

**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  
NOVEMBER 28, 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, Superintendent of Public Works Harold "Bud" Cowger, Treasurer Nelson Collins and Lieutenant Rick Emerson.

**GUESTS:** Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Tom Stluka, David Laster, Tom Brislane, Stephanie Loftin, Kathy Rago, Brian and Danna Neville, Don McWhorter, Dan Walsh and Vickie Polarek.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 14, 2006 Board meeting. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) Bills were presented for the Beecher 4<sup>th</sup> of July Commission (\$458.30) and the Beautification Commission (\$113.67). Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$571.97 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.

## **A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

A public hearing was held at 7:03 p.m. to consider a tax levy for 2006 collectible in 2007.

ORDINANCE #1054 - An ordinance adopting a tax levy for 2006 collectible in 2007. Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1054. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

Comcast advised the Village of a 3.6% rate increase effective January 1, 2007. A copy of the letter was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to cancel the December 26, 2006 regular Village Board meeting and authorize a special Village Board meeting to be held on March 20, 2007. This is standard practice over the holiday week and the make-up meeting for the year is in March when the budget workshop will be held. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the proposed 0.5% sales tax referendum. Public hearings are scheduled for December 12, 2006 and January 9, 2007 at the Village Board meetings. President Lohmann will make presentations at these hearings and handouts will be distributed for review. President Lohmann will also speak at the January Chamber of Commerce meeting. The referendum will be voted on April 3, 2007.

Vehicle stickers go on sale December 1<sup>st</sup>. Residents will be able to purchase stickers by mail for a \$2.00 processing fee. A mailer to all residents will be sent out this week.

The Board considered a Special Census to be conducted in the fall of 2007. Administrator Barber explained the possible reasons for a Special Census. It would be needed in order to capture new tax money due to new homes built in the Village. A memo was provided in the packet explaining that the Village would most likely be able to cover the approximate cost of \$80,000 to conduct the Special Census, by gaining additional tax money that would be collected due to increased population. Administrator Barber wanted the Board to be aware of this. No action was taken at this time.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Lieutenant Emerson reported that the Spring Senior Breakfast sponsored by Washington Township and hosted by the Police Department is scheduled for March 15, 2007 at Cardinal Creek Golf Course. Lieutenant Emerson stated that he hopes to have speakers from the Illinois Department of Aging and the Department of Revenue.

Lieutenant Emerson reported on the Lunch with a Cop Program for the grade school student of the month. Other youth programs being arranged are: During the Beecher Recreation basketball program, to reward children for their participation; January 20<sup>th</sup> a movie night will be held at the Beecher Community Hall; February 9<sup>th</sup> open bowling will be held; March 17<sup>th</sup> an open skate will be held at the Lynwood Skating Rink; a paint ball day to be held at a date to be determined; May 4<sup>th</sup> a Museum of Science and Industry overnight trip; May 18<sup>th</sup> Joliet Jackhammers baseball game; June 11-15 Police Camp. Trustee Wehling commended the Police Department for doing a great job on setting up these various programs.

## **C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE**

An update on the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) road resurfacing project was provided. The landscaping has finally been completed.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that 58 loads of leaves were collected this year and the leaf collection program has come to an end. Trustee Rehborg commended Public Works on the leaf pickup program.

The Board considered authorizing the removal of a 35' blue spruce tree behind the Veterans Memorial at the northwest corner of Reed and Penfield Streets. Several members of the Beautification Commission believe that this tree has become too large for decorating and takes up too much room behind the memorial. If the tree is removed, smaller trees in a grouping would take its place. Some Trustees felt the tree was a healthy, old tree and shouldn't be removed. It was the consensus of the Board not to cut the tree down.

RESOLUTION #2006-14 - A Resolution authorizing the Village's participation in the Will County Intergovernmental Public Works Resource Sharing Agreement. This is a more formal way of establishing a network for rapid response to pleas for help from Public Works departments in Will County in the event of an emergency, such as an ice storm, tornado, high winds, floods, etc. A copy of the agreement was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Heldt made a motion to adopt Resolution #2006-14. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered a tree planting policy for new subdivisions. The Board reviewed a copy of the policy, which was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Kuhlman commented on some of the trees listed on the policy as not being appropriate for a parkway. No action was taken on this matter.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the purchase of a new snowplow to replace the 1990 GMC plow, in the amount of \$7,700. Superintendent Cowger explained the need for a new snowplow. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

#### **D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE**

Superintendent Cowger reported that the Dunbar/Miller Streets watermain restoration is on-going and that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to authorize the purchase of a new utility billing system in the amount of \$11,450 with an annual \$1,200 maintenance fee. Clerk Conner and Utility Billing Technician Riechers solicited proposals for a new billing system. The current system is 10 years old and needs to be replaced since the Village has outgrown this system. It was determined that the proposal from CUSI of Jonesboro, Arkansas was the most cost-effective alternative for upgrading the system. Clerk Conner explained the proposal which was included under separate cover in each packet. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

#### **E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Wehling provided an update on the OSLAD Grant. Administrator Barber will be going to Springfield November 29<sup>th</sup> to attend a mandatory grant workshop at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). A proposal has been received from Design Perspectives, Inc. to administer the grant project and the fee is currently being negotiated by Trustee Wehling. Trustee Rehborg asked where the Village would come up with the matching funds for the OSLAD grant? The Board discussed a \$200,000 installment contract. Trustee Wehling will work with Administrator Barber to discuss the options for funding the project.

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park. The weather has not cooperated for this project, which may be delayed until Spring 2007. A meeting will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the conditions of the field.

An update was provided on Nantucket Cove Park and Prairie Park. Staff hopes to bid out Nantucket Cove Park with Prairie Park in the Spring to get a better price.

## **F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

MGM Development's request for referral of an amended Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the Preserve at Cardinal Creek has been postponed once again at the request of the petitioner until the December 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Staff met with MGM representatives last week and a new site plan was still not ready for submission.

MGM has again been advised that the property at 460 Fairway Drive needs to be cleaned-up and re-graded. MGM stated that they would comply but to-date no action has been taken. Administrator Barber commented that a long form complaint could be filed.

Beecher Economic Development Authority Chairman Nelson Collins provided a report on the breakfast meeting that was held with some business owners to get a feel for the business climate in Beecher. Dan Walsh commented on problems with the unreliable phone and data line service at his business. The reliability of utilities was an issue discussed at the breakfast.

President Lohmann stated that a hearing on the land use plan for the future of the Village of Beecher will be held on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Board members were encouraged to attend. The land use plan to be discussed is for the area to the north of Beecher to Goodenow Road. Administrator Barber asked what he should tell property owners who want to annex their land in the future what their impact fees would be? This is an issue that has been debated by the Board in the past. No decision was made.

## **G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Lohmann provided an update on the Third Airport. President Lohmann attended a meeting last week pertaining to the proposed airport authority and he has a copy of the Bill being proposed at the State level, which would establish the authority.

The next intergovernmental meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2007. President Lohmann invited Attorney Lou Vitello to speak about TIF districts.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

Administrator Barber requested an executive session to discuss land acquisition and invited School Board member Tom Stluka to attend the executive session.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Heldt made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss land acquisition. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to return to regular session at 9:22 p.m. Trustee Wehling 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 Wehling seconded the motion.  
AYES: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Ahrendt and Heldt.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner, Village Clerk