

**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 26, 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 Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Cleary.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Police Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Attorney Tim Kuiper, Engineer Ray Koenig and Eric Moraskis from Baxter & Woodman Engineering.

**GUESTS:** Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Tom Brislane, Lee Meyers, Kevin Bouchard, Rick Wehling, Tim Kelly, Scott Brandenburg and Roger Heldt.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the June 12, 2007 Board meeting. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) A bill was presented for the Beecher 4<sup>th</sup> of July Commission. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the bill in the amount of \$11,583.00 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Lee Meyers of 284 Maple provided photos of his conservation design lot in Prairie Crossings. He received a phone call that he needs to cut the grass in this lot, but it is meant to be this way, since it is done under conservation design rules. He was instructed to get approval from the Homeowner's Association to keep the lot this way. Administrator Barber stated that if the lot is designated

as conservation design, it needs to be posted as such on the property. Board members asked questions and some discussion followed. The Board will consider approval of the conservation design lot on Lee Meyer's lot in Prairie Crossings, subject to Homeowner's Association approval. The Board will consider the matter at the next meeting.

Tom Brislane asked President Lohmann to explain what was going on with the traffic light being planned for Chestnut and Dixie Highway. At the last meeting the Board authorized a letter be sent to state elected officials expressing concerns about the Illinois Department of Transportation holding up the project by requiring a lot of new things such as deceleration lanes and easement acquisition. President Lohmann called Senator Debbie Halvorson and her office indicated they never received the letter, so the letter was resent via fax. President Lohmann will keep in contact with Senator Halvorson to get her response.

#### **A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

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

The Government Accounting Standards Board Ruling 34 (known as GASB 34) report was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve a contract with Pete Skinger to conduct an audit of the Village for fiscal year 2006/2007, for an amount not to exceed \$9,500. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE#1070 - An ordinance establishing the prevailing wages for fiscal year 2007/2008 as required by State law. This is required for all Public Works contracts. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1070. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski reported that the Burton Brothers carnival was in town and setting up for the upcoming Fourth of July celebration. Some of the highlights of the festival were noted.

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

Chief Weissgerber reported that the schedule has been posted for the Police Department's shifts for the upcoming six-day Fourth of July celebration.

President Lohmann asked Chief Weissgerber to report on the Public Information Officers Summit training he had attended with Trustee Szymanski and Administrator Barber. Chief Weissgerber reported that excellent training was conducted by Rick Rosenthal. President Lohmann felt the Superintendent of Public Works should attend this training. Chief Weissgerber explained the format for the class.

President Lohmann commented that Peotone's paper stressed that they are cracking down on fireworks. Chief Weissgerber reported that fireworks are illegal in Illinois and will be enforced locally over the holiday.

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

Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$122,950.10 to Iroquois Paving for completion of the 2006 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) resurfacing project. This amount is less the cost of observation to Baxter and Woodman for their extra costs since the job was initially not acceptable and part had to be redone. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$6,761.32 to Baxter and Woodman for additional observation on the 2006 MFT resurfacing project. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that sidewalk repairs were completed at 711 Penfield Street (Fire Station) and 750 Penfield Street (Buchmeier building). Buchmeier is now requesting that the sidewalk be extended to their building, which will cost an additional \$1,250 for the job, which wasn't planned for. There was discussion as to whether this additional 8' of sidewalk that connects to their building was the Village's or property owner's responsibility. The building is believed to be on zero lot line, which means the Village owns right up to the building. No representation for Buchmeier was present. Administrator Barber recommended that the Village replace all sidewalk that we tore out. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to replace the remaining sidewalk for a cost not to exceed \$4,000. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent of Public Works Cowger provided status on the new brush pick-up program, stating that it is going well. Free wood chips are available at the Washington Township Center.

The Beecher Women's Club purchased 10 new street banners for the old downtown area. These new banners will be up from mid-July to Thanksgiving for the next five years.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that when the carnival recently moved in and hooked up to electric in Firemen's Park, that they did it improperly and damaged the electrical box. Superintendent Cowger wanted to know who would absorb the electrician and repair costs. Administrator Barber indicated that staff will look into the matter and determine how to handle it.

President Lohmann asked about restoration along the sidewalk where the watermain was replaced on Country Lane. There is a gully along the sidewalk, which is dangerous, and President Lohmann would like that restored before Fourth of July.

The next mosquito spraying is scheduled for Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

Engineer Koenig introduced Eric Moraskis from Baxter and Woodman who prepared bid specifications for the Well #5 pump. Mr. Moraskis explained how they came to the pump recommendation. The main reason is that bid was the most cost effective. If the Village chose a lineshaft over a submersible pump, it would have cost approximately \$100,000 more and would require a larger well building. Rick Wehling of Layne Western explained the differences between the Byron-Jackson pump and the Goulds/Hitachi pump. Trustee Gardner made a motion to award the bid for a pump for Well #5 to Waterwell Solutions in the amount of \$54,860.

AYES: (2) Trustees Szymanski and Gardner.

NAYS: (3) Trustees Ahrendt, Kuhlman and Wehling.

Motion failed.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to defer further action on this matter until the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Kuhlman.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger provided the status on the Maxwell Street watermain. Solid numbers for this project have not yet been received but will be available for the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Administrator Barber raised the problem of the Maxwell Street resident whose driveway has been torn up twice recently for watermain breaks. The Village will patch his driveway at least temporarily until a permanent fix can be completed.

Status was provided on the Village's facilities planning area (FPA) expansion application with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The Village is waiting to see Crete's application for their FPA and then waiting for someone to request a hearing.

Status was provided on the function of the water system during the recent drought and heat wave. Trustee Ahrendt asked about water pressure being lower lately when she sprinkles her lawn. Superintendent Cowger offered to come and check it out, but stated that he hasn't had any problems in that area with system pressure.

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

Trustee Wehling reported that the Firemen's Park/OSLAD grant project will be going out for bid in July and construction will begin in August.

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park. A proof roll is scheduled for the park property this week. Landscapers won't enter the property until a proof roll has been conducted.

There was nothing new to report on the Nantucket Cove Park.

Trustee Wehling asked President Lohmann to attend the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ladycats to award a plaque to the girls for their State Softball Championship. President Lohmann will be out of town but will see if Trustee Kuhlman can attend in his place. Trustee Wehling is working on a combined years metal road sign at the entrance to town instead of having individual years' signs for the Ladycat's Championships.

The Board discussed the future of parks and recreation in Beecher. Washington Township discussed this at its June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and will discuss it again on July 9<sup>th</sup>. This item has been placed on the Village's July 31<sup>st</sup> workshop agenda for discussion. President Lohmann reported that the Village gave Beecher Recreation \$5,000 and in return we would obtain receipts to prove how the money was spent. However, no receipts have ever been provided. Trustee Wehling will follow up with Beecher Recreation on this matter.

President Lohmann stated that he was previously authorized to sign a contract with Baxter and Woodman for engineering of the new Public Works facility by the Washington Township Center. He has not yet signed the contract wondering if the project can't be done for a while, if the engineering needs to be done now and if the money should be spent. President Lohmann wanted to know what the Board was planning to do and when the funds would be available to do the project. Administrator Barber reported on the funds, stating that he's not sure exactly how soon the money would be available. It was thought by some that a modular facility constructed near the old garage would be a possible temporary solution to the Public Works need for additional space, if a brand new facility won't be able to be built for a number of years due to finances. Trustee Szymanski supported moving forward with the engineering of a site plan by Baxter and Woodman. There was lengthy discussion regarding the matter. The Board discussed the ability to pay for the Public Works building project and when. President Lohmann asked for a financial plan on the project and how it would be paid for. No action was taken on this matter.

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

The next Plan Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. A recommendation on the MGM Development Planned Unit Development (PUD) is expected, along with continued discussion on accessory structures.

Trustee Ahrendt reported on a discussion concerning the Dixie Commons (Carmen Knuth) Facade Grant application. She asked for direction as to whether a facade grant should only be given for existing buildings or if new businesses are included in the grant program too. The facade grant criteria doesn't differentiate between new or existing businesses. It was the consensus of the Board to award grants to those who have already applied and stop the grant program. The criteria of the program will then be redrafted to cover only the old downtown area.

The Board considered condemnation of the barn at 1202 Dixie Highway. It was learned the owner of the property died last week. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to defer the matter until the July 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Code Enforcement report for the first six months of 2007 was provided for review.

The Building Department report for January through April, 2007 was provided in the packet for review.

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

It was reported that the meeting schedule for July is as follows: No meeting on Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Regular Village Board on Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. No meeting on Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. Workshop for Trustees at the Village Hall in the Conference Room on Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

The topics for the July 31<sup>st</sup> workshop include: template annexation agreement and impact fees (Trustee Szymanski), architectural and landscape code (Trustee Ahrendt), future of the Beecher Economic Development Authority (BEDA), desire for new business in Beecher and what types, and the future of the economic development coordinator position.

Results were provided on the Drivin' the Dixie event that was held on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

President Lohmann requested that a closed session be held to discuss personnel pertaining to changing the title of Marcy Meyer from Annexation Strategist to Economic Development Coordinator and providing an employment agreement for a part-time position.

Administrator Barber requested a closed session be held to discuss pending litigation pertaining to MGM Development.

President Lohmann brought up the Martisek property on Dixie Highway. Some repairs to field tiles have been done recently with assistance by the Village. There are still illegal discharges onto his property. It is believed some new subdivision properties are discharging their water illegally. President Lohmann proposed that the Village pay for crop damages on the property since he feels that some of these problems are due to Village engineering of new subdivisions. The Board discussed maybe submitting bills to the engineers. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to draft a letter to Baxter and Woodman Engineering pertaining to a problem with the engineering of Hunter's Chase East property that is illegally discharging water onto adjoining property. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:32 p.m. to discuss offering a contract to an employee and pending litigation.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to return to regular session at 10:00 p.m. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to offer a contract to Marcy Meyer for an economic development position with the Village. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked if the BEDA Board would be needed anymore if Marcy Meyer is hired for the economic development position. Trustee Wehling made a motion to draft a letter to the BEDA Board members informing them that the BEDA Board is being disbanded by the Village Board. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees 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 Szymanski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner, Village Clerk