

**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
JULY 25, 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, Ahrendt and Heldt.

ABSENT: Trustee Peterson.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger and Treasurer Nelson Collins (arrived at 7:54 p.m.).

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Tom Brislane, Tom Stluka, Wayne Wiechen, Paul Rietveld and Kelly Stluka.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the July 11, 2006 Board meeting. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

AYES: (3) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman and Heldt.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (2) Trustees Wehling and Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) Clerk Conner asked for consideration of payment of a bill for the Trim Creek Relief Sewer Project to Broadway Construction in the amount of \$13,946.89. A copy of the letter recommending approval from Baxter and Woodman was provided in the Clerk's packet for review. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve payment to Broadway Construction in the amount of \$13,946.89. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Clerk Conner read aloud a letter from Pat McGuire, Candidate for Will County Treasurer regarding her recent participation in the Fourth of July parade.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

Administrator Barber provided a report on his recent meeting with Comcast to discuss issues of mutual concern.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The new squad has arrived and has been placed into service. The old squad will remain in limited service for use by the SRO officer and when it needs significant repair it will be declared as surplus and taken to a used car lot in Kankakee for sale.

Chief Weissgerber provided an update on youth programs. The Village Board has pledged \$5,000 and Washington Township has pledged \$1,000 to provide youth service programs through the Police Department. The Police Department already has the PAKT (Police and Kids Together) program in place which includes martial arts. Other ideas being considered are swimming at Balmoral Woods Retirement Center, tennis, tag football, volleyball and babysitter training, etc.. Also being considered is taking a group to a skate park out of town or to a Joliet Jackhammers' game. Programs will need to be coordinated with Beecher Recreation. Participation and interest will need to be determined. Everything is still in the planning stages.

An update was provided on the Tree Board. A list of residents requesting parkway trees has been compiled and there is also a need to replace those trees on parkways which will be removed this summer. Tree plantings will occur in the fall and the locations will be determined by the Tree Board. Consultant Mark Duntemann released his report on the condition of the Village's street trees. This lengthy report was provided in the packet for review. The consultant also recommends that the Village take over tree planting in new subdivisions by charging a street tree fee at the time of certificate of occupancy, placed into escrow and once each year a massive tree planting would occur by a contractor to Village specifications. The Tree Board has taken this report under advisement and will use it as a basis for drafting a new tree ordinance.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Bids for the MFT (Motor Fuel Tax) Resurfacing Project are scheduled to be opened on Wednesday, July 26th at 2:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. A base bid of seven primary locations and an alternate bid of a total of 10 locations will be bid. Results will be reviewed and considered for award at the August 8th Board meeting.

Superintendent of Public Works Cowger provided a report on the tree removal/trimming program. Trimming is being done on Thursdays and Fridays during the week. It was reported that a resident has complained about two trees that need to be taken down at the corner of Dunbar and Hodges. An estimate of \$1,500 per tree was obtained from Jim's Trees for the removal of the trees. However, removal of these trees is not in the budget. The Tree Board and Committee will look into this matter.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger commended his Public Works employees for their work while he was on vacation, during heavy rains, etc. and in helping residents with their flooding problems.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the drilling of well #5.

The Princess Café alley storm sewer project has been placed on hold after the owners of the Princess Café had an issue with the location of the proposed storm sewer line through their property. Alternative solutions are under consideration at this time to prevent the flooding of residents on Elm Street, due to runoff.

The Board continued their discussion on revising the current ordinance on delinquent water bill notifications and shut off procedures. Clerk Conner provided a report on surveys received from other communities on their procedures. After some discussion, Trustee Rehborg made a motion to authorize the Attorney to draft an ordinance to amend the ordinance pertaining to water shut off procedures to include wording to allow for personal delivery of shut off notices in addition to notification by certified mail. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Village received several reports of flooded basements on the west and interior portions of the Village as a result of the 2-3" rains on July 11th & 12th. All pumps were operating and the wet well at the sewer plant never got over half full. A letter from a concerned resident was provided in the packet for review. Tom Donovan from 644 Elliott Street (who was present), had flooding in his basement and has been discussing his problem with Administrator Barber. Mr. Donovan said his plumber told him that he can't put in an overhead sewer to fix the problem. Superintendent Cowger reported that the Village's sewer trunk line is clear and is not the problem but it will not be a simple fix for Mr. Donovan. Superintendent Cowger and Administrator Barber discussed some different options to try and help Mr. Donovan find the best way to fix the problem. Engineer Koenig will come out and look at the problem to try and help find a solution.

The Board discussed the future of the currently vacant Public Works maintenance worker position, formerly held by Jerry Conley. Matt Conner will be moved from Parks to the Public Works Department until this position is filled. Bill Waterman will remain with Parks. Some Board members felt the need for someone down the road who would be willing to get their water license in case Bill Merritt retires or Superintendent Cowger leaves. Administrator Barber expressed concerns about snow removal with more streets now needing to be maintained. Trustee Ahrendt asked about contracting out the snow plowing. Concerns were expressed about having an outside contractor get the plowing done on the Village's timeline. Some Board members felt that a candidate with the proper experience couldn't be found for the proposed starting salary of \$27,741. Trustee Rehborg recommended advertising for the job with the requirement that they obtain a water license within a certain period of time. The Committee will meet to discuss this matter and bring a

recommendation back to the Board at the August 8th meeting.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling showed a copy of the grant application for Firemen's Park. The application has been sent in and is being reviewed for consideration of approval.

An update was provided on the ballfields south of the new Junior High School. A proposed name for this park is "Welton Stedt Park" in honor of Mr. Stedt who started and ran Beecher Recreation for over 20 years. The bid documents are being finalized and a site plan was provided in the packet for review. The project will go to bid by August 1st, with a bid opening after Labor Day. Trustee Wehling explained the need to keep the cost of this project to a minimum and that the original bid by the School District was much lower than the bid received from Design Perspectives because it did not include a lot of the same options. Many of those things were then cut from the Design Perspectives bid to bring the costs more in line. Trustee Wehling and Administrator Barber explained the proposal. Trustee Wehling made a motion to authorize the letting of bids for "Welton Stedt Park" ballfields. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the municipal facilities plan. The Committee met with the architects July 20th to review a rough draft of the plan and to provide some feedback. The plan is being finalized for presentation to the full Board at the August 22nd meeting and will include a building footprint for the new Public Works facility. At this time the plan calls for a 12,000 square foot garage, 3,500 square feet of office/storage space and 48,000 square feet of paved surface for a materials yard. The facility will fit on the eastern half of the 5.5 acre site and has room for expansion to double in size.

The Board considered topics for the Fall newsletter. Staff proposed articles on the yardwaste bag distribution which will occur on two consecutive Saturday mornings, October 14th and 21st, and the results of the Village resident survey. A stormwater article is also required, along with seasonal information. Board members provided other suggestions.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Kelly Stluka was present regarding her request for encroachment or vacation for 645 Woodward Street. The utilities have been located and the information has been given to the Attorney. Staff has provided other information to the Attorney, but an opinion has not yet been forwarded to Village Staff.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance establishing new development review and application fees. A copy of the draft ordinance was provided in the packet for review. (This was deferred from the previous meeting.) Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve a proposal in the amount of \$2,500 from Don Thomas of Baxter and Woodman to amend the comprehensive plan for an area north of the Village prior to implementing an annexation strategy for this area. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

A report was provided in the packet for review on the current development status in the Village.

President Lohmann reported on population forecasts for Will County according to a report he received from the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann commented on an article in the newspaper about the Illinois budget deficit being the largest in the United States.

A report on the third airport/development district was provided. The next meeting is scheduled for August 30th at the Washington Township Center.

An update was provided on the Peotone Access League (PAL). The system was not working for a while and current Board meetings were not being aired. It will have to be determined if new meetings are currently being shown.

The Board considered a request from the Beecher Economic Development Authority (BEDA) to update the retail trade survey at a cost of \$10,000 with the Village providing 2/3 of the cost and the Chamber of Commerce providing the remaining 1/3. A copy of the request was provided in the packet for review. BEDA Chair Nelson Collins stated that he didn't think it would be a problem for the Chamber of Commerce to share in the cost. The exact cost is unknown at this time. President Lohmann asked if the costs could be split equally between the Village and the Chamber of Commerce. BEDA Chair Collins was asked to find out more specifics on the cost and at that time approach the Chamber of Commerce about paying 1/2 instead of 1/3.

The Village will host one final 9-11 service on Monday, September 11th at 8:00 p.m. at the Firemen's Park main stage. The Beecher Part-Time Players have agreed to provide a one hour musical production in support of our troops abroad and our local Police and Fire Departments. The Beecher Police Department is coordinating this event.

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

Board members asked questions about the mowing of empty lots in town, concrete work at a job site and other miscellaneous issues.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:54 p.m. to discuss land acquisition. Trustee Wehling seconded the

motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to return to regular session at 9:17 p.m. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk