

**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  
OCTOBER 23, 2007 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Pro-Tem Wehling called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** President Lohmann (arrived at 8:28 p.m.) and Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

**ABSENT:** Trustee Cleary.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Police Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Lieutenant Rick Emerson, Auditor Curt Dykstra and Public Works Crew Leader Floyd Burger.

**GUESTS:** Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Tom Camilleri, Kevin Bouchard (arrived at 8:35 p.m.), Tom Stluka, Marie Hernandez, Maria Hernandez, Eulalio Valadez and Scott Soppet.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to defer approval of the October 9, 2007 Board meeting minutes until the November 13, 2007 meeting, to give Board members a chance to review them. Minutes were not in the packet due to Clerk Conner's vacation the previous week. 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) Bills were presented for the Beecher 4<sup>th</sup> of July Commission (\$1,106.54) and the Beautification Commission (\$288.00). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,394.54 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber and Lieutenant Emerson were presented certificates of completion for police executive management training by Public Safety Chair Ron Kuhlman, and were congratulated for

their achievement.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Tom Camilleri of 263 Aspen Drive asked for an extension until Spring 2008 to get his fence in compliance with Village code as discussed at the previous Board meeting. Mr. Camilleri claimed that he is at a standstill due to the weather. Mr. Camilleri was asked what he plans to do with the fence and he said to bring it into compliance with Village code. If he does not comply, the Village would file a complaint in court to require him to bring it into compliance. Mr. Camilleri was asked if he had a letter from the contractor stating that he would install the proper fence in the Spring. No letter was available. Mr. Camilleri did not appear to have an exact plan regarding the fence violation. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to deny the extension to bring the fence into compliance unless Mr. Camilleri comes back to the Board with a letter from the fence contractor setting forth exactly what will be done and when. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Marie Hernandez asked about her request at the last Board meeting for a liquor license for a Mexican restaurant at 632 Dixie Highway. The owner of Via Bennetto, located at 638 Dixie, was also present to request a Class "A" liquor license. Via Bennetto's currently has a beer and wine only license and is looking for a Class "A" license which is the same as Ms. Hernandez is looking for. The ordinance would have to be amended to allow any more liquor licenses. President Lohmann is liquor commissioner and was not currently at the meeting but would be present later. Both requests would be considered after President Lohmann arrived.

Curt Dykstra from Smith, Koelling, Dykstra and Ohm gave a lengthy presentation on the audit for fiscal year ending April 30, 2007. Administrator Barber noted that some of this information was presented at the previous workshop meeting.

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

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to accept the audit for fiscal year 2006/2007 as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An audit workshop for local government officials has been scheduled for Smith, Koelling, Dykstra and Ohm clients for Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in Bourbonnais.

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

A debt service schedule for all loans, leases and bonds was provided in the packet for review.

A workshop meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, dependent on Don Thomas' schedule. Outstanding issues are the tree ordinance, the architectural code, changes to the fence ordinance, and overall building and code enforcement issues.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Chief Weissgerber reported that 20 children are attending the November 9<sup>th</sup> museum trip. The youth program would like to use a school gym to hold a beanbag or dodgeball tournament. Chief Weissgerber is working with Washington Township to schedule the next senior breakfast some time in March, 2008.

The Board considered authorizing the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance establishing an administrative towing fee for Police tows involving criminal activity. Chief Weissgerber is looking at suggested ordinances and wants to discuss them with the Attorney. Chief Weissgerber is also getting information from other municipalities to determine whether this would be useful for Beecher. The Department wants to look into something like this to recover our costs incurred in these situations. It was the consensus of the Board to be in favor of implementing such an ordinance.

Chief Weissgerber stated that he needs to look at fine penalties for ordinance violations and to make fees more uniform throughout the code. Something will be proposed at a later date.

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

Results were provided from the yardwaste bag distribution days on October 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The Village ran out of bags on October 20<sup>th</sup>, so residents who were there to pick up bags and didn't get any were asked to contact the Village Hall to make arrangements to get their bags. The shipment may have been 400 bags short. More bags will need to be ordered next year.

The Public Works Superintendent reported that leaf collection is being done without hiring an additional part-time employee. An ad was put in the paper, but the Village probably won't be able to hire anyone until after leaf season.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger explained the ash tree quarantine and problems with ash trees being planted in some of the new subdivisions. Emerald ash borers are threatening the entire ash species. Superintendent Cowger would like to eliminate any species of ash tree being planted in the Village. Trustee Szymanski questioned if this ordinance would conflict with the existing three ordinances that already conflict. It does not.

ORDINANCE #1075 - An ordinance prohibiting the planting of ash trees in the Village of Beecher. Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve Ordinance #1075. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that brush will continue to be picked up until the end of November.

Superintendent Cowger reported that 20' of watermain was replaced on Oak Park.

Superintendent Cowger reported that a lot of wood chips were delivered to out to a resident in the Peotone area which has helped Public Works get rid of chips from brush collection.

President Lohmann arrived at 8:28 p.m.

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

Superintendent Cowger provided a report on Well #5. Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve payment to Jeffrey Porter Construction in the amount of \$36,900 as progress payment of the Well #5 project. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

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

An update was provided on the Firemen's Park OSLAD Grant. Superintendent Cowger wants to upgrade the water line into the park from 2" poly waterline running from Hodges and Woodward east to the creek to be replaced with a 6" plastic main. The Fourth of July Commission will be asked to help with the cost of the upgraded waterline. An electrical upgrade is also being proposed. The Fourth of July Commission will also be asked to contribute towards the cost of this.

Superintendent Cowger said to forget about sod to repair the 1.5 acres of disturbed area near the ballfields because the \$6,000 budgeted will not be enough. This area will need to be seeded. Superintendent Cowger will look into the most affordable option.

Trustee Wehling provided a report on Welton Stedt Park. It was discussed that the grass needs to be cut yet this year, but Superintendent Cowger thought it was too wet. Superintendent Cowger will look into getting the grass cut.

Superintendent Cowger reported that Public Works is hoping to have the 18 oak trees planted in the west side of Nantucket Cove Park by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November.

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

The Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to meet on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Public hearings are scheduled on the new intermodal zoning classification, the Trinity Industrial Intermodal project, and the request for a fence variance at 523 Penfield Street. A workshop will also be held on the request to rezone the west side of Reed Street from Hodges to Miller to B-1 special use storage facility. Trustee Ahrendt asked about the portion of fence already installed at 523 Penfield Street. Only the portion of fence that complies with Village code has been installed.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to accept public improvements in Prairie Crossings Unit III upon receipt of payment for \$16,500 in engineering fees and \$3,989 for one missing street light. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber reported that the Census office has been inundated by 47 special census requests. Beecher will probably be conducting our special census after the holidays. The special census needs to get certified by the State by May 1, 2008. The Board was asked if this will still be worthwhile if the census would be conducted at a later time. Overall, it was felt that doing a special census will be worthwhile even if certified at a later time.

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

An update was provided on requests for Facilities Planning Area (FPA) expansions by the Villages of Beecher and Crete. President Lohmann reported that he went to a meeting along with Planning and Zoning Commission member Kevin Bouchard earlier that night in Crete regarding the Centerpoint Intermodal Project. This was why he arrived late to the Board meeting. President Lohmann reported that Senator Debbie Halvorson spoke, Will County Sheriff Paul Kaupas spoke about safety concerns, Supervisor Bob Howard spoke on behalf of Washington Township, Will County Board member Cory Singer spoke about the impact on roads and Diane O'Keefe from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) also spoke. The Route #1 bypass was discussed and was said to be feasible but there was no money to do the project. Reports estimated an increase in traffic by 80,000 vehicles per day with the Centerpoint project. The paving of Route #1 from Goodenow to Church Road is not scheduled until 2009. President Lohmann suggested to re-institute a development district (as proposed for the third airport) for regional cooperation on this project. President Lohmann asked the Board for thoughts on this. Since this project would affect many areas it could all be shared. Board members were asked if they want to pursue a development district. The matter will be discussed further at a later date.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> to consider a pre-annexation agreement for 740 acres of land located between Church Road, Ashland Avenue, the Washington Township line, and the UP/CSX Railroad tracks. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

President Lohmann noted that the Village now has two requests for Class "A" liquor licenses. Both Maria Hernandez who plans to open a Mexican restaurant and Eulalio Valadez who owns the Italian restaurant Via Bennetto are requesting class "A" liquor licenses. President Lohmann proposed to change the current ordinance from "one per every 500 inhabitants of the Village" to "one per every 400 inhabitants of the Village" which would allow two additional Class "A" licenses. Ms. Hernandez indicated that she plans to have a "fine dining" establishment not a fast food type place, in response to a question from the Board.

ORDINANCE# 1076 - An ordinance amending the liquor code to permit the issuance of class "A" licenses at the rate of one per every 400 inhabitants of the Village. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1076. 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 cancel the December 25<sup>th</sup> Board meeting due to the Christmas holiday. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.  
AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to move the December 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.  
AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.  
NAYS: (0) None.  
Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1077 - An ordinance allowing for the retail sale of packaged liquor from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. each day. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1077. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. Four affirmative votes were required to pass the ordinance so President Lohmann voted.  
AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and President Lohmann.  
NAYS: (2) Trustees Kuhlman and Wehling.  
Motion Carried.

President Lohmann reported on the IML conference he attended the previous week. Trustees Szymanski and Cleary also attended the conference. President Lohmann attended a class about running parks programs. Some discussion followed. Trustee Szymanski reported on the economic development class he attended.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

Administrator Barber stated that he received a request from Chuck Bruti asking for reconsideration of his Prairie Meadows Subdivision on the south end of town based on a traffic study. Board members were asked if they were interested in looking at this again. This matter will be on the next meeting's agenda for consideration.

Administrator Barber reported that at 271 Pine Street two residents are feuding over drainage issues. A lot of staff's time and engineer's time has been spent on this. Administrator Barber was asked if this was a private issue or a Village issue. Both parties are asking the Village for relief. Obstructions were caused by the builder or the homeowners according to President Lohmann. The Village Attorney has provided opinion that someone has violated an ordinance. Trustee Szymanski suggested filing a long form complaint and let a court decide. Some Board members felt that this was a neighbor dispute and that the neighbors should work it out between themselves. Staff will discuss the matter further with the Village Attorney to determine the Village's liability.

Administrator Barber reported that at Cardinal Creek and Church Road the building inspectors did an inspection and found a fence that was not in compliance pertaining to the spacing between the boards. The inspectors told the homeowners to take it down and bring it in compliance with Village ordinance. This was for information only.

Administrator Barber reported on the depot streetscape project. The project was stopped previously but it was suggested again to proceed with the project. The State of Illinois is asking for project progress for a grant. The Board was asked if they wanted to pursue the grant again. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to deny the streetscape grant. The motion was dropped because the item was not on the agenda. This matter will be on the next Board meeting's agenda for consideration.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner, Village Clerk