

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
BEECHER VILLAGE BOARD WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JULY 31ST AT 7:00 P.M.
BEECHER VILLAGE HALL, 724 PENFIELD STREET**

AGENDA

The following agenda items were created by specific Board members and the Village President:

I. CONSIDER A TEMPLATE ANNEXATION AGREEMENT AND A LISTING OF PROPOSED IMPACT AND/OR ANNEXATION FEES TO BE PROVIDED TO DEVELOPER INTERESTS. The template agreement is enclosed. The Village Board has never been able to pass a motion approving these fees. What are the fees? Should be the lower or higher? Should each project be considered separately and if so, how do we provide a starting number?

II. CONSIDER AN ARCHITECTURAL CODE/LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE FOR ALL DEVELOPMENT NOT UNDER A CURRENT ANNEXATION AGREEMENT. There are some Board members who want such ordinances to apply to all new homes, while there are other who just want to include them in new annexation agreements. In all honesty, an ordinance would only apply to Prairie Crossings South since this is the only subdivision not under a development or annexation agreement. The latest version of the arch. code and landscape ordinance is enclosed for your review.

III. FUTURE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BEECHER. The BEDA Board has been abolished and an economic development coordinator has been hired. A Committee of the Board has been formed to pick up where BEDA left off. However, this Committee does not know what the Board wants. What type of business or industry do you want? We can't be out there bringing in prospects if they are going to be shot down because the Board does not want them. What type of businesses or retail is lacking in Beecher? Would we support competing businesses such as another gas station, liquor store or grocery store? What about a truck terminal? Should we be out there trying to fill empty store fronts such as the new lease space on the highway? What do we do with the old Knuth building? Do we want a more aggressive grant program and where is the money going to come from? What type of incentives are you willing to support?

IV. FUTURE OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN THE VILLAGE. We are now accepting and building new parks in subdivisions without a revenue stream to pay for them. Should we be using tax dollars for this purpose and by whose authority? Is there another revenue source or user fee? Does Beecher Recreation need more resources and should more oversight come with these resources? Commission status would increase our insurance risk and change the way Beecher Rec does business. Why is the Village funding programs which benefit non-residents?

V. STATUS OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES FOR THE VILLAGE. There has recently been concerns expressed over the level of Village spending. Revenues are going flat or declining and expenses have ramped up in the past few years to meet the demands of new growth. A hiring freeze appears prudent through 2010 and staff levels of all departments should remain the same until FY 2011. We also need to prepare for sewer plant expansion in 2012.

Another concern of the Board is the lack of a capital spending policy. The Finance Committee has met and will be proposing a resolution adopting a new capital spending policy for employees at the workshop.

VI. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON A COMBINED MUNICIPAL FACILITY. Not all Board members are in agreement on the overall plan for this facility. The reasons behind this disagreement should be discussed so that we can try to work through the problem and reach common ground. There also needs to be mutual respect for all points of view on this matter.

VII. IS THERE A NEED OF A STRATEGIC PLAN? After the June 26th Village Board meeting, it was obvious to staff that there are differing points of view on the Board and it appears that not all of the sides of an issue understand each other. Is there a communication problem and if so, what can be done to correct it? Can we all agree on a list of goals and objectives for the employees to pursue? For example, if the Beautification Committee disbands in the future, is the Village committed to continue the programs which this committee has started? Can we all agree on an absorption rate for new housing? We plan for community of 22,000 in the year 2030, but do we all want the town to get that big? If we don't, then why do we not say so in the comprehensive plan? We are sending mixed signals to the public and to the development community if we say one thing and do another. This allows other communities, like the Village of Crete, to take advantage of our mixed signals. \$10,000 was budgeted for a strategic planning process but this will also take the commitment of time and a commitment for honest and open dialogue from each of the participants.