

**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
JANUARY 23, 2007 -- 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, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Engineer Ray Koenig, Building Inspector Bill Blanke, Treasurer Nelson Collins and Attorney Tim Kuiper.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Ken Hameister, Chuck Hoehn, Greg Szymanski, Brian and Danna Neville, Tom Brislane, Christina and Tim Smith, Terry and Phyllis Zeilenga, Dan Walsh and Stephanie Loftin.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 9, 2007 Board meeting and Public Hearing. 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.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Peterson.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given.2) Bills were presented for the Beecher Beautification Commission. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$527.63 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Ken Hameister from the Fourth of July Commission showed plans to construct a new food stand in Firemen's Park. The Commission plans to tear down the old food stand and connect the new building to the existing vendor building that was built a few years ago. The estimated cost is \$50,000-\$60,000 for the project. The new building would comply with Health Department requirements. Trustee Rehborg asked about when more walkways would be paved in Firemen's Park and if the food stand project would consume all of the Fourth of July Commission's funds. Construction of the food stand would begin after the August 2007 Lion's Club Beef Roast. Trustee Wehling suggested that the plans be shown to the Park Board before the Village Board approves the project. The proposed plans will be shown to the Park Board and then come back to the Village Board for approval.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

ORDINANCE #1055 – An ordinance establishing referendum questions for increasing the municipal sales tax by 0.5% for the purposes of providing for public infrastructure improvements as provided by State Law for the April 17th municipal elections. A copy of the draft ordinance was provided in the packet for review. An opinion was also obtained from the Village Attorney that the Village could hold a referendum to increase the tax by a full 1%. President Lohmann noted that if the tax were increased by 1% the Village could eliminate business licenses, liquor licenses, and contractor's licenses for local contractors. The Board discussed the tax of titled vehicles since it is not subject to the sales tax increase that is proposed. There was discussion as to whether it would hurt the referendum if the Village switches from 0.5% to 1% at this time. Attorney Kuiper provided his opinion on these issues. Trustee Rehborg commented that he wanted time to think about this and possibly hold a special meeting to consider this matter. Much discussion followed. Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve Ordinance #1055 establishing a referendum question asking for an increase of 0.5% in the municipal sales tax. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department Annual Report for 2006 was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve an intergovernmental agreement with the Beecher School District for the use of a School Resource Officer for the 2007-2008 school year. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Board considered payment in the amount of \$308,067.48 to Iroquois Paving for the 2006 resurfacing project using Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds. The original amount of this contract was \$446,828.75 and the final invoice is for \$437,778.90, so the project came in \$9,045.85 under bid. After a meeting between staff, President Lohmann, the contractor and the Village Engineer, it was recommended to retain \$129,711.42 until May, 2007, to see how the job looks at that time. Iroquois Paving has agreed to replace the final lift on all of the streets if there is any type of failure which exceeds state standards at that time. Board members asked about some of the problems with the paving of certain streets and the quality of some of the work. Trustee Heldt commented that it was the worst paving job the Village has ever had. Engineer Koenig recommended approval of the payment. Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve the payment to Iroquois Paving in the amount of \$308,067.48. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

It was learned that Beecher has been designated as a Tree City for 2006.

No Public Works Superintendent report was available due to a death in the Superintendent's family.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The Public Works Department Annual Report for 2006 was provided for review.

The Sewer Department Annual Report for 2006 was provided in the packet for review.

A report on water billed vs. water pumped and water treated for 2006 was provided in the packet for review.

A 10" main will be run to Chestnut, to accommodate water service to the Beecher Plaza on Dixie Highway.

Engineer Koenig reported on the following:

- A. Well #5 – There has been a delay from ComEd. Work should be done by the 1st week in May.
- B. Country Lane watermain – There were 13 bids received for this job.
- C. Completion of improvements in the area #1 sanitary rehab - Closeout documents have been sent to George Kennedy Construction. Engineer Koenig is still getting further information on the project for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

D. There was nothing new on the response to the IEPA Review letter on Phase I sewer plant expansion.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to accept a bid from M & J Underground in the amount of \$182,000 for the Country Lane watermain project from Dixie Highway to Catalpa. 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 suspend the application process for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for 2008. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that the Park Board will meet on February 15th with Design Perspectives as a kickoff meeting for the grant project.

The Welton Stedt Park project will begin as soon as the weather breaks.

An update was provided on the municipal facilities master plan and Public Works facility design. Administrator Barber recommended delaying groundbreaking for the new Public Works facility until 2008 so the Village does not have to borrow money to complete the project.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to refer the MGM Planned Unit Development amendment request to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their January 25th meeting. This item was placed on the agenda again at the advice of the Village Attorney. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on January 25th. Their agenda items include the MGM Planned Unit Development amendment request, a continued public hearing on the new land use plan for areas north of the Village, and consideration of a final plat of subdivision for Creekside located on the Crescenzo property. The Planning and Zoning Commission will also discuss amending the zoning ordinance pertaining to the Village Board referral process.

The Building Department Annual Report for 2006 was provided in the packet for review. Building Inspector Bill Blanke was present to answer questions from the Board.

The Code Enforcement Annual Report for 2006 was provided in the packet for review.

Engineer Koenig provided status on the Hunter's Chase West ponds and their failure to drain. Engineer Koenig reported that two tiles were opened to help the ponds drain properly. This is a temporary fix until further work can be done. Dan Walsh of Children's Plus asked questions about this since water from this pond flooded his building recently. Mr. Walsh expressed concern about the problem getting fixed properly. Mr. Walsh was advised by the engineer to fill the drain tile under his building with grout.

Status was provided on the creation of a Prairie Crossings Homeowner's Association and outstanding issues in that subdivision. The administrator stated that a meeting was held on January 18th with many of the homeowners. It appears that they do not want to create a homeowner's association. They want to give the common areas to the Village for maintenance and the Village would create an assessment on the homeowners in that area for maintenance costs. President Lohmann expressed concerns about the Village's liability of the wet pond if people use it for swimming, fishing, etc. The Board discussed having the pond deeded over to the Village. The consensus of the Board preferred to put the assessment on the tax bill. Trustee Ahrendt asked if we could get the homeowners to take ownership to the center of the pond like in Hunter's Chase. The Board discussed entry signs in the subdivision that are falling apart and need to be repaired. If the Village takes over the common areas, a bill will probably have to be sent out to the homeowners in the first year until the special assessment can be added to the tax bill. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15th at 7:00 p.m. At that meeting the Prairie Crossings residents will vote on whether or not to create a homeowner's association.

The Board continued their discussion on the creation of a new suggested annexation agreement. The Board discussed who would make the judgment call on what would comply with the point system and enforcement of what is agreed to. There is a need to come up with criteria for the point system that improves the quality of the product.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Board considered hiring Marcy Meyer as a part-time annexation strategist for properties north and west of the Village, at a rate of \$1,500 per month. Marcy would be a liaison between the property owners and the Village when new developments or annexations are discussed. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the hiring of Marcy Meyer as a part-time annexation strategist. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

The next intergovernmental meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30th.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk