

**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
JANUARY 28, 2008 -- 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, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Gardner.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber and Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer.

GUESTS: Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Tom Stluka, George Willy, Kevin Bouchard, Ron Reichert, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Joseph Venturella, Pam Helsel Hoffman and Kevin Hoffman.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 14, 2008 Board meeting and the January 22, 2008 Committee of the Whole meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14th Board meeting and the January 22nd Committee of the Whole meeting with the following correction: January 14, 2008 minutes, Page 4, 4th paragraph under Streets and Alleys Committee, "Goodenow and Church Road" should be "Goodenow and County Line". Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, 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 4th of July Commission. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$871.60 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Joe Venturella of 280 Mallards Cove complained about snowplows plowing snow right into the bus stop on his street. The resident was asked to call the Village Hall the day after a snow so Public Works could get out and correct the problem as soon as

possible. Administrator Barber indicated that when Public Works is doing snow removal the day of the storm, they are worried about just clearing streets and are unable to clear the many bus stops and other places requested right at that time.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

Trustee Szymanski provided a brief report on the January 22, 2008 workshop. The Board discussed the future of the old Knuth grocery store building (500 W. Indiana Avenue), pay scales and fringe benefits for employees, changes to the Village's personnel manual, and the five-year financial plan.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize an additional Village Board workshop to be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall to continue discussions on the five-year financial plan. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize a referendum in the fall of 2008 for the reauthorization of 1996 G.O. Bonds in the amount of \$995,000 for the construction of a new Public Works facility at Indiana Avenue and Town Center Road. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize a financial consultant be hired to produce a bond schedule and the Finance Committee to solicit proposals for this service. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to authorize the Village President and Clerk to sign an intergovernmental agreement with Beecher School District 200-U for a school resource officer for the 2008/2009 school year. A copy of the agreement was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber provided a copy of an ordinance establishing a compromise ticket program for local citations and explained the program. Action was deferred until the next Board meeting to give Board members and the attorney a chance to review the ordinance.

The Attorney is still reviewing the ordinance adopting the State Smoking Ban provisions as local ordinance. The law is being revised at the State level so the Board decided to wait to pass the ordinance.

Chief Weissgerber provided a summary of the Police Department annual report for 2007 and answered questions from the Board.

Chief Weissgerber reported that Officer Sean Marenkovic has resigned his position to work for the District of Columbia Police Department. Russell Ledezma was hired to replace Officer Marenkovic and will begin February 1, 2008. The department is fully staffed for full-timers but still short handed for part-timers.

An ESDA Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 31st at the Washington Township Center. A shelter preparation exercise is being considered using the new CERT volunteer force.

The animal control program annual report for 2007 was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Kuhlman provided a report.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion authorizing the letting of bids for a 2008 Fourth of July vehicle. A copy of the bid notice was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was reported that the youth activities program is scheduled to host a bean bag tournament on February 2, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Community Hall.

Chief Weissgerber provided an update regarding putting a street light at Hunter's Chase Park. The Chief has made contact with a representative from the subdivision and will meet with them to discuss concerns and a better way to handle the problem, rather than installing additional lighting.

The Police Department and Zion Lutheran students will have another basketball game at 4:00 p.m. at Zion on Tuesday, January 29, 2008.

President Lohmann asked about the traffic study for Orchard Lane. Chief Weissgerber is working with the Village of Peotone to possibly purchase a device that measures speed and number of cars. The Chief will update the Board on this matter at a later date.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Department annual report for 2007 was provided for review but was not discussed since Public Works Superintendent Cowger could not be present due to illness.

The Board discussed a sidewalk snow removal plan. Land at the corner of Dixie Highway and Church Road was added to the list as sidewalks that should be cleaned under this program since the property is vacant, the property owner probably wouldn't do it. Many concerns were expressed about having manpower available to remove snow on the sidewalks near the schools and on Route #1. The matter was tabled indefinitely.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve a mowing contract for the 2008 and 2009 seasons with Deenik Landscaping and Nursery in the amount of \$19,998 per year. Questions were asked about some of the locations to be mowed. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve an agreement with Terry Zeilenga of 801 Donoho for the mowing of Lange's Phase III retention pond in 2008 in the amount of \$995. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to authorize the Village Engineer to solicit proposals for an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for the construction of a wing wall and design on the inlet side of the Hunter's Chase retention pond and in the rear of 1434 Crooked Creek to control the flow of water in the storm sewer trench. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the Route #1 resurfacing. Work is now scheduled from IL-394 to Church Road in the spring of 2011 and from Pasadena to the Will/Kankakee County Line in the fall of 2011. The area between Church Road and Pasadena is not scheduled for resurfacing for at least 10 more years. Some Board members felt that Route #1 wouldn't make it until the delayed resurfacing dates and that it is in too bad of shape already.

The Board discussed the Chestnut and Dixie Highway traffic signal project. The project has been pushed off by IDOT until Spring, 2009. This would require a new application for STP Funds. Some Board members felt this project was being held up at the State level.

The Board discussed the Church Road improvement project. Trustee Kuhlman reported that he was approached by a resident on South Park who complained to him about the condition of Church Road by the Beecher Junior High School. The developer was to fix the road but with the current economy probably won't be able to for a while. The Board discussed options. There is no money in the budget to repair the road. It was asked if the road should be put back to stone. No action was taken.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The Sewer Department annual report for 2007 was provided in the packet for review.

The Water Billed and Water Pumped Annual Report for 2007 was provided in the packet for review.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

There was no report regarding the Firemen's Park/OSLAD Grant.

A special committee was formed to discuss the future of the Parks and Recreation Department for the Village and a meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2008 at the Village Hall. Trustee Wehling said the committee will brainstorm on what can be done with parks and recreation in Beecher. Trustee Wehling, Trustee Ahrendt, Drew Beck and Julie Wille are to serve on the committee.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Building Department annual report for 2007 was provided in the packet for review.

The Code Enforcement annual report for 2007 was provided in the packet for review.

It was reported that the special census will hopefully be wrapped up within the next week or so.

Results were provided from the joint Village Board/Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting held on January 24th. Trustee Ahrendt felt that it was a positive meeting and there was good discussion. Some Board members felt that this type of meeting should be held every once in a while. A committee was appointed to review the fence ordinance. Trustee Cleary and PZC member Phil Serviss were appointed to the committee and have already met once.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann stated that sewer treatment plant operator Bill Merritt and the Village Engineer are reviewing the sampling data of the leachate from Sexton landfill to determine if it is feasible to treat this leachate with our present plant design. A report should be available by February 1, 2008.

An update was provided on the Trinity Industrial intermodal project. A Trinity Industrial representative will come to a February Board meeting with a revised plan.

An Intergovernmental Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center.

President Lohmann announced the resignation of Brad Coats from the Planning and Zoning Commission and appointed Kim Koutsky as Brad Coats' replacement.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to accept the resignation of Brad Coats from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked for approval to appoint Kim Koutsky to the Planning and Zoning Commission replacing Brad Coats. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve the appointment of Kim Koutsky to the PZC. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann will be out of town for the next Board meeting. Trustee Wehling will serve as President Pro-Tem.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber mentioned that Public Works offered help to the town of Watseka for flooding relief. They said they would call us back if needed. President Lohmann has gone to Watseka and explained how things looked.

George Willy asked for a map of the most recent changes to the intermodal facility proposal. Information will be provided to him by Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer.

Trustee Szymanski discussed if the Village should hold an advisory referendum as to where to put a new Village Hall. It was recommended that since the Board is not planning to build a Village Hall in the near future that the matter should wait for a later election.

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 Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk