

**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 24, 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, Ahrendt and Heldt.

ABSENT: President Lohmann and Trustee Peterson.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Code Enforcement Officer Julie Riechers, Building Inspector Bill Blanke, Attorney Tim Kuiper and Treasurer Nelson Collins.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Tom Stluka, Barbara McWhorter, Kelly Shine, Robert Enriquez and Tom Brislane.

President Pro-Tem Wehling asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 10, 2006 Board meeting. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given.2) Bills were presented for the Beautification Commission and the 4th of July Commission. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$687.42 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Trustee Rehborg made a motion to pay a bill from Cargill in the amount of \$1,710.33 for road salt. This bill didn't make the January bills because it was given to the Township in error and needs to be paid before bills are paid in February. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

4) The Clerk requested a closed session be held to consider approval and release of closed session minutes to the public.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Mrs. Shine provided a presentation to the Board regarding her desire to build a home along the railroad tracks on the southwest corner of Reed and Miller Streets. The approximate building size would be 30' x 80'. She would likely need a variance for both front and rear yards but staff needs to look closer at the plans to determine exactly what type of variance is needed. After some discussion, Trustee Heldt made a motion to refer Mrs. Shine's request for a variance to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Tom Brislane of 529 Highlinton voiced his concerns regarding the Fieldgate Development, the school site, and costs.

Mr. Robert Enriquez from National Sign Plazas provided a presentation regarding community facility signs. Trustee Wehling requested time to consider the matter and would like to see some of their existing signs. Questions were raised as to the placement of the facility signs. It was decided to have Mr. Enriquez go through the process of finding locations, find out what builders/developers would participate, how big the signs would be, etc., and bring a proposal back to the Board.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Variance reports for the previous month were included in the packet for review.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to adopt the revisions to the Village's personnel manual, subject to attorney review, and add language for any Department Head to notify the Village Hall if unable to report to work due to illness, if the Administrator is unavailable to be notified. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chief Weissgerber provided a summary of his annual report, which was provided in the packet for review. A brief question and answer period followed.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve an intergovernmental agreement with Beecher School District 200-U for reimbursement of SRO Officer for the 2006-2007 school year. A copy of the agreement was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The next meeting for the Tree Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 2nd, 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Trim Creek stabilization project. The ditch work has been completed and all of the native plants and riparian buffers are planted and installed. Norm Lange will grade the park to a 1% slope and put down a 4" layer of black dirt. Public Works will then install excelsior blanket on the three acres of land. Concerns were raised regarding the excelsior blanket, how long it would take to grow and how it would affect the area for Fourth of July.

Trustee Heldt provided results from the Trim Creek Watershed workshop. The Trustees felt it was a very informative meeting.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger provided a summary of the annual Public Works report and the annual sewer and water report, which were provided in the packet for review. A question and answer period followed.

The Board considered limiting the leaf collection program beginning in 2006 to an area west of Dixie Highway, south of Willow Lane, Miller Street and Orchard Lane east, and Church Road east, and providing 20 yardwaste bags instead of 10 bags to all other areas. This matter was deferred until the April 4th budget meeting. For budgeting purposes, it will have to be determined how many yardwaste bags will need to be purchased.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to submit an STP application for the Dixie Highway and Chestnut traffic signal, for installation in 2007. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to submit an STP application for widening and improving Church Road from Dixie Highway to Racine, in the amount of \$1,000,000 in 2009. This would require a local match of \$200,000 in 2009 and could be part of a major resurfacing program also scheduled for that year. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Heldt asked about street lights that are not getting fixed. Trustee Heldt stated that we should not have to pay for these lights since they have been out for months. Administrator Barber will look into this matter.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve a payment in the amount of \$53,880.61 to Broadway Construction for substantial completion of the Trim Creek relief sewer project. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to award the bid for slip lining and spot repair to sanitary sewers in area #1, west of the railroad tracks, to George Kennedy Construction, in the amount of \$52,335. The bids came in below estimations. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg requested a closed session be held to discuss land acquisition.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on Firemen's Park. A citizen's advisory meeting will be held on February 22nd.

Trustee Rehborg reported he has met with Washington Township Supervisor Bob Howard on the resident services survey. Chief Weissgerber asked about putting police questions on the Township or Village survey. Staff needs a draft of the Township survey to see what questions they plan to ask. A copy of the Township survey will be obtained.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

A Plan Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26th. Items on the agenda include public hearings on Knuth's mini-warehouse expansion and an amended Planned Unit Development for Hunter's Chase Unit #8. A workshop on the Montalbano Homes Planned Unit Development expansion will also take place.

A copy of the Building Department Annual Report for 2005 was provided in the packet for review. Inspector Bill Blanke provided a summary of the report. A brief question and answer period followed. Board members asked Blanke to provide recommendations to make our code better. The issue of stone fill in garage floors was discussed. The Attorney is to draft an ordinance regarding the requirement of stone fill in garage floors instead of compacted mud.

A copy of the Code Enforcement Annual Report for 2005 was provided in the packet for review. Code Enforcement Officer Riechers provided a summary of her report. A question and answer period followed.

Status was provided on code violations for the Buchmeier and VonAlven buildings in the old downtown business district. Buchmeier took out a permit to work on the foundation and still has time to complete the work. VonAlven is attempting to get historical status on his building on Gould Street and to get money to rehab the building. Board members indicated that a deadline needs to be established for these two properties to get the work done.

The Board considered an ordinance authorizing a boundary agreement with the Village of Crete. The Attorney indicated that this must be posted 15 days before approving, so the matter was deferred until the next Board meeting.

Status was provided on the three developments on the south side of town. Terry Burghard has met with the School District and is formulating a proposal to accommodate their concerns to share with the developers. Mr. Burghard hopes to have draft annexation agreements for review by the Joint Taxing Body Committee which will meet on Wednesday, February 1st.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Administrator Barber provided an update on the third airport.

The Illinois Municipal League and Will County Governmental League Lobby Day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th.

Administrator Barber requested a closed session be held to discuss personnel, regarding an employment contract for an Economic Development Coordinator.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:30 p.m. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to return to regular session at 10:20 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the amended employment contract with Ed Papesh as Economic Development Coordinator. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve certain closed session minutes for content and release to the public. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There being no further business, President Pro-Tem Wehling asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Heldt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk