

**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
FEBRUARY 27, 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 and Treasurer Nelson Collins.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Tom Brislane, Chuck Hoehn, Greg Szymanski, Joe Gardner, Larry Hameister, Ken Hameister, Don McWhorter, Tom Stluka, Bill Voss, John Popp (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Attorney George Arnold, Kevin Bouchard and Warren Opperman.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 23, 2007 Board meeting and January 30, 2007 Joint Taxing Body meeting. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was noted that the previous Board meeting (February 13th) was cancelled due to a snowstorm.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given.2) Bills were presented for the Beecher 4th of July Commission(\$19,637.36) and Beautification Commission(\$190.00). Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$19,827.36 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) A request from Southstar Services to solicit on street corners for their Candy Days on Friday, May 11th and Saturday, May 12th was approved by consensus of the Board. A copy of their request was provided in the Clerk's Report for review.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Tom Brislane announced that a candidate's forum would be held on April 1st at the Beecher Community Hall for the citizens of the town to get to know the candidates for the April 17th election.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A list of bills totalling \$179,650.46 was available for review. Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board and the Treasurer was present to answer any questions.

The Board considered the publication of a special newsletter to provide information on the advantages and disadvantages of the referendum for a 0.5% sales tax increase. Trustee Peterson stated that he would like to see the summary that is on the back page of the proposed newsletter moved to the front page. Staff agreed to make the change. Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the newsletter on the referendum with the noted change. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 2007-01 - A Resolution authorizing the Village President to enter into a 13 month electric purchasing agreement through NIMEC for electric use in the water and sewer systems. This was to be considered at the February 13th meeting but since the meeting was cancelled, an emergency Resolution was issued so that the electric rates could go out to bid in time. All Board members were polled and approved the emergency Resolution. Administrator Barber reported that bids were opened earlier in the day and the Village will save \$8,000 on electric rates in 2007 over ComEd rates. Trustee Peterson made a motion to adopt the Emergency Resolution. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the previous month were included in the packet for review. Trustee Peterson commented that building permit receipts were down.

The first draft of the budget will be released to the Board at the March 13th meeting. A workshop on the budget will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd beginning at 6:00 p.m. Administrator Barber offered to provide a copy of the budget to election candidates because they will have to deal with the budget in the future. The Board members felt it would be a good idea to provide the candidates with a copy of the budget.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The animal control program report for 2006 was provided in the packet for review. The total cost of the 2006 program was \$1,454.

Chief Weissgerber gave results of the Emergency Services Disaster Agency (ESDA) executive quarterly meeting that was held on January 31st. They worked on setting up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Washington Township Center.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the youth bowling was well attended on February 9th and was a big success. In March a skating event is scheduled to be held at Lynwood Skating Rink, and a senior breakfast is also planned to be held at the Cardinal Creek Golf Course on March 15th.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Public Works annual report was provided for review. Trustee Wehling asked about when the dugouts would be completed in Firemen's Park. Public Works Superintendent Cowger provided comments and answered questions about his time line on getting this done. Superintendent Cowger commended the Public Works crew on their job plowing during the recent snow storms.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the sewer jetter froze and ruptured the previous week. This was in response to Trustee Heldt questioning why a Richton Park Public Works truck was in town recently.

Star Disposal is scheduled to change the curbside recycling dates so that the entire town is picked up on the same Monday, still alternating every other week.

RESOLUTION #2007-02 - A Resolution of indemnification for municipal work on state rights of way.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to adopt Resolution #2007-02. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered alternatives for the brush collection program. A meeting was held last week and Public Works is leaning towards getting a brush chipper to reduce the costs charged by Star Disposal for disposing of branches.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

Engineer Koenig reported on the Country Lane watermain project. Trustee Rehborg asked Engineer Koenig how much time the bad weather set the contractor back.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling made a motion to affirm the decision of the Committee Chair to submit a grant application in the amount of \$28,800 for the construction of a maintenance shed and concession stand in Welton Stedt Park. This grant would require a match of 50% from the Park Fund for a total project cost of \$56,400 in 2007. Trustee Wehling showed the layout of the plans and explained the project. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the demolition of the old food stand and begin construction of a new food stand in Firemen's Park in August, 2007. The Park Board met February 15th and made this recommendation. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was decided no action will be taken on the bid award for the Nantucket Cove/Prairie Park installation until the Committee can meet with the two developers to discuss the bids. Trustee Wehling reported that he wants to make sure developers in the future pay to improve their parks.

An updated plan for the municipal facilities was provided. Administrator Barber asked that the issue be raised again to consider to build a Public Works/Village Hall annex (combined) since the Police Department and Village Hall are currently cramped for space. There is a need to know for planning purposes. Space could also be leased for a Village Hall facility to give the Police Department more room. The Board will think about the matter, which will be considered again at the next Board meeting.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the proposal for two port-a-johns at Firemen's Park and one port-a-john at Lion's Park for the 2007 season in the amount of \$1,365 from J&P in Peotone. Trustee

Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Board considered a final plat of subdivision for Unit 1 of Creekside. Larry Hameister answered some questions about an agreement made when he built his business, that he have two access points off Linden if he loses his Route #1 access (at L&H Services building) since the new subdivision hopes to have a Route #1 entrance. Administrator Barber commented that the Creekside plan calls for a homeowner's association and the development has more ponds and maintenance requirements than Prairie Crossings, where there has been many problems in trying to get the residents to form a homeowner's association. Creekside's Attorney, George Arnold addressed some of the Board's questions about a Special Service Area (SSA) and other issues. The issue of a Route #1 curb cut needs to be addressed and to possibly do a study of the 27 acres the Village would have to maintain. Trustee Ahrendt recommended tabling approval of the plat of Creekside Subdivision until some unresolved issues are better addressed by the developer. The matter was tabled and will be put on the agenda for the March 13th Board meeting to give the developer time to address the issues as follows: Larry Hameister negotiations for driveway access, maintenance of 27 acres within the subdivision and engineering issues.

ORDINANCE #1056 - An ordinance amending the land use plan north and west of the Village. The Plan Commission, after two public hearings, has unanimously recommended approval of the amended plan. Administrator Barber explained the changes made to the plan since the last one had been approved. Marcy Meyer is working on meeting with residents north and west of the Village to discuss pre-annexation agreements with them. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1056. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the MGM Development Planned Unit Development (PUD) proposal. The Plan Commission held a public hearing on the site plan as it was submitted by MGM. Another public hearing is to be held. At the last Plan Commission meeting, MGM brought a different plan than they previously proposed.

A copy of a letter stating what services the Soil and Water Conservation District provides was included in the packet for review.

Engineer Koenig provided reports on the following:

- A. Larry Martisek's ponding water
- B. The drainage of Hunter's Chase West ponds
- C. Street lights for Cardinal Creek Boulevard - The developer is not required to put lights in the area near the new Junior High School. The Village will have to put up lights. It was agreed by the Board to be consistent with the subdivision, acorn lights will have to be installed. President Lohmann asked if the school would contribute a portion of the cost since they would benefit. Approximately 4-5 lights would be needed.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize Administrator Barber to submit a proposal on the installation of street lights on Cardinal Creek Boulevard. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported on the Prairie Crossings Homeowner's Association meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for March 15th. It was determined that this subdivision could not be established as a SSA because it is too late.

Engineer Koenig reported on some drainage issues in Prairie Crossings, mostly being caused by the homeowner or developer changing grades. Sump pumps are being discharged into dry bottom ponds keeping them wet. Entrance signs need repairs and President Lohmann offered that the Village will repair them this one time only. Administrator Barber noted a letter that was distributed to homeowners in Prairie Crossings commenting on what the Village will and has done, but since the letter is not signed the issues cannot be addressed.

President Lohmann provided an update on the third airport, commenting that the State is out of money to purchase ground for the airport. The state is looking to appropriate more money. Two plans were submitted to the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) and they only want one.

A report was provided on the Centerpoint project. Centerpoint has purchased some 800 acres south of Crete. A meeting was held by the Village of Crete on February 26th, and another will be held on March 1st. Trustees were encouraged to attend the meetings on Centerpoint.

An update was provided on the Illiana expressway. The State of Indiana is buying property between Cedar Lake and Lowell.

RESOLUTION #2007-03 - A Resolution of participation in the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to adopt Resolution #2007-03. Trustee Wehling

seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann reported that Doug Short verbally resigned from the Plan Commission. He then appointed Phil Serviss as a replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the appointment of Phil Serviss to the Plan Commission. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Jeanette O'Grady will be resigning as Plan Commission Secretary. President Lohmann plans to appoint Marcy Meyer to replace Mrs. O'Grady. The Board will give her a plaque to honor her years of service.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber asked Tom Stluka about the school property on the west end of the Village and what they would want the property zoned upon annexation. Tom Stluka indicated that Ag zoning would be okay. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize drafting of an annexation agreement with the School District. Trustee Rehborg 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 Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk