

**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  
APRIL 11, 2006 -- 7:35 P.M.**

An annual Washington Township Town meeting was held at 7:00 p.m., preceding the Village Board meeting.

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** President Lohmann and Trustee Wehling.

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

**GUESTS:** Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Andrew Ahrendt, Tom Stluka, Kurt Larson, Paul Caldwell, Debbie VonAlven, Ron Reichert, Ted Reichert, Arnold and Jeanne Cooper, Karen Cancialosi and Thomas Brislane.

Clerk Conner asked for the appointment of a President Pro-Tem in the absence of President Lohmann. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to appoint Trustee Heldt as President Pro-Tem. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

**AYES:** (4) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Peterson and Ahrendt.

**NAYS:** (0) None.

**ABSTAIN:** (1) Trustee Heldt.

Motion Carried.

President Pro-Tem Heldt asked for consideration of the minutes of the April 4, 2006 Special Meeting, the April 5, 2006 Special Meeting, the March 28, 2006 Public Hearing and regular Board meeting. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) A bill was presented for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the bill for \$544.36 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

A Public Hearing was held at 7:38 p.m. to consider a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$160,000 for replacing watermain on Country Lane.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** The Board considered approval of a final plat of subdivision for the Garden Homes of Prairie Crossings South Unit II. Ron Reichert provided a presentation on the proposal. Questions were answered by Ron and Ted Reichert. A landscaped buffer between the residential and commercial areas was discussed, to keep headlights from shining into the residential area. All homes are to have basements. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the final plat of subdivision, subject to final approval by the Village Engineer. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

Kurt Larson, resident at 251 Timbers Bluff Trail (the corner lot at Timbers Bluff Trail and Pheasant Chase Circle), requested a variance to extend a fence out to the concrete walk on his property and head north to his back yard. Drawings of his intentions were provided for review. Trustee Peterson made a motion to refer Mr. Larson's variance request to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

Paul Caldwell, resident at 1349 Crooked Creek (the corner lot at Crooked Creek and Timbers Bluff Trail), requested a variance to extend a fence out to the concrete walk on his property and head north to his backyard. Trustee Peterson made a motion to refer Mr. Caldwell's variance request to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

#### **A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review.

A list of bills totalling \$223,253.97 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 Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

A public hearing on the proposed budget will be held on April 25, 2006.

The Board considered authorizing the Village Attorney to research and draft appropriate ordinances pertaining to the use of Village rights of way. No action was taken on this matter at this time. A larger consortium of cities are investigating this matter. The Board will wait and see what they do before spending any money on this.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Attorney Tim Kuiper provided his opinion on the regulation and enforcement of trains blocking the railroad crossings. Due to federal regulations, the Village can't really regulate the railroad locally to handle these problems.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion authorizing Baxter and Woodman Engineers to write a letter to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to request a reduction in the speed limit from 55 m.p.h. to 45 m.p.h. from Eagle Lake Road south to Dave's Auto Body. Board members commented that the visibility of the striping on Route #1 by the Hunter's Chase entrance was very poor. Trustee Kuhlman also commented that he has received complaints of people driving through the stop sign at the Route #1 entrance to Hunters Chase Subdivision. After some discussion, Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. The location and type of tree to be planted has not yet been determined.

The tree inventory status report was provided in the packet for review. The inventory has not yet been completed.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the Police Department has received two military surplus trucks at no cost to the Village. Both are running and in very good condition, and the generator on the back of one of the trucks works well.

Administrator Barber reported that he has secured a 200 kw generator for free, located in Cape Canaveral, Florida. It will cost \$1,600 to ship the generator, but there are no further costs involved.

## **C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE**

An update was provided on the Peterson alley paving project. The Engineer and Superintendent Cowger met with Mr. Peterson. Mr. Peterson wants to put 4 layers of asphalt on his alley, at his expense. The Engineer and Superintendent Cowger had no problem with his plan, which actually exceeds the Village's specifications for paving. The main concern is that drainage is not affected in the neighborhood.

RESOLUTION #2006-05 - A resolution authorizing \$45,896 in Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds for road maintenance and \$1,917.94 in engineering costs for fiscal year 2006/2007. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to adopt Resolution #2006-05. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve an engineering services agreement with Baxter and Woodman Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$17,945 for the design of the Fall 2006 road and resurfacing program. The bid will be awarded in August, 2006, for the \$380,000 program. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Status was provided on the Church Road improvement project. The Village has been awarded a \$2 million STP grant to improve Church Road from Dixie Highway to Racine as a major industrial road. The Village will be required to provide a match of \$1.1 million in funds in 2009 to complete the work. The Village will also need \$170,000 in fiscal year 2007 to conduct the Phase I study. A copy of the letter was provided in the packet for review.

Superintendent Cowger asked Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald to put the brush pick-up rules in the newspaper. Village Hall staff will issue a press release. Residents have been putting out a lot of brush that doesn't meet Village rules.

Superintendent Cowger also reported on the collapsed sewer on Indiana Avenue, which was repaired by Public Works. The problem was found during the sanitary sewer televising project.

The ComEd annual report for 2005 was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Heldt asked about the cleaning of Trim Creek. He stated that the company that is cleaning the creek doesn't want to go into Southfield Knoll to clean trees out of the creek. He will look into why the company won't clean that area of the creek.

#### **D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE**

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

Engineer Koenig briefly reported on the well #5 update, the sanitary sewer rehab of area #1 west of the tracks, the sanitary sewer evaluation of area #2 between the tracks and Trim Creek, the Meadow Lane watermain project, the Trim Creek relief sewer close-out, and the Dunbar/Miller watermain design.

RESOLUTION #2006-06 - A resolution authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for the Country Lane watermain replacement for the winter of 2006/2007. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to adopt Resolution

#2006-06. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve an amended services agreement with Baxter and Woodman Engineers for an amount not to exceed \$31,000 (an increase from \$19,500 to \$31,000) to include the Miller Street watermain replacement on the Dunbar Street watermain replacement project. A copy of the addendum was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

An update was provided on Firemen's Park. A meeting was held on April 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the results of the March 28<sup>th</sup> public hearing. There was also a request from the Fourth of July Commission to cut a limestone path from Miller Street south to the old bathrooms to act not only as a walking/bike path in the future but to allow for the movement of carnival equipment to avoid the soft ground which now exists in the park. The Fourth of July Commission has agreed to pay for the limestone and Washington Township will spread the stone. The Park Commission must agree to pay for the path to be cut by Lange Trucking and Excavating, and to determine where the path should be. The path should be cut prior to hydroseeding on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

An update was provided on the Spring newsletter. There is room for two small articles. Trustee Kuhlman indicated he has something he wants to add. He will contact the Clerk with his information.

An update was provided on the Washington Township surveys. The survey response date has now passed and the results will be tabulated in a report to the Township Board by their June meeting.

## **F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

ORDINANCE #1037 - An ordinance increasing the permit fees from \$0.40 to \$0.50 per square foot for residential and from \$0.50 to \$0.60 per square foot for industrial and commercial buildings effective May 1, 2006. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1037. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve an agreement with Baxter and Woodman Engineering to provide

conservation design criteria in the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Code for an amount not to exceed \$7,000. The Trim Creek watershed project has agreed to pay \$3,500 of this cost, so the true cost to the Village would be \$3,500. Trustees questioned who would monitor this type of plan and which subdivisions this plan would be able to follow this criteria. Much discussion followed. Trustee

Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion accepting the public improvements in Prairie Pointe North Subdivision. Steven Reichert Homes has filed for acceptance of the public improvements, release of their letter of credit, and has posted a one-year maintenance bond. A copy of a letter from the Village Engineer was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Administrator Barber provided an update on the third airport. He went down to Springfield due to an amendment and possible vote on the airport bill relating to the development district. The mayors of Monee and Crete, as well as the administrators of Peotone and Crete were also in Springfield. The bill did not get called for a vote and was not amended. It may not come up for a vote again until Fall.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

Administrator Barber announced that Washington Township now has a website. It has been linked to the Village's website, and the Village's site will be linked to theirs.

Administrator Barber reported that on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, a meeting will be held at Hanover High School in Cedar Lake, Indiana, regarding the Illiana Expressway. Anyone interested in attending should meet at the Village Hall for carpooling.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk