Department for meter accessories because the Administrator was concerned the Public Works Superintendent would not have enough money to get what he needs.

When there was no further discussion regarding the budget, Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

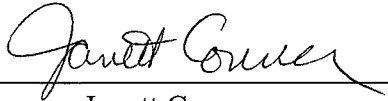
AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kypuros and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk