

**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  
APRIL 10, 2007 -- 7:20 P.M.**

The Village Board meeting began immediately after the Washington Township Annual Town meeting at 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 and Ahrendt.

**ABSENT:** Trustee Heldt.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger and Attorney Tim Kuiper.

**GUESTS:** Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Dennis Koehn, Tom Stluka, Lee and Sally Meyers, Brian Cleary, Bill Voss, Greg Szymanski, Kevin Bouchard, Bob Howard, Tom Brislane, Richard Hurling and Paul Toepfer.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 27, 2007 Board meeting. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

**AYES:** (4) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, and Ahrendt.

**NAYS:** (0) None.

**ABSTAIN:** (1) Trustee Peterson.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the April 3, 2007 budget meeting. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Lee Meyers of 284 Maple thanked the Village for helping get the Prairie Crossings Homeowner's Association organized and for fixing their subdivision sign.

Drew Beck of 607 Miller, representing Beecher Recreation, said that in the past the Village helped with some funding for Beecher Recreation and requested a donation to pay for umpire fees. Mr. Beck also plans to approach Washington Township and ask for funds. President Lohmann asked Attorney Kuiper if the Village could cover Beecher Recreation under our insurance plan to save them some money. Attorney Kuiper stated that they could only be covered if they were a commission appointed by the Village. Bob Howard, Washington Township Supervisor voiced his concerns that perhaps the park district issue needs to be re-addressed. Mr. Beck, Mr. Howard and Trustee Wehling were asked to get together and discuss this issue. Trustee Wehling asked if the Board would consider taking \$5,500 out of the Park Fund to help out Beecher Recreation. President Lohmann wants to see Beecher Recreation's budget and how their money is spent before making a donation. It was decided that Mr. Beck will provide a copy of the budget to President Lohmann and the Board will give \$5,500 to Beecher Recreation out of the Park Fund from the next fiscal year's budget. Mr. Howard asked some board members to attend the next Township meeting to discuss the park district issue. Mr. Beck explained the different programs that Beecher Recreation offers. It was discussed that Beecher Recreation and the Police Department work together on the youth programs being offered. Trustee Wehling made a motion to budget \$5,500 in fiscal year 2007/2008 to donate to Beecher Recreation for capital expenses (not umpire fees). Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Paul Toepfer of 321 Maple was present regarding the tree letter he received from the Village stating that he didn't have enough trees in his parkway. Administrator Barber noted that this problem has arisen due to different conflicting ordinances on the books. Mr. Toepfer is looking for a decision on this so he knows what to do. Mr. Toepfer said that other people in his subdivision didn't have trees and didn't get a letter. He said after moving in, his landscape escrow money was returned and later he received a letter saying he needed another tree. President Lohmann asked why things were so inconsistent and will check with staff to see what happened. Brian Cleary made some comments on this since he also lives in the same subdivision. There was much discussion on these problems. Superintendent of Public Works Cowger explained how the tree ordinance was enforced. It was the consensus of the Board to issue a waiver of the two tree requirement for Mr. Toepfer.

## **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 \$248,095.25 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: (5) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson and Ahrendt.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Peterson reported on the budget workshop that was held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Village property tax levy and property tax rate for 2006 collectible in 2007 was provided in the packet for review. The levy was capped at 16.50% which is 3.3% on existing property and 13.20% for new construction added to the tax rolls. This reduced the levy request from \$733,144 to \$685,635.

#### **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported that vehicle sticker enforcement will take place this month.

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

Status was provided on the 2006 paving program.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation to fund 20% of the cost of the traffic signal installation and engineering observation (\$80,436), 50% of the maintenance cost for the traffic signal (\$150 per quarter), and 100% of the electrical cost of the signal (\$12 per month). Copies of the contracts were provided in the packet for review. Due to paperwork delays, the project will not be bid out until August 17, 2007. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Village received under separate cover the final report from the Trim Creek Watershed Commission.

The ComEd annual report for the Village was provided in the packet for review.

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

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

Status was provided on the Country Lane watermain project. Restoration is ready to begin, but the contractor cannot obtain pulverized black dirt or sod at this time of year.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the collapsed sewer line at Reed and Hodges Streets. Public Works found the tile filled with debris, sand, rock, etc. The tile was also offset and probably draining into sand. Public Works installed a new line and it is now working fine. Trustee Rehborg commended Public Works for an outstanding job.

President Lohmann asked Superintendent Cowger about doing restorations where road work was done last fall. There was much damage to parkways from this project.

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

A bid opening was held on the 10-year \$380,000 loan for the Firemen's Park/OSLAD Grant project. A written bid of 4.19% was received from First Community Bank and Trust. First National Bank of Grant Park could not submit a written bid in time.

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park, Nantucket Cove Park and Prairie Park.

Washington Township asked for help in seeking Will County Forest Preserve cooperation in establishing bike trails through Washington Township. A letter of support was provided in the packet for review. President Lohmann asked that the matter be considered at the May 30<sup>th</sup> Joint Taxing Body meeting. The group could also discuss parks at that meeting.

Administrator Barber reported that Elliott Pequette and Bill Waterman will take care of the parks together this year, and that Bill Waterman will retire in the Fall.

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

The Board tabled the matter of an ordinance amending the zoning code for meeting procedures and the definition of accessory structures until the Board had more time to review the information.

Administrator Barber asked that consideration of an ordinance adopting a new subdivision code for the Village be deferred until Attorney Kuiper had more time to review. Attorney Kuiper indicated that this could be considered at the April 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

It was reported that Lange excavating is proceeding with fixing the Martisek ponding water, but still needs to get black dirt.

A report was provided on Lotton's hole on the east side of Dixie Highway across from Hunter's Chase West. The structure is in and the work is done. Trustee Ahrendt asked about the big hole and expressed

concerns regarding safety. It was noted that this area is under the Illinois Department of Transportation's jurisdiction.

The next Plan Commission meeting is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>. Items on the agenda include consideration of MGM's alternative A as an amended Planned Unit Development, hearings on the proposed container storage ordinance, and a fence variance.

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

President Lohmann reported that Will County is in the process of negotiating an airport authority with the State of Illinois. President Lohmann read aloud some of the proposed compilation options of the airport authority board and asked Board members to support one of the options proposed. A meeting will be held the end of this week and the Village should have a preference as to which plan is best. If the Board can't make a decision during this meeting, they were asked to review and provide comments back before the end of the week. The Board discussed some of the options that included a development district plan and questioned if the Village still supports such a district with some of the recent developments with Centerpoint Properties and their plans to build in Crete. President Lohmann and the Board went over the options and narrowed them down to #1, #2 & #5. The Board discussed to reaffirm the development district concept but will wait to make a decision on this until after the election and after the new trustees have taken office. President Lohmann will relay this information.

An update was provided on the Illiana Expressway.

A Joint Taxing Body meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. In order to continue discussion on a tax increment financing (TIF) district for the potential industrial areas north of the Village, it was the consensus of the Board to ask Lou Vitullo, TIF Attorney, to the May 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

Administrator Barber explained the map of proposed Reed Street improvements which was discussed at the Budget meeting. These improvements will only remain in the budget if approved by the Board.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk