

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT
& BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER
HELD AT THE BEECHER VILLAGE HALL,
625 DIXIE HIGHWAY, BEECHER, ILLINOIS
JUNE 27, 2016 -- 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 Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

ABSENT: Trustees Ahrendt and Kypuros.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Lynne Orr and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

GUEST: George Schuitema, Stacey Mazurek and Tim Guare.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the June 13, 2016 Board meeting. Trustee Basile made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT A report on income received since last meeting was provided.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Board discussed loan proposals obtained from the two banks in Beecher. The proposals were as follows: First Community Bank and Trust was for a 1.24% interest rate with no additional fees or prepayments for a cost of \$6,510; and Midland States Bank with an interest rate of 1.48% with a document fee of \$250, which would be a total cost of \$8,020 with interest and fees. Trustee Meyer made a motion to accept a loan proposal with First Community Bank and Trust at the lower interest rate of 1.24% for a loan amount of \$350,000 for a period of 18 months, interest only with balloon due at the end of the term. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1244 - An Ordinance establishing prevailing wages for fiscal year 2016/2017. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve Ordinance #1244. Trustee Basile seconded the motion. AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

Nicor advised the Village that the free therm allocation for 2016 will be increasing. A letter and chart from Nicor was provided in the packet for review.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A status report of the Police Station watermain failure and restoration efforts was provided. Chief Weissgerber provided a Power Point presentation with photos on details of the watermain break and the work done so far to make repairs since the break. Chief Weissgerber will keep the Board updated on the progress.

An update was provided by Trustee Wehling on policies regarding rental of Firemen's Park. It was decided that rentals would not be considered during baseball season, due to multiple rain date games. He is working on a new application for use of the park and new rules for use of the park. The Committee will work on putting together the rules for the park through a joint Public Safety and Parks Recreation Committee. The Committee will work with President Szymanski on liquor rules in the park and keep in mind how park rentals will affect the adjoining property owners.

President Szymanski reported that the new fence that was recently purchased was put up earlier in the day and looks very nice. It will work well in the park. The fence will be able to be used for more than just the Fourth of July festival.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

A building permit has been submitted for renovation of a vacant building adjoining Tubby's Wine and Spirits on Dixie Highway. Plans for Chubby's Sports Bar is being reviewed by the Building Inspector.

Trustee Wehling reported on solar panels as primary and accessory uses in all zoning districts. There is a need to address this issue since permits have been granted for solar panels on roofs in industrial districts and even on a residential home. Information was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Wehling made a motion referring to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to a special use permit for solar panels as primary and accessory uses in all zoning districts. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

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

Chief Weissgerber reported on the bike rodeo that was held on June 4th. Approximately 40 children participated. Two bikes were given away.

Superintendent Cowger provided a mosquito abatement report. He is into the third week of spraying. Extra spraying will be done over the coming weekend for the Fourth of July festival.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion authorizing the purchase of a 2017 Ford Explorer utility vehicle demo unit to replace a 2008 Ford Crown Vic, in the amount of \$24,969. Chief Weissgerber explained that the unit was used as a demo for police conventions and has 1,000 miles on it at Terry's Ford. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held to discuss personnel relating to the resignation and replacement of an officer.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

Administrator Barber provided an update on the Penfield Street watermain project. The project is getting down to the detail of the design. The Fire Department requested quick connect stored fittings on hydrants on Penfield and Elm Streets. The project is ready to go. Staff is not sure when the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) will be ready to move forward. A permanent main along Penfield Street will be discussed further, instead of a temporary main as discussed at the last meeting.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the Maxwell Street storm sewer project. The project has been completed. Asphalt work was completed last Friday.

An update was provided on the street name sign replacement. Prairie Crossings subdivision is complete with the exception of a few stop signs. Nantucket Cove is now the last phase and will be completed after the 4th of July. All materials have been received for this job.

The new street banners are up and were purchased by businesses through the Chamber of Commerce. Trustee Basile said they look nice. President Szymanski said many of the banners are being blocked by trees. Superintendent Cowger will take a look at those.

A Safe Routes to School Grant project update was provided by Trustee Basile. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is going to officially close down on July 1st, according to Administrator Barber, due to the stalemate on the State budget, so this project may be delayed.

Trustee Basile made a motion authorizing the purchase of a 2017 F450 mini-dump truck chassis, in the amount of \$36,217 from Currie Motors, and the dump body, plow and lights purchased through Monroe Truck Equipment for \$19,005, for a total of \$55,222. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.
AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

The status of tree take downs, trimming and stump removal was provided. Administrator Barber said most of the dangerous trees and large trees have been removed but there are still probably 100 left to be done.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Basile reported that he and President Szymanski met with the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitor's Bureau. They talked about Balmoral Park's sale to a national equestrian event sponsor. The bike path was also discussed and Trustee Basile obtained information on a contact person at the Forest Preserve for this.

A smartphone app update was provided. The app was updated to the new platform and some glitches were found that need to be fixed. Trustee Basile has been in contact with Joe from Constituent Outreach Consultants to fix the glitches. Staff is now able to send the Village's push notifications out.

A report on Gould street improvements was provided. Bids continue to be received for a boardwalk covering the old cement walk in the 600 block of Gould Street. The Committee will also continue to meet with the downtown businesses. Administrator Barber stated that the use of composite material for the boardwalk will be too expensive, lumber will need to be used to be close to the budgeted amount.

Trustee Basile met with representatives of Will County regarding the Vincennes Bike Trail, to help gain support for the trail. Trailsforillinois.org is an organization dealing with all bike paths up north. Trustee Basile is working with representatives from this organization on the bike path.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski reported that two baseball teams are in a tournament for first place in Firemen's Park tonight. One of Trustee Kypuros' teams was in the tournament, and that is why he's not at the Board meeting. President Szymanski was asked to throw out the first pitch at one of the games, and said he is proud of the teams and how they are playing.

An update was provided on the Beecher Emergency Management Agency. Chief Weissgerber would prefer to begin referring to this organization name and do away with the older "ESDA" reference. Applications should be taken soon to get this organization off the ground.

Trustee Wehling showed the Board a plaque from the Historic Preservation Commission proposed for old homes in the Village, showing their historical significance. A list needs to be compiled of buildings that would be worthy of these plaques and offer them to owners of properties in Beecher. It could be mounted to the building or on stakes. The Commission will work with Washington Township to determine where these could be installed. A map may also be created highlighting these properties and some website link to show the significance of the historical properties. He would also like to do some historical signs, such as Cardinal Creek Golf Course being the original homestead of T.L. Miller, in order to highlight places and preserve the history of Beecher. The Committee will want to work out financial support in the future for this project. The Committee also discussed the possibility of putting murals in the old downtown to dress up the area. This could also bring people to the old downtown.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss the terms and conditions of a contract with the Beecher Public Works employees, the resignation of a police officer and acquisition of land. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Meyer made a motion to return to regular session at 8:39 p.m. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to appoint Aaron Dacorte as new full-time Police officer to replace Ann Waterman, who has resigned. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Approval of the Public Works contract was deferred until the next meeting, until contract is ratified by the employees.

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.

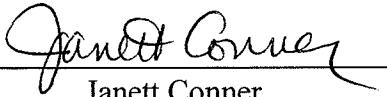
AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janett Conner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Janett Conner
Village Clerk