

**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 24, 2007 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag. President Lohmann asked that a moment of silence be observed to honor the victims of the shooting at Virginia Tech the previous week and also to honor all troops serving their country all over the world.

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, Public Works Crew Leader Floyd Burger, Treasurer Nelson Collins and Engineer Ray Koenig.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Joe Gardner, Greg Szymanski, Bill Voss, Christina and Tim Smith, Tom Stluka, Kevin Bouchard, Tom Brislane and Joseph Venturella.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the April 10, 2007 Board meeting. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Heldt.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: A report on income received since the last meeting was given.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A public hearing was held at 7:02 p.m. to consider a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2007/2008.

RESOLUTION #2007-05 - A Resolution adopting a budget for fiscal year 2007/2008. Added was an encumbrance of \$1,500 into the new budget year to complete redoing the Village website. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to adopt Resolution #2007-05. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was the consensus of the Board to pay the bill to Beecher Recreation in the 2006/2007 fiscal year in the amount of \$5,500 instead of fiscal year 2007/2008 as previously discussed.

ORDINANCE #1062 - An ordinance of appropriation for fiscal year 2007/2008, including an encumbrance of \$1,500 from the 2006/2007 fiscal year to complete redoing the Village website. Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve Ordinance #1062. 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 made a motion authorizing the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance repealing Chapter 3, Section 7 of the Beecher Municipal Code pertaining to vehicle stickers effective December 1, 2007. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Peterson made a motion authorizing the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance establishing a 0.5% sales tax on tangible personal property sold within the Village limits with the exception of groceries, prescription drugs and titled vehicles. This ordinance will have to be certified by the State Department of Revenue by September 1, 2007 for implementation on January 1, 2008. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chief Weissgerber reported on the youth and senior programs. The Field Museum overnight trip is scheduled for May 4th, with 15 children going. On May 18th the Police Department will be taking reservations for up

to 40 children for the Joliet Jackhammers baseball game in Joliet. A meeting is scheduled for April 30th with Washington Township to discuss the next senior citizens' program.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the Police Department has started vehicle sticker enforcement. Ten tickets have been written so far. A few more enforcements will be conducted this year.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve the Beecher Recreation parade on Friday, April 27th at 6:30 p.m. The route is from Zion Lutheran School down Penfield Street to Firemen's Park. A copy of the request was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman requested an executive session be held to discuss the hiring of a new full-time police officer.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the Eastcom Board of Directors meeting. A budget increase of 4% was approved. The Board also agreed to establish a Capital Improvements Fund for the future and place \$150,000 in reserve cash into this account. This money and future reserves would be used to relocate the communications center in a 10-15 year time frame. A copy of the current budget and financial report was provided in the packet for review.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Engineer Koenig reported that Iroquois Paving has been in contact with him and Village staff. The asphalt plant is not open yet so they cannot do any repaving at this time. Iroquois Paving does plan to fix the areas that were not acceptable to the Engineer and Staff.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to declare an emergency and waive bidding requirements for the purchase of a 2007 demo model Vermeer Series 1800 Brush Chipper. Superintendent of Public Works Cowger explained how he selected this particular machine. One of the main selling points was the safety features. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve the option to purchase directly a 2007 demo model Vermeer Series 1800 brush chipper for \$39,900 using available funds from the debt service fund with the refuse fund paying back the debt service fund within 5 years, for a cost savings of \$5,580. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve an engineering services agreement with Strand and Associates in the amount of \$35,783.89 for construction observation on the Chestnut Lane/Dixie Highway traffic signal, with 80% of said fee being reimbursed by the Federal STP Program. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to declare an emergency and waive bids for repairs to Church Road for the west leg from Dutch American Way to the railroad tracks, and the east leg from Dixie Highway to Pheasant Chase Circle. These sections are in need of immediate repair. President Lohmann asked that when paving the west portions of Church Road that the shoulders be taken into consideration since they are too high in spots and should be fixed. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to award the proposal to provide the services of grinding, compacting and laying of asphalt on the east leg of Church Road from Dixie Highway to Pheasant Chase Circle in the amount of \$19,850 to Sunset Paving of Monee, Illinois. A copy of the proposal was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to award the proposal to provide the services of grinding, compacting and laying of asphalt on the west leg of Church Road from Dutch American Way to the railroad tracks in the amount of \$19,500 to Sunset Paving of Monee, Illinois. A copy of the proposal was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to authorize the purchase of binder and final lift asphalt from Lincoln Paving of Hazelcrest, Illinois in the amount of \$41,702. The asphalt is being purchased at state bid price directly from the plant. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board continued discussion on the Reed Street streetscape project. Engineer Koenig reported that the information in the packet shows what the project would look like. Changes to be made would

include landscaping, sidewalks and ADA requirements. The scope of this project, which the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has agreed to fund, would be in the amount of \$385,000. The Village must agree to provide \$98,000 as a 20% local match for this \$483,000 project. The project includes screening of the railroad from both Gould Street and Reed Street, decorative fencing and lighting, a path through Depot Park, and sidewalk improvements. \$30,000 in storm sewer work is also planned.

The Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 11th as required by the Tree City, U.S.A. Award Program. This event will occur on the grounds of the Beecher High School in honor of the Trim Creek Improvement Project.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve a proposal from Perm-A-Seal in the amount of \$5,459 for paint striping all of the roads in the Village and the Firemen's Park parking lot. President Lohmann asked if Eagle Lake Road or Church Road need to be striped. Church Road will have a school and will need to be striped with a crosswalk, etc., once the road is repaved. Trustee Rehborg seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Heldt made a motion to authorize the Village Treasurer to cut a check in the amount of \$4,704.84 for the installation of five new street lights on Cardinal Creek Boulevard from Blue Heron to Church Road. This funding will come from the General Fund using some funding set aside in the old fiscal year for the Chestnut Lane and Dixie Highway traffic light. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to award a bid for the installation of a wellhouse for Well #5 in Hunter's Chase East Subdivision to Jeffery Porter Contractors of Crown Point, Indiana in the amount of \$576,640. Three bids were received and this was the lowest bid. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Rehborg made a motion to approve change order #1 for wellhouse #5 eliminating the generator (\$100,000), the gas piping of the generator (\$900) and the pad for the generator (\$3,600) for a total savings of \$104,500. This brings the contract down to \$472,140 which provides \$52,860 for the pump

estimated at \$50,000 and \$20,000 for contingencies in the original contract which places this project below the \$525,000 budgeted. 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 authorize the letting of bids for a pump for Well #5 using standard specifications to allow for five pump designs. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2007-06 - A Resolution supporting expansion of the Village's Facilities Planning Area (FPA) by 334 acres in an area bounded by the railroad tracks to the west, Corning Road to the south, the old Milwaukee railroad tracks to the east, and Indiana Avenue to the north. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to adopt Resolution #2007-06. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2007-07 - A Resolution of support for the expansion of the Facilities Planning Area (FPA) by 2,390 acres from Ashland Avenue to the west, Offner Road to the north, South Park Avenue to the east, and Church Road to the south. Trustee Rehborg made a motion to adopt Resolution #2007-07. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Rehborg, Kuhlman, Wehling, Peterson, Ahrendt and Heldt.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Engineer Koenig reported that all underground work has been completed on the Country Lane watermain project. Asphalt that was damaged needs to be repaired and restorations need to be done.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that the Village donated \$5,500 to Beecher Recreation. Beecher Recreation has been doing maintenance on the fields and will also put up new small scoreboards on some of the fields.

Work will begin soon on the Welton Stedt Park.

An update was provided on the Nantucket Cove Park and Prairie Park.

Beecher Recreation's request for funds will be discussed at the April 30th Washington Township meeting, as well as the future of parks and recreation and the maintenance costs of all parks.

Clerk Conner reported that the Spring newsletter is currently being designed and is scheduled to be mailed on Friday, May 18th.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE #1063 - An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code regarding meeting procedures and the definition of accessory structures. One of the changes defines accessory structures and requires a firm footing and foundation for any structure exceeding 144 square feet in size. The Plan Commission held a public hearing and unanimously approved the revisions. Trustee Kuhlman asked a question about accessory buildings, (Item #5), asking if the Village should continue with this practice of allowing such a large size accessory building on a lot. Trustee Ahrendt asked if the Attorney could look over this item. Administrator Barber noted that before issuance of this type of a permit, the accessory building size would have to be reviewed to make sure it does not exceed the maximum lot coverage. After much discussion, Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve Ordinance #1063 with the exception of Item #5 pertaining to the size of accessory buildings.. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the Planning and Zoning Commission to examine Item #5 of Ordinance #1063 pertaining to accessory buildings on lots not having primary structures. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1064 - An Ordinance adopting a new Subdivision Code for the Village of Beecher. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1064 with the Landscape Section of the Code being eliminated. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The next Plan Commission meeting is scheduled for April 26th. 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 thanked the candidates for running a good campaign for this year's election and thanked them for running.

President Lohmann, directed at the camera, thanked all of the residents for approving the sales tax referendum.

President Lohmann thanked the three outgoing trustees for their service and cooperation.

President Lohmann provided an update on the third airport/development district. He reported that he has submitted the comments shared with him by the Board with the Village President of Peotone who is acting as liaison with the County and State on negotiations for the creation of an airport authority. When the new Board is seated, the resolutions of support for the airport authority and the development district will be re-introduced to the Board for consideration.

No report was provided on the Illiana Expressway.

An update was provided on the CenterPoint project. President Lohmann attended a meeting last week at the Crete Township Fire Department. Residents at the meeting voiced that they were left out of the process. There were concerns about drinking water and train noise.

The Board was reminded that they will meet on the third and fifth Tuesdays in May. Prior to the May 15th meeting, a reception for outgoing board members will be held. During the May 15th meeting, old business will be handled by the outgoing board, the new board members will be sworn in and new business will be conducted by the new board.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Heldt asked about the garage owned by Betty Nicks on Route #1. Nothing has been done so far and their extended deadline is approaching in May.

Administrator Barber explained the protocols for the next Village Board meeting. Orientation of new Board members is scheduled for April 30th and May 1st.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Peterson made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:39 p.m. to discuss the hiring of a new full-time police officer.

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 return to regular session at 8:48 p.m. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to hire Roger Sipple as a full-time police officer effective May 14, 2007. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber gave a brief update of some changes to the Police Department. Bill Little will become corporal and Andy Leroy will take a demotion due to some personal changes and will become School Resource Officer beginning with the new 2007 school year.

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 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: _____ Janett Conner, Village Clerk