

**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
FEBRUARY 28, 2006 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Lohmann called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: None.

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

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Donald Pearson and Andrew Ahrendt.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the February 14, 2006 Board meeting. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Peterson.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given.2) A bill was presented for the Beecher 4th of July Commission. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the bill in the amount of \$1,776.35 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Clerk Conner reported that early voting will be conducted in the Village Hall from February 27 through March 16 and absentee voting from March 17 through March 20. An ADA AutoMARK machine will also be available which will allow people with disabilities (especially those deaf or blind) to vote unassisted.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Don Pearson of 1666 Dove Valley Lane presented a petition signed by 13 residents requesting the Village to put up a stop sign on Hunters Drive due to concerns about speeding and

the safety of children. Chief Weissgerber indicated he had no opposition to a stop sign at that location since Hunters Drive is a main artery and hooks up to Route #1. Public Works was authorized to install a stop sign at the corner of Hunters Drive and Saddle Run.

A public hearing was held at 7:12 p.m. to consider a boundary agreement with the Village of Crete, with the boundary line currently known as Offner Road (the Washington Township/Crete Township line).

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

The first draft of the budget will be given to the Village Board at the March 28th meeting. The budget workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4th at 6:00 p.m. as a special Board meeting. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 25th, followed by budget adoption.

The Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) annual report was provided in the packet for review.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

Trustee Kuhlman reported that the Village is receiving a grant to have a consultant conduct a parkway tree assessment and inventory which will be placed into a software package. The Village will then be required to maintain this database and provide an annual report to the State.

Village employees will be recertified in CPR in March. The two-year renewal is up and the Fire Department will be conducting training seminars.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the grant money has been received to purchase laptop computers for the Police Department.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Staff met with ComEd to design a contract for the installation of four street lights at Cardinal Creek and Indiana Avenue, Town Center Road and Indiana Avenue, four lights on Eagle Lake Road east of Dixie to Monhegan Drive, and six additional lights on Dixie Highway from Wendell Ohlendorf's north past Hunter's Drive. The contract will be for a total of 14 new lights at an average cost of \$23 per light per month or \$322 per month.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve an agreement with Chuck Jabaay in the amount of \$995 to mow and maintain the Lange Phase III retention pond. This is the third year in a row in which Mr. Jabaay has agreed to maintain the pond for the same price, despite rising fuel and chemical costs. The bill will be paid with the

March bills. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Heldt reported that a resident wants to pay to have his alley paved. The resident offered to hire a contractor to pave the alley between Indiana Avenue and Pasadena near Prairie. It was discussed that an agreement will need to be drafted to set forth Village specifications. Trustee Peterson made a motion to authorize Bob Peterson (not related to Trustee Peterson) to have his alley paved at his cost, subject to approval of specifications by the Village and the Village Engineer. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg reported that he heard the school is seeking a grant to improve Trim Creek to the south of previous improvements.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

No report.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on Firemen's Park. A well-attended workshop meeting was held on February 22nd. The next meeting is scheduled for March 21st. On March 28th a hearing regarding the park plan will be held before the Village Board meeting.

An update was provided regarding the Washington Township survey. Once the Township Board approves the draft on March 6th, it will be printed and mailed. The due date will be April 7th and the Village Hall will act as the drop off site. When the Village sends out its newsletter in April, the Village survey will be included.

An update was provided on the municipal facilities plan. Once the land is secured from MGM, staff will proceed with the engineering and design of the public works facility for a summer 2007 construction start date. A closed session was requested to discuss land acquisition.

An update was provided on the Fourth of July Commission. A meeting was held and everything appears to be in order for this year's celebration. A \$5,000 grant was received for publicity from the Southland Convention and Visitor's Bureau. There will also be a 5K Run at 8:00 a.m. on July 4th, and a three-day beanbag tournament. A current Commission member listing, the Treasurer's report, and a 2006 budget was provided in the packet for review. The next Fourth of July Commission meeting is scheduled for March 16th at 6:30 p.m. at Reisings. Trustee Peterson commended the Commission on their work.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

A Plan Commission meeting is scheduled for March 2nd. Items include a public hearing on the Montalbano Planned Unit Development (PUD) expansion, and a review of the new zoning map.

ORDINANCE #1035 - An ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a boundary agreement with the Village of Crete. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1035. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Status was provided on the proposed new developments for the south end of the Village. Nothing has been heard from the developers in response to the increase in fees.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann provided an update on the third airport. A meeting was held in Peotone on February 18th. There was nothing new to report other than that the state purchased property between Route 50 and Interstate 57. Development district legislation is coming up for a vote in Springfield on March 1st. President Lohmann and Administrator Barber will go to Springfield for the vote and President Lohmann will testify.

President Lohmann stated that there are still problems with the Peotone Access League (PAL). Residents complain that recent Board meetings are not being shown on the public access cable channel. He is not sure who is running PAL and if the group is still functional. A meeting is supposed to be held to discuss problems.

The Village met with area property owners regarding drainage issues from Hunter's Chase East Subdivision. The developer proposed to tile through some of the fields to alleviate the drainage problem. Details are being worked out to lay drain tile from the pond to South Park.

President Lohmann provided his annual State of the Village address. He read from the strategic plan for the year 2005 that was approved in 1998, and noted that the Village has stayed on track for the items listed in the plan.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Wehling asked if the Board members could be provided with e-mail updates. Administrator Barber offered to do this, but had concerns that some Trustees could get information that others wouldn't have access to because of not having email. All but one trustee had access to e-mail. All available trustee email address will be obtained and Administrator Barber will forward any pertinent information. The trustee without e-mail will have to receive copies of information in his mailbox at the Village Hall.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss land acquisition. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to return to regular session at 8:12 p.m. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann talked to Township Supervisor Bob Howard about putting someone at the Township Center part-time to handle questions, calls, etc.

Administrator Barber asked Board members to consider if the developers don't agree to the \$33,000 development and building permit fees, would the Board want to lower the fees or leave the price as is and walk away from the developments. There was no response to this question.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Heldt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk