

**Village of Beecher**  
625 Dixie Highway  
PO Box 1154  
Beecher, Illinois 60401  
Phone: 708-946-2261  
Fax: 708-946-3764  
www.villageofbeecher.org



President  
Greg Szymanski  
Clerk  
Janett Conner  
Administrator  
Robert O. Barber

Trustees  
Scott Wehling  
Gayle Ahrendt  
Ron Kuhlman  
Brian Cleary  
Jonathon Kypuros  
Marcy Meyer

**MEETING OF THE BEECHER PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
(THE PZC)  
Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.  
Beecher Village Hall  
625 Dixie Highway**

I. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

II. ROLL CALL

III. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

IV. WORKSHOP: CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE TEMPORARY SIGN ORDINANCE TO BRING IT INTO CONFORMANCE WITH RECENT SUPREME COURT DECISION. Gilberts, Arizona regulated temporary signs by category: advertising, political, contractor, real estate and civic or non-profit signs similar to what we currently have. However, a church group filed a civil rights violation claiming that a sign for their chicken dinner fund raiser was no different than a campaign sign. This case went all the way to the US Supreme Court and the majority opinion stated that a sign is a sign: the content of the sign is irrelevant. One cannot discriminate between types of signs. This contradicts the notion that a campaign sign is a form of freedom of speech or first amendment right. Now all signs are first amendment rights and you must treat all signs the same in each zoning district. So, if you allow a campaign sign in someone's front yard you must also allow an advertising sign.

The Village Attorney will be present to discuss the Gilberts case and to present some recommended guidelines and language for a new temporary sign ordinance for the PZC to consider in its deliberations. The Planning and Zoning Committee of the Village Board did meet with the Attorney to review options and came up with some recommendations but these are only suggestions since the committee even had a hard time coming up with language that will test legal muster yet prevent the proliferation of signage in the Village. There is no easy solution to this problem. The results of those discussions are contained in an e-mail from the Village Attorney.

Also enclosed are samples of some temporary signs which currently exist in the Village. Festoons and pennants are also considered signage. We will be asking for input and discussion but until the PZC understands the scope of the issue and the implications of specific regulations it is going to be hard to formulate a new ordinance. This will take several meetings. This item is for discussion only.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

IX. ADJOURNMENT - NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 P.M.