

**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 25, 2008 -- 7:15 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Lohmann called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

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, Public Works Superintendent Harold “Bud” Cowger, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Attorney Tim Kuiper and Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Dale Serig, Jay Bradarich, Roberta Patzer, Pat Lane, Tom Stluka, Don McWhorter, Tom Brislane, James and June Cooney, Janice and Harry Braun, Kevin Bouchard, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Andrew Ahrendt, Brad Townsend and Lucio Gasparetti.

President Lohmann noted that the meeting started fifteen minutes late due to the Fire Department’s demonstration of a fire suppression system held behind the Washington Township building at 6:45 p.m.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 11, 2008 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2008 Board meeting as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Cleary.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2008 Public Hearing as written. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Cleary.
Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) There were no objections to a request from Suzet Begesha to hold a block party from 1036 Catalpa to 1048 Catalpa on September 1, 2008 from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. 3) Bills were presented for the Beecher 4th of July Commission. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$22,691.57 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Dale Serig and Jay Bradarich from Trinity Industrial Development were present stating that agreements have been signed for Phase II lands and asked for approval of the pre-annexation agreement for Trinity Industrial Development Phase III lands.

ORDINANCE #1102 - An ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a pre-annexation agreement with Trinity Industrial Development for Phase III lands, contingent upon the Village Attorney's approval. This item was tabled at the last Board meeting until Trinity executed the agreement on the Phase II lands. The original ordinance will not be given to the petitioners until the Attorney has had time to review the document. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1102. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the condition of the Cardinal Creek Golf Course pond. A letter from Ron Lyon dated August 25th regarding improvements to the pond was read aloud by Trustee Ahrendt. According to the letter, Cardinal Creek has been working to improve the condition of the pond and intend to continue improvements until the Village is satisfied. They also plan to put in a fountain with lights in Spring 2009. Roberta Patzer, 521 Highlington Court, asked how long Cardinal Creek wanted in order to finish the improvements. Ms. Patzer was looking for a deadline to get the work done because she felt it has been a problem for so long. Trustee Cleary agreed that a deadline should be set in order for the improvements to be completed. There was much discussion about imposing a deadline and measuring progress. It was decided to check progress on the pond every 30 days until the last day of spring 2009. If anything is not to certain standards within each 30 days, the matter is to be reported to Code Enforcement Officer Riechers. All improvements must be completed by the first day of summer 2009, which would include Cardinal Creek's plan to put an aerator in the pond.

Patrick Lane, 508 Highlington Court, thanked Trustee Ahrendt and all the Board members for getting the improvements done thus far to Cardinal Creek's pond.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing a Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, November 24th on a proposed tax levy for 2008 collectible in 2009. A copy of the draft ordinance 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.

Brad Townsend of Ehlers and Associates provided a presentation on the G.O. Bond referendum schedule and bond refinancing. Trustee Szymanski asked about the "Plan of Finance" as referred to in the packet. Administrator Barber said if the referendum is approved, the "Plan of Finance" is to serve as a policy statement in the future. Trustee Szymanski had some changes to this plan. Some Board members also had some concerns about the way the referendum question was worded. The Attorney explained why the question had to be worded the way it was. It was the consensus of the Board that the main job of the Board is to educate the public on this. Administrator Barber referred the G.O. bond referendum matter to Attorney Kuiper, who explained the ordinance and asked the Board if they had any questions. It was decided to approve the ordinance as presented.

ORDINANCE #1103 - An ordinance providing for and requiring the submission of the question of issuing \$1,100,000 in General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds to the voters of the Village of Beecher, Will County, Illinois at the general election to be held on the 4th day of November, 2008. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1103. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing Public Hearings to be held at the October 13, 2008 and October 27, 2008 Village Board meetings pertaining to the Public Works facility referendum. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion. These hearings would also include the architect presenting the plans for a \$1.1 million dollar facility which would include all of the underground work. Administrator Barber plans to have a video tour of the current Public Works garage be put on Cable television, to put information in the fall newsletter, and maybe distribute yardwaste bags from the old Public Works garage to show people what it looks like. Trustee Wehling suggested putting videos or pictures of the old garage on the Village website.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the Employee/Volunteer Recognition Dinner scheduled for October 4, 2008. "Save the date" postcards have been mailed, the disc jockey has been booked, and the invitation has been drafted and will be mailed in the first two weeks of September.

An update was provided on behalf of the Fourth of July Commission. The 2009 festival will be held July 2-5.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to waive the letting of bids for the July 4, 2009 fireworks display. Attorney Kuiper said the Board does not need to waive bids because it is a service, but it is a good idea for the Board to do so anyway. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize the Village President to award a contract to Melrose Pyrotechnics in the amount of \$23,500 for a fireworks display on July 4, 2009 at 10:00 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Village audit is in full swing. The field work has been completed and staff is awaiting the full report which will be discussed in a workshop session sometime in September or October.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chief Weissgerber stated that there is nothing new to report at this time regarding senior and youth activities. The Youth Committee is to meet now that school is back in session.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the first car cruise night held at Buddys on August 20th. Approximately 200-250 cars were present and prizes were raffled off. The event went really well and more people are expected in the future. Cruise nights are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month through September. President Lohmann commended Trustee Kuhlman for getting this together. Trustee Kuhlman will work with the Chamber of Commerce to manage future cruise nights.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Crack sealing is scheduled to begin the week of September 1, 2008.

Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the Village Engineer to draft a proposal for the inspection of the Village's two box culverts located on Miller Street and on Penfield Street, and all pedestrian bridges within the Village limits that cross Trim Creek including the pedestrian bridge heading to the elementary school. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

(Note: this motion was amended later in the meeting)

Yardwaste bag distribution days have been scheduled for October 11, 2008 and October 18, 2008. This year, ten free bags will only be given to those areas not in the leaf collection zone, which is basically areas east of Dixie Highway. Those residents on the west side will not receive any free bags this year. Trustees Gardner, Szymanski and Cleary will distribute bags on October 11th. Trustees Ahrendt, Kuhlman and Wehling will distribute bags on October 18th.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that the next mosquito spraying will be conducted on August 28th.

Administrator Barber noted that the Village will have problems getting road salt this year. Salt is in short supply in the entire area and will be much more expensive than in the past.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

A written report on the inspection of the water tower on Gould Street was provided in the packet for review. Rusting was noted on well joints on the inside at the hatch, which can be fixed with putty. President Lohmann noted that Natgun will be coming out to inspect the ground water storage tank on Church Road.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Firemen's Park/OSLAD Grant project. Trustee Wehling said signs have been installed and pictures have been taken and submitted to the State of Illinois, as required for the Village to receive the grant money. The only other thing required is the auditor's report.

Trustee Wehling asked about ballfields and maintenance. A meeting was previously held with Beecher Recreation. It was asked who was expected to maintain the ballfields since there are already weeds coming up in some fields. It was believed that the Village would have to maintain the ballfields. Public Works is continuing to water the grass in Firemen's Park.

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park. Public Works has removed the excess spoil piles from the site so the School District can install the backstops. School Board President Tom Stluka stated that the school needs to meet with the Village as to when the backstops can be put up.

An update was provided on Prairie Park. Work is expected to begin in September. The park was paid for by the developer.

Trustees were asked to provide any articles of interest for the upcoming fall newsletter. The referendum on the proposed Public Works facility will be the feature article, along with leaf collection and yardwaste bag distribution events. Trustee Cleary suggested articles on the Dallas City Flood Relief effort and when garbage can be put out. It was also discussed about allowing dogs

in Firemen's Park on the walking path and dogs defecating on the paved path and their owner's not cleaning up after them. It was suggested that the Village install a dog station in the Park which would provide bags for pet owners to collect feces in. An article can be put in the newsletter restating the leash law and for pet owner's to clean up after their animals.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Status was provided on the Prairie Crossings South retention ponds. Another meeting was held with Vince Igoe to gauge the progress of the erosion control work. President Lohmann reported that seeding won't occur until after Labor Day. The developer still needs to fill in the rest of the ruts, but has put up the silt fence and done some work on the pond. The Village agreed to water the seed when it has been planted. Trustee Cleary asked if the Village Engineer has provided a report on the condition of the pond and what needs to be done to completely fix the problem. It was believed that a report was done but Ray Koenig of Baxter and Woodman can be asked about this at the next Board meeting.

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is scheduled to meet on August 28, 2008. The agenda includes hearings on the hard cover in lieu of a fence for a pool at 404 Fairway Drive, a fence variance at 263 Woodbridge, and a workshop on Walt's Food's request for an amendment to the Planned Unit Development (PUD). A discussion is also expected on the regulation of digital display signs.

Status was provided on J. Plano Builders' foreclosure in Unit #2 of The Preserves at Cardinal Creek (MGM Development). A letter from the Village Attorney was provided in the packet for review. Attorney Kuiper reported that he has had several discussions with receivers of these properties and the attorney for the bank has entered into a contract for the maintenance of the properties. They will also take care of the outstanding water bill. There was discussion if the property with water in the basement has had someone living in the upper unit. Clarification will have to be made with Code Enforcement Officer Riechers.

The Board considered authorizing the Village Attorney to draft ordinances requiring sprinkler systems in all commercial and industrial buildings and also in the furnace rooms of residential dwellings. Trustee Ahrendt recommended approval of this. A sprinkler system presentation was provided before the Board meeting. The Board is to let the Beecher Fire District know at the Intergovernmental meeting on August 26th that the Board would like to see a draft ordinance from another municipality as an example and have them provide a recommendation. This would be for new structures only. This matter will be discussed further at the Intergovernmental meeting August 26th.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported that six Dallas City Flood Relief Committee members went to Dallas City on August 16th and presented a check for \$23,000. Some donations are still being received. There have been nice articles printed in the newspapers from the Dallas City area. The people from Dallas City were extremely grateful for the money.

President Lohmann asked Clerk Conner to send flowers on behalf of the Village for the Mayors of Matteson and Elwood who both passed away recently.

An amusement tax update was provided by Attorney Kuiper. Attorney Kuiper provided a written opinion on the types of businesses that could be taxed: bowling, golf, video and rodeo. President Lohmann asked if the dance studio could be taxed. If approved, it would be up to Village staff to check into businesses to see if they are collecting the amusement tax. It was asked how much money could be brought in and how much it would take to administer this tax. There was some discussion whether the Village would collect enough to make the tax worthwhile and felt this was a bad time to impose this tax. Trustee Szymanski felt some businesses may have a hard time with this due to the economy. Trustee Wehling suggested that the Board think about this issue further and find a solution on how to fund the maintenance of the parks in Beecher. It was discussed as to whether the Village should look again into forming a park district. This matter can be discussed at the Intergovernmental meeting on August 26th. It was felt that the cost of the maintenance of the parks needs to be the responsibility of all those who use the parks, including Washington Township residents. Trustee Gardner suggested putting an article in the newsletter about parks to let people know about the issue. There was discussion of leasing Firemen's Park to the Fourth of July Commission and having them maintain the park. Superintendent Cowger suggested charging Beecher Recreation a rental fee for their use of the parks. Much discussion occurred.

An update was provided on the Beecher/Crete Facilities Planning Area (FPA) expansion. A meeting is to be scheduled around Labor Day between Beecher and Crete on a resolution to the overlap as requested by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Administrator Barber is getting calls from local newspapers about this matter. There was some discussion as to how to resolve this issue.

There was nothing new to report regarding the proposed third airport.

Trustees were encouraged to attend the Intergovernmental meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 26th.

President Lohmann reported that a ribbon cutting for the Dial-a-Ride bus was held on Thursday, August 21st at the Beecher Manor Nursing Home.

A ribbon cutting for the new addition to the Beecher Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is scheduled for Thursday, September 4th at 3:00 p.m. All Trustees were invited and encouraged to attend.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Ahrendt asked about the Beecher Manor Nursing Home and whether there is going to be screening of the air conditioning units on the roof. Landmark Construction is to be notified that screening needs to be adequate for utilities on the roof. If Beecher Manor fails to do so then the temporary Certificate of Occupancy can be revoked. Staff will handle this matter.

According to Trustee Ahrendt, grass cutting needs to be done in Prairie Park by the berms behind the Beecher Car Wash.

Trustee Cleary asked Administrator Barber if the previous motion made to inspect all bridges over Trim Creek in the Village limits would include the bridge on Cardinal Creek Boulevard. It was determined that this is a new bridge and it does not need to be inspected. Trustee Cleary made a motion to amend the previous motion authorizing the Village Engineer to draft a proposal for the inspection of the Village's two box culverts located on Miller and Penfield Streets and all pedestrian bridges west of Route #1 crossing Trim Creek, within the Village limits. Trustee Gardner 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 Szymanski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk