

**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
OCTOBER 10, 2006 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Lohmann called the meeting to order.

Due to the absence of Clerk Conner, Trustee Peterson made a motion to appoint Julie Riechers as Clerk Pro-Tem. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: President Lohmann and Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling(arrived at 7:40 p.m.), Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger, Engineer Ray Koenig, Code Enforcement Office Julie Riechers and Attorney Tim Kuiper.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Lee and Sally Meyers, Tom Stluka, Brian Cleary, Village Auditor Pete Skinger, Pete Rietveld, Bob and Vickie Polarek, Mike Stanula, Wayne Wiechen, John Weisel, Mitch Cadwallader, Brian and Danna Neville, Laura Voss, David Serafin, Dennis Dooley and Tom Brislane.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the September 26, 2006 Board meeting. Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Rehborg.

Motion carried.

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

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Lee Meyers, resident of Prairie Crossings, was present to discuss the dry and wet pond issues on the east side of Hawthorn Street in Prairie Crossings. Engineer Koenig said that nine trees will be replaced. A Homeowners Association was discussed. Engineer Koenig will make sure that all work is completed by the developer prior to the maintenance bond expiring in June, 2007. Administrator Barber said the homeowners in Prairie Crossings should decide what and how to maintain ponds.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT: 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 \$179,816.77 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 Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Treasurer Collins reported on the Certificates of Deposit (CDs) that are on deposit with local banks. Treasurer Collins stated that a new account has been established for Police programs such as PAKT, bike rodeo, babysitting class, etc.

Village Auditor Pete Skinger was present to discuss the 2005/2006 audit. The financial status of the Village is in great shape. Administrator Barber commented on page 4 of the audit regarding governmental activities.

Trustee Wehling arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Trustee Peterson made a motion to accept the audit for Fiscal Year 2005/2006, as performed by Pete Skinger. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Staff recommended sending a letter of support for the development district legislation and a seven member airport authority to be approved by the Illinois General Assembly if the airport is to be constructed.

Trustee Peterson made a motion to participate in a joint rapid response task force for future pension legislation and commit \$250 for an actuarial study of the Village to determine impacts of proposed pension legislation on the Village as an employer. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to appoint Administrator Barber as the liaison to the joint rapid response task force. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion carried.

A draft of the Capital Improvements Plan was provided for review. Administrator Barber explained an idea to increase sales tax by .5%, and thus eliminating Village stickers. Groceries, car sales, and prescription drugs would be exempt from the increase. The revenue from the sales tax increase would fund road improvements. If implemented, a referendum would have to be passed in November, 2007.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

An update was provided for the Tree Board. \$2,000 is budgeted for new trees which are to be planted in November, 2006. Locations need to be staked and a contractor hired to deliver and plant the trees.

President Lohmann vetoed the proposed Ordinance #1052, an ordinance establishing a Beecher Tree Board, and provided a written explanation for his veto. The Ordinance will need to be amended in order to be adopted. Trustee Rehborg asked about the need for a Tree Board, since there is already a Streets and Alleys Committee. President Lohmann would like to abolish the Tree Board, recommending that the Streets and Alleys Committee take over regulation of trees. Trustee Rehborg asked questions regarding the definition of a tree lawn. A question was raised about duplicating an ordinance that already exists. Trustee Heldt commented regarding going on private property, and asked for clarification regarding what defined a nuisance. President Lohmann asked Trustee Kuhlman to redraft the ordinance or forget it. Trustee Kuhlman stated that he has done all he can. Trustee Ahrendt asked Superintendent Cowger if Public Works could handle taking over the Tree Committee. Eighty trees are scheduled to be planted. Beecher has received Tree City U.S.A. status for 18 years. The Tree Board included Landis Wehling, Superintendent Cowger, Darlene Uttenbogard, Roger Heldt and Angie Kramer.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Engineer Koenig provided status on the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) projects. Engineer Koenig commented that the projects are going well. However, due to an engineer error, the Melrose Lane project is \$20,000 over budget.

It was reported that over 300 residents came for their free yard waste bags on the first distribution day held on Saturday, October 7th.

Superintendent Cowger reported that tree stumps will be removed by Arnold's Tree Service. The leaf collection machine has been serviced and is ready to begin leaf pickup on October 16th. The hydrant at Catalpa and Birch will be repaired this week. President Lohmann asked about the water by Heritage FS Elevator. Superintendent Cowger will look into the matter.

There is a dispute over the location of the alley between Elm and Penfield, between Mr. Behrens' and Mr. Claus' property. A plat of survey will be taken. President Lohmann asked who would be paying for the survey.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

No more complaints have been received regarding the odor from the Sewer Treatment Plant.

The Board considered a request from Schudt and Associates for water and sewer service to an unincorporated area for the proposed Prairie Meadows Subdivision, to a minimum of 40 units. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to deny the request for water and sewer service extension to the Prairie Meadows Subdivision. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Heldt.

Motion carried.

Engineer Koenig provided the following updates:

- A. Well #5 will be up for bids in January, 2007, with an opening date of February 20th, 2007. The project would then be completed by August 31, 2007.
- B. The water system master plan is being funded by a surcharge being placed on new developments, as agreed upon in 2005.
- C. The work for the area #1 sewer rehab project has been completed, although the Village has not yet been billed the \$53,000 for this portion of the work. The Engineer will review the tapes to make sure that the lines were properly slip-lined.
- D. The area #2 sewer rehab investigation has been completed. All sanitary sewers between Trim Creek and the railroad tracks have been cleaned and televised. The Engineer has submitted a final report recommending \$315,425 in repairs. The Village has committed about \$75,000 each year for sanitary sewer rehab work.
- E. The Dunbar Street/Miller Street watermain replacement project is nearing completion and restoration is set to begin.

An update was provided on the comprehensive water and sewer ordinance revision. The ordinance will be discussed at the October 24th Board meeting for consideration at the November 14th Board meeting.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that the dugout materials have been put in the garage at Firemen's Park.

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park. Watermains will be run to the concession stands. Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing Public Works to purchase the material and contract Lange Trucking and Excavating to trench water service to Welton Stedt Park, for an amount not to exceed \$9,000. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

The storage issue to house Village documents was tabled until the October 24th Board meeting.

The Board considered an AIA contract with JMA and Associates for the design and construction observation of the new Public Works facility. It was stated that a lot of time should be spent in considering this project so that it is done right. This matter was tabled until the October 24th meeting.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The MGM Development request for referral to the Plan Commission of a preliminary Planned Unit Development (PUD) has been deferred at the request of the petitioner until at least the October 24th Board meeting.

Architect Mike Stanula provided a plan for a new strip mall to be located at 981 Dixie Highway, between First Community Bank and Trust and First National Bank of Grant Park. The Beecher Plan Commission reviewed this proposal and approved the final PUD subject to only one drive-through on the south side of the building, and approval of the Village Planner and Engineer before the issuance of a building permit. The plan provides for 75 parking spaces. A 10" watermain would be run from Chestnut Lane and the Village would provide a waiver for tap-in fees. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the PUD at 981 Dixie Highway, as proposed. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to proceed with further legal action against Bud VonAlven for failure to improve the former Wehmhoefer Hardware building located at 606 Gould Street. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Engineer Koenig provided updates on the following subdivision issues:

- A. The Knuth strip mall building is being constructed and drainage improvements are being made at the back end of the property.
- B. Status was provided regarding the MGM Development lift station electrification.
- C. Engineer Koenig is waiting for Bill Reichert to make restorations to the Prairie Pointe North retention pond.
- D. Status was provided regarding the Hunter's Chase West ponds and their failure to drain.
- E. Permits need to be obtained for the pedestrian crossing lights at Church Road and Dixie Highway.
- F. The Montalbano Homes wet bottom ponds drain to an undersized 6" pipe at Rietveld's.
- G. Engineer Koenig will check to make sure that all work has been completed on the Knuth mini-warehouse detention ponds.
- H. The final lift on streets in the original Hunter's Chase Subdivision has been completed.
- I. Engineer Koenig provided status on the gap in the sidewalk on Church Road.
- J. The tile has been repaired regarding rear yard flooding issues off the farm field in the 200 block of Pine Street in Prairie Crossings.
- K. (There was no Item #K)
- L. Engineer Koenig reported on the Prairie Crossings unit #1 wet bottom pond silting in and erosion issues.
- M. Martisek's have granted permission for the Village to enter their property on Dixie Highway and fill it in with black dirt to an elevation which would allow his pond to drain. A contractor needs to be obtained that will grade this black dirt.
- N. Public Works has removed the scrub trees in the easement in the rear of 267 and 271 Pine Street in Prairie Crossings. Staff is pursuing Comcast to bury the cables. The homeowners also need to final grade the rear yards and install drainage swales.
- O. The sidewalk along Church Road at Hunter's Chase East needs to be connected with Pheasant Chase Circle.
- P. The MGM lift station backup power generator does not have gas service and cannot operate.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported that a free Senior breakfast will be held on Wednesday, October 18th at Cardinal Creek Golf Course.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Peterson made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:30 p.m. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to return to regular session at 9:47 p.m. Trustee Heldt 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 Heldt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.
AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Julie Riechers
Village Clerk Pro-Tem