

**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
AUGUST 28, 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 (arrived at 7:33 p.m.).

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Attorney Tim Kuiper, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer and Public Works Crew Leader Floyd Burger.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Dale Serig, Jay Braderich, Chuck Hoehn, Kevin Bouchard, Bill Voss, Ken Hameister, Tom Brislane, Roger Heldt, Tod Stanton, Andrew Ahrendt, Harold Bruns, Pam Hoffman and George Schuitema.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 14, 2007 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes with a correction on page 4 under Streets and Alleys Committee, third paragraph, to change word from disposal to donation. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) There was no objection to the Knights of Columbus' request to sell Tootsie Rolls in Beecher on September 21-23, 2007 in front of the Post Office. 3) Bills were presented for the Beecher Beautification Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$238.07 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: President Lohmann introduced Dale Serig and said he had been working to obtain parcels of land to the north of the Village for development. Jay Braderich showed a concept plan for an intermodal rail yard and asked for permission to move on with the plan which would be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Braderich discussed the need to vacate Eagle Lake Road to make this plan work. Mr. Braderich provided copies of a map where he plans for the development to go. Board members asked questions. Mr. Braderich is looking for zoning upon annexation. It was noted that the property in question is contiguous to Bult Field, which is in the south suburban airport footprint. Trinity Industrial Development is planning for this project. It was the consensus of the Board to support this project. Mr. Serig indicated that they plan to be at the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on September 27th to begin the process for preliminary development.

Trustee Wehling arrived at 7:33 p.m.

The Board considered a site plan for Beecher Manor Nursing Home expansion and improvements. The Planning and Zoning Commission met August 23rd and unanimously recommended approval of the site plan as submitted. A copy of the site plan was included in the packet for review. The architect for the job was present to answer questions. Jay Braderich is the general contractor for this job. Mr. Braderich showed a site plan for the Phase II plan and asked for approval. Approximately 30 new beds will be created. Mr. Braderich offered to relocate the tornado siren if it conflicts with their project. It was also reported that they plan to stain the existing brick to match the brick of the new sections so it will all match. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve a site plan for Phase II of the Beecher Manor Nursing Home expansion and improvements. 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

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

An update was provided on the progress of the audit. A target date for completion is October 9, 2007.

A list of outstanding debt instruments was provided in the packet for review.

The Board discussed drafts of ordinances establishing the Commissions of the Village currently operating under Resolution. Trustee Szymanski recommended tabling the ordinance affecting the Fourth of July Commission. Based on the way the ordinance for the Fourth of July Commission is written, the Fourth of July Commission treasurer and Village treasurer must be two different people for check writing purposes. There was much discussion regarding current procedures of approving bills and required signatures on checks. The Fourth of July Commission ordinance is to be rewritten

to address concerns of the Board. The same concerns were expressed for the ordinance pertaining to the Beautification Commission.

Trustee Cleary stated that he had many comments regarding the Tree Commission Ordinance that he would like to address with staff at the next Board workshop meeting. The Tree Commission Ordinance will be addressed at the next workshop meeting.

The Board considered dates and times for future Village board workshop meetings. It was the consensus of the Board to have one workshop meeting per month. A date could not be agreed upon, therefore the matter was deferred until the next Board meeting.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve a contract in the amount of \$19,900 with Melrose Pyrotechnics for the 2008 Fourth of July fireworks display. A copy of the contract 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

Chief Weissgerber provided an update on the youth/senior activities. The Department is looking to hold another senior breakfast around the third or fourth Thursday in September and is working on getting speakers for the event. \$2,000 has been committed to PAKT (Police and Kids Together) for mats and necessary items. The Department is working on a Halloween party, another museum trip, and establishing a youth volleyball team.

Trustee Cleary stated that he received comments from residents when the tornado siren went off earlier in the afternoon. The kids were just getting out of school and parents were concerned. The siren was being tested because EASTCOM was not able to set them off the previous week during the storms.

President Lohmann raised the issue of flooding the previous week after the heavy rains. Children began swimming in flooded retention ponds and asked how to keep the kids out. It is dangerous for them to be there and a child could drown or be swept into a drain area. Children were also swimming in Trim Creek. The Board discussed posting signs and discussed what should be done to keep this from happening, perhaps a "No trespassing when water is present" sign? Chief Weissgerber and Attorney Kuiper were directed to come up with something that will work. An article will also be put in the newspaper about swimming in flooded areas.

Chief Weissgerber provided an update on the upgrades to the warning siren system.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Yardwaste bag collection days have been scheduled for Saturday, October 13th and 20th. The following schedule was determined: October 13th: Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Cleary and Gardner will work and; October 20th: Trustees Kuhlman, Wehling and Gardner will work.

ORDINANCE #1071 - An ordinance regulating the installation and use of clothing collection boxes in the Village of Beecher. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1071. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A copy of the tree trimming and removal list for the west side of town was provided in the packet for review. Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that Public Works has already been trimming trees, taking trees down and removing them. Questionable ash trees are being removed due to the infestation of the emerald ash borer. Superintendent Cowger asked that the Board look at the Village ordinance as to whether ash trees will be allowed to be planted in the parkway in the future.

Trustee Cleary asked about street lights in new subdivisions and when they are scheduled to be fixed. There are street lights that are not working and ones that are crooked. This matter has been turned over to ComEd.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

Superintendent Cowger reported that the Village received over nine inches of rain in the last week. Superintendent Cowger also stated that well #4 received a lightning strike which knocked out many electronic components in the building and Public Works is still working on troubleshooting problems. Superintendent Cowger commended Public Works and the Village staff for their work on last week's storm handling all of the flooding complaints and other problems.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$74,205 to Jeffrey Porter Construction as an initial payment for the work they have completed on well #5. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger stated that a report on the condition of the Village's water valves was provided in the packet for review. The Village paid M.E. Simpson \$9,445 to complete this report.

The Board considered a proposal for the replacement of the Maxwell Street watermain from Indiana Avenue to Penfield Street. Trustee Gardner reported that Superintendent Cowger received a bid

from M & J Underground for a cost of \$30,000 to \$40,000 to complete the project. Currently, the money is not available to complete the project, but the replacement will need to be done soon.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Tod Stanton from Design Perspectives and George Petecki from George's Landscaping were present and provided a report on the Firemen's Park/Oslad Grant project. Mr. Stanton explained the park plans and the items cut from the original plan to save money. The Board discussed the costs and why the bid came in so much over the \$380,000 budgeted. The Board discussed flipping locations of the two athletic fields. Concerns were expressed as to whether current ballfields will be able to be used next year because of construction related with this project. It was discussed that an article in the paper stated that Beecher Recreation is purchasing a \$15,000 lightning detection system for Firemen's Park. Chuck Hoehn reported that the Fourth of July Commission is scheduled to put a 400 amp electrical service in Firemen's Park. The Fourth of July Commissions needs to work together with the OSLAD Grant project for the electrical upgrade. Trustee Szymanski expressed concerns about whether the Village can afford this project. Concerns were expressed if the project would be completed and grass would be growing by next 4th of July or the next baseball/softball season. President Lohmann asked about the ballfield in the plan and if it is needed. Trustee Wehling recommended to move forward and get approval for the OSLAD Grant with a slight modification to the site plan and to get approval from the state before awarding the bid.

Two bills for park improvements were presented for payment by Trustee Wehling. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the first bill. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. The Clerk noted that this item was not on the agenda so the bills could not be approved. Trustee Wehling rescinded his motion. This matter will be considered at the next Board meeting.

Updates were provided on Welton Stedt Park and Nantucket Cove Park. Nantucket Cove Park should be mostly completed within the next week.

The Washington Township Board has not taken action on the open space initiative so no action was required at this time.

The following articles are being considered for the Fall Village newsletter: information letting residents know the dangers of swimming in retention ponds and the requirement to put garbage in sealed containers per contract with Star Disposal.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Landscape/Tree Ordinance discussion was deferred until the next Board workshop meeting.

The Planning and Zoning Commission did not discuss accessory structures at their September 23rd meeting due to the meeting's adjournment caused by tornado warnings.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A Joint Taxing Body meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29th at 7:00 p.m. President Lohmann stated that most issues seem to have been resolved regarding Hunter's Chase East's bike path and the illegal discharge of stormwater onto an adjoining farm field.

Crop damage reimbursements and letters have been sent out and copies were provided in the packet for review. There are also broken tiles in the farmer's field.

President Lohmann provided an update on meetings held on Beecher and Crete's Facilities Planning Area (FPA) expansion requests. A decision on the FPA has been delayed until sometime in September. President Lohmann asked that once the meeting has been scheduled that a Board member attend the meeting with Administrator Barber.

The Board considered a hard match of \$15,000 in Fiscal Year 2008/2009 for a grant application by Will County to study a regional sewer treatment facility and authority. This \$385,000 project is being funded by a 50% grant from the federal government, \$50,000 by Will County, and Peotone and Beecher are each being asked to contribute \$15,000 toward the study in the next fiscal year. A scope of the services for the grant project and a summary of the grant application costs was provided in the packet for review. It was the consensus of the Board to commit the hard match of \$15,000.

President Lohmann reported that staff received a phone call on Monday from Star Disposal. Star Disposal is requesting an additional \$1,400 refuse payment this month because of how much garbage was out after storms the previous week due to property damaged in flooded basements. President Lohmann felt Star Disposal should stick to the contract. However, Star noted that much of the specification in the contract pertaining to requiring containers, etc. is not currently being followed anyway. Star provided a report as to how much has been picked up in the past to show that the Monday in question had nearly double the volume as normal. President Lohmann stated that the Village doesn't get a break on a light week. Some Board members felt the money is not a big deal since there was so much garbage out on the day in question. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to pay the bill to Star Disposal in the amount of \$1,400. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Trustee Cleary suggested informing residents in the newsletter that they must put garbage in sealed containers.

President Lohmann talked to a representative from the railroad and worked out details on where a fence is to be installed in Depot Park and Lion's Club Park. The Lion's Park fence is scheduled to be done next year. President Lohmann also discussed the possibility of purchasing railroad property on the West side of the tracks near Hodges Street for a possible future war memorial or other use. President Lohmann forwarded this information to the Economic Development Committee since they were interested in revitalizing the old downtown.

Trustee Ahrendt asked about why some areas in the new subdivisions haven't cut their grass yet. Trustee Ahrendt asked if the Village would cut the lots and a lien could be placed on the property. Staff noted that Code Enforcement Officer Riechers has been trying to enforce the high grass/weeds ordinance but property owners are not responding. This matter will be discussed at the next workshop meeting.

Attorney Kuiper requested that a closed session be held to discuss pending litigation and to discuss strategy and the retainage of special counsel. MGM has filed a lawsuit against the Village seeking relief from the denial of their Planned Unit Development request on Cardinal Creek Golf Course.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss pending litigation at 10:07 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 10:37 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt 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 Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk