

**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
JUNE 12, 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 Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Bud Cowger and Engineer Ray Koenig.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Chuck Hoehn, Kevin Bouchard, Bob Tully, Tom Stluka, Tom Brislane, Joseph Venturella and Rick Wehling.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 15th Board meeting, May 29th Board meeting and May 30th special meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes with the following change: change wording of motion in minutes of May 29th meeting on page 2 under "Recognition of Guests" to remove "Public Works to remove signs" and change to "direct staff to draft a letter to inform the developers to remove signs". Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Clerk Conner read aloud a letter from the Beecher Lion's Club requesting a beer-only liquor license for the beef roast on August 4, 2007. There was no objection to President Lohmann issuing a beer-only liquor license to the Beecher Lion's Club for their beef roast on August 4, 2007.

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

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Bob Tully of 610 Gould was present. It was explained that the Village had extended the deadline for condemnation proceedings against Bud VonAlven for his property at 606 Gould. Mr Tully explained that he has signed a contract with Mr. VonAlven for the purchase of the building

and asked for a further extension on condemnation proceedings until the August 14th Board meeting to give him time to close on the property. It was also discussed that tenants of VonAlven's property (Classic Guns) have an illegal connection to a cistern on the property. Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that the open connection is to be sealed soon. It was thought that Classic Guns at one time had a bathroom in their shop but it was unknown how that was possible since the property was not connected to the Village water or sewer. Mr. Tully noted the nice newspaper article in the paper this week about improving the properties on Gould Street. Mr. Tully was asked by the Board to improve the face of the building with paint or other improvements and tear down the lean-to building in the rear. The Board discussed how long to give Mr. Tully to make needed improvements once he closes on the property. Mr. Tully said approximately six months and expressed his intent to improve the property quickly since he is opening a new business next door and wants to make the area look attractive. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to extend any condemnation proceedings for 606 Gould until the first meeting in August, 2007 and require Mr. Tully to come to that meeting and show any improvements that have been made to the property or a specific plan as to what improvements he plans to make and when. Extending this condemnation proceeding will allow Mr. Tully to close on the sale of the property. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Rick Wehling of Layne-Western Company spoke about Well #5. Bids were opened that morning and he wanted to point out the differences between his bid for a pump and the other bidder's pump. He asked that the Board take under consideration differences in quality of the pumps when approving bids. The estimated life expectancy of a submersible pump was discussed. Mr. Rick Wehling questioned why the Village was bidding out a submersible pump since it has a much shorter life expectancy than a water looped pump. It was thought that this was bid out this way because the well project came in over budget. There was some technical discussion about the pumps. The Village will look at the Engineer's recommendation and a bid will be approved at the next Board meeting.

Chuck Hoehn, Chairman for the Fourth of July Commission explained that there was a bid opening for a new concession stand in Firemen's Park and no bids were received. It was proposed that the Fourth of July Commission be appointed as general contractor for the project and will serve to make sure that prevailing wages are paid for labor in combination with some donated labor. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to appoint the Fourth of July Commission as general contractor for the new Firemen's Park concession stand with a limit of any expense of \$20,000 per vendor to comply with state law. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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 \$174,312.00 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the month of April, 2007 were provided in the packet for review.

RESOLUTION #2007-09 - A resolution amending Resolution #91-4 pertaining to finance chair approval for immediate payments of \$500 or less. Treasurer Collins recommended that this amount be approved to \$1,000. Some Trustees were concerned about increasing the amount to \$1,000. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to stay at the \$500 limit and adopt Resolution #2007-09. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2007-10 - A resolution updating the Village's state-mandated investment policy to include the First National Bank of Grant Park. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adopt Resolution #2007-10. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2007-11 - A resolution establishing minimum fund balances for the accounts of the Village. This resolution is to update a Resolution adopted in 1998 since several new funds have been added and the fund balances do not reflect current operating needs. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adopt Resolution #2007-11. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided by the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Cooperative. The ICC has permitted an increase to the capacity charge which all power generators can charge and this will result in 2-3% increase in Village electric costs.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Census Bureau for a special Census and authorizing the immediate payment of \$60,855 from the Operations and Maintenance Account for the conducting of a special census in September, 2007. A copy of the memorandum was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the June 9th Bike Safety Rodeo. This was the first year the rodeo was held after school was out for the summer and the weather was cooperative. Thirty children participated. One girl and one boy each received a new bike.

A report was provided on the Joliet Jackhammer's game police youth event. Forty-seven of the fifty people signed up attended the game. Feedback received was that everyone had a great time. Those who participated in the museum trip also indicated they had a great time. President Lohmann asked when the next senior breakfast will be held. Chief Weissgerber reported that the senior breakfast has not yet been scheduled but he will work with Washington Township Supervisor Bob Howard on this.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Board considered final payment to Iroquois Paving for the 2006 Motor Fuel Tax resurfacing project. Engineer Koenig said he received a final invoice but has not received final waivers of lien yet. It was noted that additional engineering fees were incurred because of this repaving project, and that amount will be deducted from Iroquois' total invoice and paid to Baxter and Woodman because Iroquois Paving was found to be at fault for the problems with the original paving job. No action was required. This matter will be considered for final payment once all waivers of lien have been received. Trustee Kuhlman asked about pavement marks on residents' driveways and if they could be cleaned off. Engineer Koenig said the marks could be removed and will talk to the contractor about this.

An update was provided on street lighting costs. ComEd is playing catch-up with the street lights that have been installed in the last 12 months and is back-charging the Village from the date they were turned on. Many of these lights were activated in June of 2006. The back-charges were under the old rates. However, the timing of the addition of all these lights to our billing system will affect our current budget since the budget was drafted with the information available at that time.

Status was provided on the drainage complaint at 646 Woodward Street by resident Marlin Hartke. Superintendent of Public Works Cowger and Trustee Cleary are working on a solution to this problem.

The Board considered a request to repair a collapsed sidewalk at Oak Street and Willow Lane, as reported by resident Dave Tikusis. Staff will need to check the storm sewer and make sure this did not cause the problem. Trustee Cleary made a motion to authorize payment to Dave Tikusis in the amount of \$250 (which is 50% of project cost) to repair a collapsed sidewalk at Oak and Willow after the work has been completed. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A copy of Baxter and Woodman's letter to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) regarding the rapidly deteriorating condition of Route #1 through town was provided in the packet for review.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger stated that his crew is working on Drivin' the Dixie and Fourth of July preparations.

President Lohmann asked that with the new Junior High School built and a commitment to put a 8' bike path and walking path in, what were the plans for snow removal of the path. School Superintendent Obradovich approached him concerning this matter. Administrator Barber noted that a policy needs to be established on what will and will not be done for consistency purposes. The 5' sidewalk on Church Road was discussed and how it could be plowed with current equipment. This matter was for discussion purposes only at this time.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The Water billing register for March and April was provided in the packet for review. This report was delayed due to the new water billing system.

Engineer Koenig reported that Derek Wold will be present at the next meeting to provide a report on the status of Well #5.

It was reported that two watermain breaks occurred in one week in the driveway at 519 Maxwell and the resident is not happy about the frequency of breaks near his property. Superintendent Cowger reported that the 6" pipe that was scheduled to be replaced previously was cut due to budget restraints. This pipe does need to be replaced, and it affects nine homes on that street. Public Works could do the work themselves but Superintendent Cowger is unsure where to run the watermain in relation to the gas main. The Board discussed costs based on where the pipe would be located. This matter will be discussed further at a later meeting.

Engineer Koenig sent a pay list packet to the contractor for the Country Lane watermain restoration and payment should be considered at the next meeting.

The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) has scheduled a hearing on the Village's Facilities Planning Area (FPA) expansion to Offner Road for Wednesday, June 20th at 11:00 a.m. in Chicago. Administrator Barber reported on the article in The Daily Journal regarding this hearing. The Village of Crete plans to dispute Beecher's request for the FPA expansion.

President Lohmann asked if hydrant flushing is to be done this year. Superintendent Cowger reported that some hydrant flushing will be conducted soon.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that the Firemen's Park/OSLAD Grant project will go out for bid in July and construction is scheduled to begin in early August, 2007.

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park. Tod Stanton of Design Perspectives is still concerned about some wet spots on the property. A proof roll will be conducted in two weeks, and more information will be forthcoming.

Work is scheduled to begin on Nantucket Cove Park in two weeks. Administrator Barber noted that a resident of the subdivision has submitted a Freedom of Information Act Request for the park plan and may provide comments on the plan.

Spring newsletters were mailed on Monday, May 21st.

An update was provided on the Municipal Facilities Plan. Trustee Gardner reiterated some of the concerns expressed about the plan and would be interested in obtaining more information. Trustee Szymanski stated that he was willing to support the previous Board's position on this plan. Trustee Cleary expressed concerns about engineering the entire site plan.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a proposal from Baxter and Woodman to provide the engineering services for the municipal facilities site plan (topo, plat of survey, top of foundation, utility locations, drainage, etc.) for an amount not to exceed \$17,500. A copy of the proposal was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner and Wehling.

NAYS: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

The Beecher Ladycats softball team won the Class A state title, but could not attend this Board meeting. The team will be honored by the Board in the future and Trustee Wehling wants to congratulate them on behalf of the Village.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a hearing on the two new proposals by MGM Development for an expanded Planned Unit Development (PUD). The Commission will decide on a recommendation at its June 28th meeting.

The Planning and Zoning Commission discussed accessory structures. Much of the discussion was on whether to permit free floating slabs for garages in lieu of firm footings and foundations. Village Planner Don Thomas has stated that the other issues which arose about garages on separate lots is prohibited by the zoning ordinance but we have allowed some of these uses in the past in the older parts of town. Mr. Thomas will be drafting a proposal to cover all of the concerns expressed by the Board.

Only three \$2,000 facade grants will be available this fiscal year, which will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Board considered a motion of condemnation for the barn at 1202 Dixie Highway, represented by Betty Nicks. The petitioner asked for an extension until July 1st due to the hospitalization of her mother, Fannie Loitz. A letter was provided explaining what improvements have been made, stating that support poles have been installed in the barn, three broken rafters were repaired, the roof opening was closed with sheet metal and missing fascia board was installed. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to table this matter until the next meeting and have staff inspect the building to see what has been done. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann commented on Hunter's Chase East drainage concerns. Engineer Koenig will have Engineer Wold look at this and address the matter at the next meeting.

President Lohmann commented on a lot of standing water and rubbish in the new subdivisions. Village staff and Engineer Koenig are to draft letters, giving property owners 15 days to clean up their lots and if they are not cleaned up, tickets will be issued. Code Enforcement Officer Riechers will be directed to provide a monthly report from now on instead of yearly so the Board can be more aware of code enforcement issues.

Trustee Ahrendt reported on missing street signs.

Trustee Cleary brought up the Fieldgate pond and previous discussions as to whether it is to be dry or wet. There was discussion of a concrete swale to go into the wet pond and that the developer's statement that the pond would be dry was incorrect. This pond has been designed as a wet pond.

Trustee Kuhlman asked if a letter can be sent to residents north of Martisek's property on Dixie Highway. This property is out of the Village limits. Will County should be contacted regarding any complaints.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann asked who was planning to be in the Fourth of July parade. Trustees Szymanski, Wehling and Kuhlman were maybes. Trustee Cleary will check his schedule. The Trustees will let Clerk Conner know if they will be in the parade.

Results were provided on the Joint Taxing Body meeting held the previous week.

The Board considered July meeting dates, in order to have a quorum since some of the Trustees indicated they will be out of town one or both of the meetings. Trustee Cleary made a motion to cancel the two regular meeting dates scheduled in July and schedule a July 17th Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to schedule a special Committee of the Whole meeting for July 31st. No action will be taken at this meeting, and it will be held at the Village Hall. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary brought up the issue of the Chestnut Street traffic light. Administrator Barber reported that IDOT sent a 3 page letter reworking the project including deceleration lanes, multiple closures of area driveways and other major and costly changes. It was learned that IDOT is not planning to budge on these changes. Trustee Cleary made a motion to authorize staff to send letters to our state legislators expressing the Village's concerns regarding these problems with the Chestnut and Dixie traffic light. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A closed session was requested to discuss personnel pertaining to the future of Marcy Meyer.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:27 p.m. to discuss personnel pertaining to the future of employee Marcy Meyer.

Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to return to regular session at 9:50 p.m. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk