

**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
AUGUST 22, 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 and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Paul Mackowiak, Delmar Mueller, Lee and Sally Meyers, and Gayle Jacobs and Jim Maciejewski from Jacobs & Maciejewski Architects.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 8, 2006 Board meeting and August 9, 2006 special meeting. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) Clerk Conner reported that a "Zoning Documents" page has been added to the Village of Beecher's website, which has the Village's Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Land Use Plan, colored Zoning Map, Land Use Map and Transportation Planning Maps available in viewable/printable PDF format. 3) Bills were presented for the Beautification Commission (\$38.00) and the Beecher 4th of July Commission (\$6,670.00). Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$6,708.00 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Lee Meyers of 244 Maple in Prairie Crossings was present and explained

his problems with the retention pond in his subdivision. The retention pond was originally 11'-12' deep and is now only 3'-4' deep and full of silt. He asked that the problems be fixed before the homeowner's association takes over the pond. He questioned if there was to be an aeration fountain in that pond. Administrator Barber stated that an aeration fountain was never proposed for that pond. Mr. Meyers also stated that their street sign is missing letters. The issues of the silt in the pond and signage will be discussed with the Village Engineer and developer, and Staff will get back to Mr. Meyers. Mr. Meyers also asked if a park was supposed to be built in his subdivision. Administrator Barber explained that a park was never planned for that subdivision when it was platted. A donation was given in lieu of park land for that subdivision, to help pay towards a central park facility.

Delmar Mueller of 616 Pasadena was present asking about a problem he is having with his tree. He is concerned that he may have Emerald Ash Borers in a tree on his property due to holes, dead branches, etc. Administrator Barber and Tree Board Chairman Kuhlman will go over to Mr. Mueller's home and take photographs, which will be forwarded to Mark Duntemann and Renee Hildebrandt from the Department of Natural Resources to look at, to try and determine the cause of the damage.

Gayle Jacobs and Jim Maciejewski from Jacobs and Maciejewski Architects provided a presentation on the municipal facilities plan. Board members were shown two sites for a joint Village Hall/Police Department facility. Proposed properties were at Indiana Avenue in front of the Washington Township Center and at the corner of Indiana Avenue and Gould Street. Site plans for both properties were shown with specific cost projections for each site. It was estimated that the property at Indiana Avenue and Gould Street would cost in excess of \$500,000 more to develop than the property by the Washington Township Center due to land acquisition costs and the fact that facilities wouldn't be shared with Public Works which potentially could save space. Board members were asked which site they preferred. Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman preferred the Gould Street site, feeling that the Township site is too far out of the main part of the Village, while Trustees Rehborg, Heldt, Wehling and President Lohmann preferred the Washington Township Center site. The matter was deferred until the next meeting to give the Board more time to think about the options.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

The audit is now about 50% complete and the annual report is ready for printing in the local paper.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chief Weissgerber provided a report on the upcoming 9-11 memorial service. The service is scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11th at the Firemen's Park main stage. In the event of rain, the service will be moved upstairs in the Community Hall. He reported candles will not be used this year.

The Emergency Services Disaster Agency (ESDA) Executive Board is scheduled to meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 31st.

The Board considered a new tree regulation ordinance. Trustee Kuhlman provided a report. Some questions regarding sections of the ordinance as well as references to the enforcement of nuisance trees on private property were discussed. Trustee Kuhlman wanted to add "at least 30' between trees" for Section 7b. Trustee Kuhlman also planned to add some varieties of trees at a later time. A few properties may not be able to put a tree in their parkway due to a gas main location. It was discussed that in future subdivisions possibly requiring the homeowners to pay money at the time certificate of occupancy is issued to pay for planting a parkway tree and the Village would plant the tree for them. The Tree Board will discuss all of these issues further, revise the ordinance and present it to the Board at the September 26th Board meeting.

There is \$2,000 in the budget for new tree plantings this Fall and there are many balled trees at the sewer plant and on the new public works facility property. The School district will take 30-35 of these trees which will leave about 50 trees to be planted this Fall.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Administrator Barber reported that the tree trimming/removal program is moving along. Several more requests for trimming have been received.

The Board considered Trustee assignments for the free yardwaste bag pick-up days. This year, free yardwaste bag pick-up days will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday October 7th and October 21st. Those in the leaf collection zone will get 10 free bags per household and those outside the zone will get 20 free bags. On October 7th Trustees Kuhlman, Rehborg and Ahrendt will work, and on October 21st Trustees Wehling, Heldt, Peterson and President Lohmann will work.

The final Trim Creek Watershed meeting has been rescheduled for October 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Grant Park Village Hall meeting room.

The Board considered the need to fill a vacant Public Works position. Robert Deenik has agreed to work up to 500 hours over this Winter as a snow removal operator, but another operator is still needed. The Board discussed perhaps having Elliott Pequette do part-time park work. Three existing Public Works employees are currently enrolled in school for their water license. An additional person is still needed for plowing, parks, etc. After some discussion, Trustee Ahrendt made the motion to begin the hiring process for a new full-time Public Works employee. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

No report.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that Firemen's Park is being used at different times this month at no charge by not-for-profit organizations for various events.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to award a bid for an amount not to exceed \$125,583.50 to George's Landscaping Services for the installation of two ballfields and walking paths at Welton Stedt Park, 29750 Cardinal Creek Boulevard. Construction would start on September 15th. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize Trustee Wehling to sign an agreement with Design Perspectives in the amount of \$4,000 for a park plan for Nantucket Cove Park. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on Prairie Park. The park has been designed for a \$50,000 first phase implementation. The builder is not responsible to provide the \$50,000 until after the 40th building permit is issued. So far 10 have been issued, so this project will be budgeted for again next year. The Village Engineer will need to make sure that this property is being fine graded and seeded per the agreement prior to the park improvements occurring. Administrator Barber asked if there should be a policy established on naming parks. It may be left up to the Parks and Recreation Committee. This matter will be addressed in the future.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The August 24th Plan Commission meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

The Architectural Review Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, August 28th at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann provided an update on the Third Airport meeting he attended earlier in the day with Senator Debbie Halvorson and representatives from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). IDOT is submitting new plans. The proposed runway has been moved further south of Eagle Lake Road. There is still no eastern access to the airport, as is being requested. A development district is still trying to be established.

Results were provided on the August 9th Joint Taxing Body meeting. The 90-minute meeting produced good

dialog among the taxing bodies. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center.

Administrator Barber will attend a conference the week of September 11th and will not attend the September 12th Board meeting.

H. NEW BUSINESS

President Lohmann asked for status on the generator that is to be checked by Metropolitan Power. Superintendent Cowger indicated he has contacted Metro Power and they still haven't come out yet.

At the last Washington Township meeting, senior programs in the community were discussed. There are no real programs in our community for seniors. When the new restaurant (Maxwells) opens up, President Lohmann is hoping to hold a senior breakfast and set up future programs for seniors. President Lohmann is also hoping to allocate future money for youth programs.

President Lohmann asked about the sidewalk on Church Road at Prairie Park and why it has not already been installed. Staff will address this issue with the Village Engineer.

The traffic light at Chestnut is scheduled for installation in Spring 2007.

President Lohmann reported that *The Daily Journal* had a headline in the "Region" section that evening with builder Ron Reichert blasting Beecher saying he is now building in Grant Park because he can no longer afford to build in Beecher and that Beecher's fees are too high. President Lohmann felt it was not proper to blast the Village the way Mr. Reichert did.

Administrator Barber had a photo of what the new wellhouse will look like in Hunters Chase.

Trustee Ahrendt expressed concerns about some foundations that appear to be too high in Hunters Chase East. Administrator Barber said this is being closely watched but he will bring the matter to the building inspectors' attention and have the inspectors look at the specific foundations she was talking about.

It was reported that the trees coming into the Preserve at Cardinal Creek Subdivision off of Church Road are dead.

A lot of work is being done at the new Junior High School site. Board members were encouraged to drive by and view progress.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk