

**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
MAY 9, 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 Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

ABSENT: Trustee Rehborg.

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

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Tom Stluka, Tom Brislane, Duane Temme, Henry Triezenberg, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Indicavitch, Dave and Jennifer Bunte, Curt Larson and Paul Caldwell.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the April 25, 2006 Public Hearing and Board meeting. Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Three variance requests that were to be considered before the Board meeting at a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting were not considered, due to a lack of a quorum of ZBA members: 1) A variance request to permit an above ground pool in the front yard setback at 533 Birch, by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Indicavitch; 2) A variance request to permit the installation of a fence in the front yard setback at 251 Timbers Bluff by Mr. Curt Larson; and 3) A variance request to permit the installation of a fence in the front yard setback at 1539 Crooked Creek by Mr. Paul Caldwell. Neighbors have all been notified of these variance requests. All three applicants were present and explained their requests to the Board. All three variance requests will be considered at a rescheduled Zoning Board of Appeals hearing on May 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Terry Burghard provided a presentation on the “best deals” that he could achieve in terms of fees for each of three proposed developments: Southgate (J Land), Summerfield (Olthof), and Prairie Meadows (Bruti). Mr. Burghard explained the differences between the three different developments and their impacts on the schools. He explained the reasoning behind how he determined his proposed impact fees. Developers are asking for some type of answer as to why the Village is not approving their projects because they feel they are losing time and money. Mr. Burghard and the Board discussed that these projects were designed to work together to help pay for the expansion of the sewer plant and help pay for improvements to the water and sewer infrastructure. Any of the projects alone would have difficulty paying for some of the required infrastructure improvements. After some discussion, Trustee Peterson made a motion to authorize the Attorney to draft an annexation agreement for Southgate (J Land Development). Administrator Barber stated that there would have to be a hearing on the annexation agreement once it is drafted, so it can be reviewed by the Board prior to approval. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (2) Trustees Peterson and Heldt.

NAYS: (3) Trustees Kuhlman, Wehling and Ahrendt.

Motion Failed.

Trustee Peterson made a motion to authorize the Attorney to draft an annexation agreement for Prairie Meadows (Bruti). The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Trustee Peterson made a motion to authorize the Attorney to draft an annexation agreement for Summerfield (Olthof). Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (2) Trustees Peterson and Heldt.

NAYS: (3) Trustees Kuhlman, Wehling and Ahrendt.

Motion Failed.

Mr. Duane Temme asked about the status of his drain tile. Engineer Koenig reported that the tile has been looked at, and there is a broken tile under the railroad. It appears to be a railroad issue. The Village and Engineer will draft a letter to the railroad to try and get the tile fixed.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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 \$169,694.24 to be paid were 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: (5) Trustees Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1039 - An ordinance renewing the franchise agreement with NICOR Gas. The Attorney

has been reviewing this renewal. The Village has asked that the Depot be added to the list of free gas accounts since it is a Village building. Trustee Peterson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1039. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees 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 Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for Friday, May 12th at Penfield and Gould Streets. All Trustees were encouraged to attend this event.

The tree inventory has been completed but the final report is not yet available.

The Board considered an amended tree ordinance. Staff and the Attorney are still reviewing the ordinance. There were some concerns about licensing issues and membership that need to be worked out. The person doing the tree inventory would also like to review the tree ordinance. This matter was deferred until further review has been completed.

The Village has received the Tree City Award for 2005.

The annual Bike Rodeo is scheduled for Saturday, May 13th at 9:00 a.m. at Firemen's Park.

Trustee Wehling stated that many tickets were issued at the Elementary School earlier that night for parking along a ballfield at the school district drive at Hodges Street. He felt an announcement could have been made to give people time to move their cars, prior to tickets being issued. He felt it was not good public relations. Chief Weissgerber asked for Board direction about parking issues in the Village. Since there is limited parking, especially around the school and Firemen's Park, this is becoming more of a problem. Chief Weissgerber will follow up and find out the circumstances as to why tickets were issued. Enforcement and consistency was discussed. The lack of parking at Firemen's Park was discussed at length. President Lohmann asked if the "No Parking" on Miller Street was being enforced. It was discussed to put a gravel shoulder along Miller Street for parking, with a split rail fence. This will be looked into.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the drainage district. The contractor is currently cleaning brush out of Trim Creek at the Cardinal Creek Golf Course. Work should be completed in June.

The street sweeping program for this year has been completed.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to authorize the Superintendent of Public Works to contract with M&J

Underground to clean the storm tiles and vactor catch basins on the west side of the tracks for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Engineer Koenig provided an Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) road resurfacing update. Engineer Koenig reported that IDOT will not allow two bid dates and felt the project probably wouldn't be ready to go by the July date anyway. Koenig felt the best time to do the project would be after Labor Day.

The Superintendent of Public Works was not in attendance due to a watermain break.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The water billing register for the months of March and April were provided in the packet for review.

Engineer Koenig provided the following reports:

- A. Engineer Koenig is working with the contractor regarding the restoration work and punch list items on the Trim Creek Relief Sewer project. There is confusion as to when this will be done and he is trying to work out problems and some concerns expressed by resident Chuck Schultz.
- B. The survey and engineering has been completed, and plans will be sent to the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) this week regarding the Dunbar Street watermain replacement.
- C. A report was provided on the Area #1 sanitary sewer rehab work being completed by Kennedy Construction.
- D. The engineering invoice has been reviewed and paid for the Area #2 sanitary sewer evaluation study.
- E. A fire hydrant had to be relocated that was placed on private property (Jerry Koenning), in conjunction with the Meadow Lane watermain replacement restoration and punch list items.
- F. The contracts for the drilling of the new #5 well were sent to Layne Western. They will be returned for the Village President's and Clerk's signatures.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to authorize an application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in 2007 for the replacement of watermains on Elm Street from Catalpa Street to Trim Creek and on Maxwell Street from Penfield Street to Indiana Avenue. This project has already qualified for grant funds. The Engineer still needs to establish a price for this project. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was reported that the midge fly problem seems to be under control. No recent complaints have been received.

Trustee Heldt requested that a closed session be held to discuss land acquisition for future sewer plant

expansion.

Trustee Heldt asked that a thank you letter be sent to Bob Petersen for paving the alley off of Prairie Avenue and Pasadena Avenue at his expense.

President Lohmann asked Engineer Koenig to look at a problem with someone who is getting water in their basement from their neighbor's house, due to changes made to their neighbor's property. The address will be given to the Engineer and he will look into the matter.

Trustee Kuhlman asked about the elevation and drainage for the Knuth property on Route #1 next to Schrementi's. Mr. Knuth is required to provide an engineering plan for water retention, and that plan has not yet been provided. Concerns were expressed regarding drainage.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided regarding Firemen's Park. A draft copy of the Firemen's Park OSLAD Development Plan was provided for review. The moving of buildings, more parking, landscaping, a skate spot, a multi-purpose court, a walking path, soccer and baseball/softball fields were shown on the plan. Trustee Wehling explained the plan. The plan needs to be finalized in the beginning of June so grant applications can be submitted in July. Consideration needs to be made as to how to cost effectively phase-in improvements. Parking seems to be a major issue. Administrator Barber asked about the lights in field #1. They are in very poor shape and need to be replaced or repaired. Not all items in the plan will be put in the grant. The various aspects will be phased in over time depending on priority.

An update was provided regarding the Washington Township survey.

The Village resident surveys have been mailed and are currently being tabulated by Village staff.

Trustee Wehling requested that a closed session be held to discuss land acquisition for municipal facilities.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to accept a bid from Perm-A-Seal for crack sealing, seal coating and restriping the Community Hall parking lot for an amount not to exceed \$4,000. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to authorize drafting an intergovernmental agreement with the School District for the installation of two ballfields in Beecher East Park for the amount of \$137,392 for certain options of the park. A copy of the bids from Henry Brothers were provided in the packet for review. The Village budgeted \$95,000 for the installation of two ballfields in this park. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE #1040 - An ordinance requiring stone backfill in garages and drywall in interior walls effective thirty days from tonight's meeting (June 9, 2006). Building Inspector John Rue provided his opinion on these two issues. A copy of the proposed ordinance was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

Results of the April 27th Plan Commission meeting were provided. The Prairie Meadows and Beecher Sportsplex proposals were authorized for Public Hearings on May 25th. The comprehensive amendment to the zoning ordinance and the new zoning map were also approved for Public Hearing on May 25th. An update was provided on the condemnation of the Buchmeier and VonAlven buildings. Attorney Kuiper reported that letters were sent to the property owners to begin condemnation.

ORDINANCE #1041 - An ordinance further amending permit fees for the Village of Beecher. Since the fees were increased in April, 2006, staff has uncovered a few things which are addressed in this new ordinance. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1041. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann extended making his annual appointments for another month, to give him time to make some changes to the Plan Commission and other appointments.

An update was provided on the third airport.

An update was provided regarding the Peotone Access League (PAL). There is a need to set up a meeting to discuss the access to the machines for putting in tapes, etc.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to extend the current commissions' and officials' appointments for an additional thirty days. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

Motion Carried.

There was no update regarding the Beecher Mausoleum.

President Lohmann requested a closed session be held to discuss the evaluations of the Chief of Police, the Superintendent of Public Works and the Village Administrator.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Peterson made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:50 p.m. to discuss land acquisition and personnel evaluations. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Peterson made a motion to return to regular session at 10:05 p.m. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve payment to MGM Development in the amount of \$50,000 for the purchase of a 10' strip of land on the east side of Cardinal Creek Boulevard from Bald Eagle to Church Road. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk