

**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 10, 2006 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Pro-Tem Wehling called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

ABSENT: President Lohmann.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Engineer Ray Koenig and Attorney Tim Kuiper.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Andrew Ahrendt, Eric Metke, Kathy Bennett, Angela Kramer, Andy Fitz, Tom Stluka and Chuck Bruti.

President Pro-Tem Wehling asked for consideration of the minutes of the December 13, 2005 Board meeting and Public Hearing. Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber provided a report to the Board and audience regarding President Lohmann. He explained that President Lohmann became ill with an unknown medical condition the previous evening at Aurelio's and is currently hospitalized in serious but stable condition.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Bills were presented for the Beecher Beautification Commission. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$774.20 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: The Board considered a referral to the Plan Commission for a request for an amended planned development to eliminate the 28 townhomes in Nantucket Cove and replace them with 13 single family homes. Andy Fitz from Montalbano Homes provided a copy of the concept plan and

explained the proposal. After some discussion, Trustee Peterson made a motion to refer Montalbano Homes' request to the Plan Commission. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board also considered a referral to the Plan Commission for Montalbano Homes to add 20 acres to the original planned Nantucket Cove Development upon annexation for 60 single family homes. After some Discussion, Trustee Peterson made a motion to refer Montalbano Homes' request to add 20 acres to the original planned development to the Plan Commission. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (2) Trustees Rehborg and Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered a referral to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a request for variances to permit the construction of eight additional apartment units onto an existing 12-unit building located at 647 and 648 Pasadena. Owner Eric Metke was present to explain his request. Trustee Peterson raised concerns that approving this would go against the Board's policy to try and decrease density, since this proposal would increase density. It was also discussed that as shown on the site plan, units 3-8 would encroach into the Village right-of-way. A survey would need to be performed to establish boundary lines and right-of-way. The Board discussed if they would want to approve the project, aside from these issues, due to density. After some discussion, Trustee Rehborg made a motion to deny referral to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the variance request, due to density concerns. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Mr. Metke also asked about adding onto the garage to provide additional storage for tenants. The Board was not opposed to this as long as it doesn't encroach onto the right-of-way.

The Board considered approval of a final plat of subdivision for Hunter's Chase East. Warren Opperman was present to provide a report. He reported that ComEd is currently working on relocating power poles. The pedway at Dixie Highway still needs to be completed and a square of sidewalk near Doc's Drugs still needs to be done. Trustee Ahrendt raised concerns about safety since there are no fog lines along the curb at the entrance to the subdivision. Engineer Koenig reported that items on the punch list have been substantially completed other than a few small things that need to be done. Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the final plat of subdivision for Hunter's Chase East, subject to Village Engineer approval of uncompleted items, including putting fog lines on Route #1 at the Route #1 access to the subdivision, and with all requirements to be completed within 60 days. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (3) Trustees Rehborg, Peterson and Heldt.

NAYS: (2) Trustees Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

Chuck Bruti was present to express concerns about the Prairie Meadows Subdivision, and if this property will be annexed. Trustees Peterson and Rehborg stated it would be annexed if it meets all the legal requirements. Mr. Bruti is concerned that the Village doesn't want anymore growth and he wants to know if he is wasting his time in trying to develop this property. Administrator Barber noted that there currently is not enough sewer plant capacity for Mr. Bruti's project, and the Village will need more than just Mr. Bruti's project to be able to pay for the expansion of the sewer plant. There was not total agreement on this issue. Mr. Bruti was told there would be no promises made. There may not be enough votes to approve the subdivision. Much discussion followed on the possibility of getting future projects approved. It was also discussed that even though quick growth is not wanted, if a large project or a number of smaller projects work together, that it would be easier to fund improvements that need to be made to the sewer plant, schools, etc.

Administrator Barber asked if the annexation team should proceed with meetings with developers. If the Board doesn't plan to approve anything, should work and money go into negotiations? There were no objections to proceed for now.

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.

A list of bills totalling \$144,346.26 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the month of November were provided in the packet for review.

A budget preparation schedule was provided to the Board for the budget development process. The first draft of the proposed budget is scheduled for release in early March.

Trustee Peterson made a motion to set a special Board meeting budget workshop for Tuesday, April 4th at 5:30 p.m. at the Washington Township Center. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

The next Tree Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12th at the Village Hall.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to pay all but \$175 of a \$1575 invoice to Jim's Trees for trees on behalf of the Tree Board. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Trim Creek stabilization project.

A Trim Creek watershed workshop will be held Wednesday, January 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the Grant Park Community Shelter. All Trustees were encouraged to attend.

The Board considered limiting the leaf collection program beginning in 2006 to an area west of Dixie Highway south of Willow Lane, Miller and Orchard East and Church Road East, and providing 20 yardwaste bags instead of 10 bags to all other areas. This matter was tabled until staff provides a map to the Board of the areas covered by the leaf collection program.

The Board considered a snow removal program for the new sidewalks along Route #1. Trustee Wehling expressed concerns that the proposed machine wouldn't be able to move the snow and slush once it has frozen after being thrown on the sidewalk from passing snowplows. Bigger equipment to handle the frozen snow is available, but very expensive. The Board also questioned if other sidewalks in town should be included in the snow removal program. Staff will include this matter on the Village resident survey to determine if the program is wanted, and will discuss it further at budget time.

Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve a street sweeping program by a contractor for Route #1, at a cost not to exceed \$900 per year, in addition to our current street sweeping program. Gravel and dirt are accumulating along the gutter of Route #1, and going into Village sewers, and the State is refusing to sweep the curbed section of roadway. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Village Engineer conducted a street pavement analysis. Engineer Koenig reported on the streets on the list. A full report will be provided at the next Board meeting, with estimated costs. Trustee Rehborg stated that Dunbar Street, between Miller and Hodges Streets, needs the watermain replaced prior to the road being paved, and he asked to have the watermain done first. The Engineer will get costs on the Dunbar Street watermain replacement, so it can be completed before the paving project. Engineer Koenig will provide a proposal at the February 14th Board meeting.

Trustee Kuhlman noted that he has received complaints on the stone alley that meets Prairie and runs west to Trim Creek, and possibly getting that paved due to drainage concerns. The Streets and Alleys Committee will look into this matter.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The Board considered the award of bid for the Meadow Lane watermain replacement. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to award the bid for the Meadow Lane watermain replacement to the lowest bidder, Contracting and Material Co., in an amount of \$146,106, subject to the contract meeting all conditions of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Engineer Koenig provided a report on the bid process for slip lining sanitary sewers on the west side of town. Engineer Koenig provided a report on the water master plan.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A project kick-off meeting for Firemen's Park was held on January 4th. An advisory council was formed and will meet on February 22nd. Trustee Wehling wants to have a televised public input meeting on March 9th, prior to the Board meeting.

An update was provided on Prairie Park. The Phase I estimate is \$75,000. A grading plan has been received and will be given to the Engineer.

The municipal facilities plan is on hold until land is obtained for a Public Works facility. If the Village cannot secure the land from MGM Construction, other parcels will need to be considered.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to authorize the Village Attorney to begin condemnation proceedings for a 10 foot strip of land along Cardinal Creek Drive from Great Egret to Church Road for use as a right of way and access by the Beecher Junior High School. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve an abrogation of an easement for Prairie Pointe South Townhomes. When the property was subdivided in 1999, an easement was placed through this parcel for drainage. With the re-engineering of this parcel this easement is no longer needed and cuts through several of the townhomes and needs to be vacated. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Status was provided on two dilapidated buildings in the downtown business district. President Lohmann met with Buchmeier's around the holidays and an extension was granted for time to repair the foundation. The Village reaffirmed its position to get the improvements done. VonAlven appears to be making an effort to get work done and has made commitments.

An update was provided on the zoning ordinance revision. A meeting of the Committee was held on January 5th and work is being done.

An update was provided on subdivision regulations. The Committee has received their copies of the first draft of the proposed subdivision regulations and will be meeting soon to go through the document.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Administrator Barber provided report)

RESOLUTION #2006-1 - A resolution of support for an airport authority in the event an airport is constructed in Eastern Will County. A draft of the resolution being considered by the iron ring communities was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to adopt Resolution #2006-1. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2006-2 - A resolution of support for the Eastern Will County Responsible Growth and Regional Cooperation Act which creates a development district. Trustee Heldt made a motion to adopt Resolution #2006-2. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Village employees are scheduled to hear a United Way presentation on January 11th. This is to consider a voluntary employee tax deductible donation for the United Way of Will County that can be automatically deducted from the employee's payroll.

A draft of a boundary agreement with Crete was provided in the packet for review.

Will County Government League lobby day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th. Trustees were urged to attend.

Administrator Barber requested a closed session be held to discuss an economic development position and candidate for that position.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:40 p.m. to consider an economic development position and candidate. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to return to regular session at 10:15 p.m. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to offer an employment agreement to Ed Papesh for the position of Economic Development Coordinator as proposed, subject to Attorney review. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There being no further business, Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk