

**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 23, 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 and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

GUESTS: Jackie Paquette from the Beecher Herald, Chris Lester of Cambridge Homes, Tom Stluka, Scott Soppet, Dan Walsh, Chuck Hoehn, Tom Brislane, Drew Beck, Dan McKay, Jody Karstensen, Mike Mach, Jim Stancik, Bill and Laura Voss, Ken Hameister, Mike Rodriguez, Greg and Chris Szymanski,

Minutes of the previous meeting were not available, therefore approval was deferred until the next Board meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) Clerk Conner read aloud a thank you letter from the Postmaster for the new sidewalk in front of the Post Office. 3) Clerk Conner provided a brief report on her recent attendance at the International Institute of Municipal Clerk's Conference in Anaheim, California.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Mike Rodriguez of 451 Saddle Run spoke regarding his fence that was installed 1 foot off the sidewalk rather than 10 feet off the sidewalk as required. After the fence went up it was found he was in violation. He didn't realize it had to be that far from the sidewalk. Mr Rodriguez needs a zoning variance to allow the fence to remain. Trustee Wehling made a motion to refer his request for a zoning variance to the Zoning Board of Appeals at their June 22nd meeting. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chuck Hoehn from the Beecher Chamber of Commerce asked questions of the Board on behalf of the Chamber regarding their views on residential and commercial growth.

Chris Lester from Cambridge Homes presented a proposal to develop 200 acres of property east of the Washington Township Center. This property is not currently in the Facilities Planning Area (FPA). Mr. Lester asked the Board if they would consider annexing and zoning the property for Cambridge Homes to develop. He would be interested in setting up an SSA for his development. Questions were asked of the developer and the Board about the impact on the community and on the school district. Concerns were expressed about the impact on the schools and the quality of homes. Impact fees were also discussed. Trustee Wehling asked for more time to look at their web site and think about this since it is the first time their proposal has been brought before the Board. Board members were asked if they would consider any new development at all. There was some disagreement about controlled growth and whether Board members want growth at all. Much discussion followed. No action was taken on the proposal.

Todd Stanton from Design Perspectives provided a presentation on a master plan for Firemen's Park. The OSLAD Grant Application is due July 3rd. Two scenarios were proposed. Plan A, which is Phase I of the project, totaled \$360,000; and Plan B totaled \$340,000. Mr. Stanton asked for input from the Board. Trustee Wehling expressed concerns regarding the loss of the fields during construction and finding a location for Beecher Recreation to play ball when the fields are being relocated. Drew Beck and other Beecher Recreation members expressed concerns about spending all of the park funds on Firemen's Park and not setting aside funds for additional fields and future improvements. Mr. Beck suggested not moving forward with the Grant and spending the Park Fund money in another way. Beecher Recreation representatives offered to work more closely with the Village on the parks planning process in the future. Members of Beecher Recreation were asked why they didn't participate in earlier hearings for the park planning process. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a resolution to approve scenario A of the park plan and go ahead with the OSLAD grant process. Motion was withdrawn due to lack of a second. After much discussion and some disagreement, the matter was tabled until a new plan can be agreed upon.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Variance reports for the month of April and the end of the fiscal year were included in the packet for review.

Seven ordinances approved in the past year have been sent for codification.

The audit process has begun. In addition to GASB 34 this year, the Village now has to account for the handling of deposits and how receipts and disbursements are handled. A copy of a letter was provided in the packet for review. Staff is working on drafting a procedure manual for how these practices are handled.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Trustee Kuhlman provided results from the May 18th Bike Rodeo. There was a poor turnout due to the rain and cool weather.

Trustee Kuhlman provided results from the May 19th Arbor Day celebration.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that the Memorial Tree Foundation gained two new members this year.

The Board deferred consideration of a tree removal report from Mark Duntemann of Natural Path Urban Forestry Consultants.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve a one-year maintenance agreement with Braniff Communications in the amount of \$1,379 for maintenance of the warning siren system. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman asked for a public correction to be printed in the newspaper. The paper stated that the Village bought two military trucks and they were obtained for free, not purchased. Russell Publications will print a correction.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

A copy of a letter from the Village Engineer to the Union Pacific Railroad regarding the tile problem with Duane Temme was provided in the packet for review. Mr. Temme has received a copy of this letter. A verbal response was received from the railroad. The railroad was installed in 1862 and the tile probably went in afterwards without permission, so the problem probably won't be fixed by the railroad. The railroad will contact Mr. Temme directly.

Administrator Barber provided results of the Trim Creek Watershed meeting held on May 18th in Grant Park.

Provided in the packet was a copy of the thank you letter to Bob Peterson for paving his alley.

Perm-A-Seal will begin their crack sealing, seal coating and paint striping work around June 1st and be completed by June 30th.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The matter of the Trim Creek relief sewer restoration by Chuck Schultz' property was deferred until the next Board meeting.

The report on M & J Underground's vactoring storm sewer basins west of the tracks was deferred until the next Board meeting.

The Board considered the purchase of a 1991 natural gas 65 KW generator from the Village of Bourbonnais in the amount of \$1,500. It was the consensus of the Board not to purchase the generator.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The stone path is complete in Firemen's Park. The Miller Street shoulders are being stoned and the split rail fence will be installed. The hydroseed has taken root and is growing nicely. The beer stand and food stand will be power washed and will receive a new coat of paint in the upcoming weeks.

A draft copy of an intergovernmental agreement with the School District for ballfields in Beecher East Park was provided in the packet for review. Action was deferred until the next Board meeting. President Lohmann asked for more detailed paperwork on the specifics of this project. The actual agreement did not have specifications set forth in it. It was also discussed as to who would maintain the ballfields; it was believed that the Village would maintain them. It was asked if maintenance specifications should be included in the agreement. More details will need to be obtained and wording regarding on-going maintenance will be added to the agreement.

Administrator Barber provided an update on the municipal facilities and the acquisition of land. A closing has been scheduled for the week of May 29th, according to Administrator Barber.

The deadline of submission has passed for the return of the Village surveys, and the results are being tallied. About 250 surveys were returned. This survey was much larger than the Township survey, and will take a considerable amount of time to tabulate. Hopefully results will be available for the June meeting.

Building and equipment safety inspections are due again in the Summer. A date for the inspections will be arranged with the Committee.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

A joint Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m. A copy of the agenda for this meeting was provided in the packet for review.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported on the Will County Center for Economic Development (CEDC) meeting held the previous week.

President Lohmann urged Board members to contact the Crete Village President and urge him to enter into a boundary agreement with Beecher. The Crete Village President seems unwilling to do this. Board members want the item added to the next Board agenda to extend the Beecher boundary agreement to Goodenow Road, instead of the current boundary of Eagle Lake Road, in order to get some action.

Flowers are being planted around town by the hard-working Beautification Committee. President Lohmann commended their efforts. It is the same volunteers doing the work each year and they are getting burned out. This project may need to be turned over to the Public Works in the future.

A meeting is set for June 5th at 6:00 p.m. with the three Villages and Stan Swidergal to get the ball rolling regarding the Peotone Access League.

H. NEW BUSINESS

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Route #1 project has now closed and the final payment has been received from IDOT.

President Lohmann requested that a closed session be held to discuss terms of an employee's contract.

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 discuss terms of an employee's contract. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Peterson made a motion to return to regular session at 9:50 p.m. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, 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 Rehborg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk