

**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
FEBRUARY 11, 2008 -- 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: Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: President Lohmann.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Attorney Tim Kuiper, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Bud Cowger, Engineer Ray Koenig and Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer.

GUESTS: Phil Serviss, Don McWhorter, Andrew Ahrendt, Dale Serig, Ron and Nancy Reichert, Joe Perry, Tony Perry, Bob Howard, Bill Voss, Larry and Diane Hameister, Warren Opperman, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Vincent Crescenzo and John Popp.

President Pro-Tem Wehling asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 28, 2008 Board meeting and January 30, 2008 Joint Taxing Body meeting. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approved the minutes of the January 28, 2008 Board Meeting. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2008 Joint Taxing Body meeting with the following correction: Bob Howard was not in attendance, Dennis Koehn provided an update. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, 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 provided. 2) Bills were presented for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$245.94 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Clerk Conner reported that SouthSTAR Services has requested permission to hold their annual Candy Days in Beecher on May 9 and 10, 2008. A copy of their request was provided. No objections were made to the request as long as no solicitations be done on or along Route #1.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Ron Reichert of TWR Builders provided a presentation on his proposal for a planned unit development for the property east of Trim Creek, south of Church Road and west of Dixie Highway, known as Creekside Unit #1. Joe Perry provided a presentation on the senior housing portion of the plan which would be state and federally supported, to be managed by the Perry Group. This would be no more than 50 units and limited to seniors age 62 or older. Handouts of typical floor plans, site plan, clubhouse and elevations were provided. It was determined that the senior housing portion must stay 62 or older for 40 years. The housing could be opened to other ages after that time. The Board discussed easements in the development and maintenance of common properties by single family homeowners through a homeowner's association. Some concerns were expressed that L&H Services had the option on the commercial portion of the property along Route #1 and did not exercise the option so now if the property is developed under this plan, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) may allow another Route #1 access to match up with Linden Lane and may close L&H's current access. The agreements regarding Route #1 access to match up with Linden Lane was made when there was a road planned through the property. With the road not in this plan, just a parking lot and business, the IDOT agreement for further Route #1 access may not apply. This matter was for Village Board information only at this time. This matter will be considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission at a February 28, 2008 workshop meeting.

Dale Serig was present and explained his proposal for rezoning upon annexation from AG-1 to I-T Intermodal Industrial for additional acreage located north of Eagle Lake Road and west of the Union Pacific railroad tracks. A draft site plan for the Trinity Multi Modal Business Park was provided. Mr. Serig is adding parcels to the project as he obtains contracts on additional property. Board members asked questions of Mr. Serig. Mr. Serig will now move on to the Planning and Zoning Commission for its February 28th workshop and March 27th hearing.

Washington Township Supervisor Bob Howard reported on the Dial-a-Ride program. He is moving forward and looking for the Village's cooperation to get it going. The program is estimated to cost \$16,000 per year. Mr. Howard is looking for outside grants to help with funding the costs of the program.

Larry Hameister referred to Ron Reichert's proposal as previously discussed. He had a copy of his letter from IDOT that was referred to earlier in the meeting. Mr. Hameister was referred to the February 28th Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to provide information.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review and the Treasurer was present to answer questions. Staff explained to the Board the drop in revenues and fund balances since last year at this time.

A list of bills totalling \$227,513.76 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. This includes an amount of \$166.35 Trustee Szymanski added to the bills for mileage for Special Census workers to finish out all special census mileage expenses. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills in the amount of \$227,513.76 including additional mileage for special census workers as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A Village Board workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. The five-year financial plan is scheduled for discussion.

An Economic Development Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Items on the agenda include a discussion on the Beatty Lumber sales tax and a discussion with Bob Tully on the future of the Gould Street downtown area.

Trustee Szymanski reported that the recent Fourth of July Commission meeting was held in the new food building. Dates for the 2008 festival are July 3-6. A German band will be entertaining on July 5th and American English will entertain on July 6th.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to solicit proposals for a financial consultant to serve the Village of Beecher for the years 2008 through 2012. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

ORDINANCE #1087 - An ordinance establishing a compromise ticket program for local offenses. Chief Weissgerber stated that he is not ready to implement this ordinance yet and would like it to become effective March 1, 2008. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1087 amending the effective date to March 1, 2008. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1088 - An ordinance adopting State Statute prohibiting smoking in public buildings. Chief Weissgerber reported on his meeting held with the Health Department and said there have been no complaints in Beecher so far. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1088. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

The ESDA Board met February 7th and viewed the new trailer purchased for the storage and transportation of sheltering supplies. The use of CERT volunteers in a shelter exercise was also discussed. There is a need to build shelves inside the trailer and put graphics on the outside to identify it to be a Beecher ESDA trailer. Public Works will help with the work, once they catch up from the recent snows.

Trustee Kuhlman asked Chief Weissgerber about laws pertaining to trains blocking the railroad crossings. Chief reported on recent case law that local laws cannot override federal law pertaining to this matter. It must be enforced at a federal level if problems occur. According to Chief Weissgerber there have been no recent problems.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Department annual report for 2007 was provided at the January 28, 2008 Board meeting, however, the Superintendent was ill and not present to discuss the report. Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported on watermain breaks over the last year. He also reported on how much road salt has been used this year because of the many snowstorms. The Village currently has enough salt on hand for five more snow storms. Salt is on order but it is uncertain when it will be delivered. Some municipalities are experiencing salt shortages.

Will County will be holding public hearings on proposed impact fees to be imposed on municipalities with all new subdivision plats. Administrator Barber reported on the controversy of this plan and its potential impact on Beecher. Administrator Barber was asked to attend the hearing.

Trustee Cleary requested a closed session be held to discuss pending litigation.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The Water and Sewer Department monthly reports were included in the packet for review.

Engineer Koenig provided an update on well #5. ComEd has finally set the transformer for the well. The electrician is running conduit. Once the building is heated it can be painted and the equipment

may be put in. The project should be completed by May 15th, including all landscaping. Trustee Gardner asked about the pump and whether the Board should look at liquidated damages. Engineer Koenig felt that liquidated damages would not apply to this.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

There was nothing new to report on the Firemen's Park/OSLAD Grant project.

Trustee Wehling reported on the meeting with Beecher Recreation, Washington Township and the open space committee to discuss the future of parks and recreation in Beecher. This matter is to be considered in open discussions with Washington Township and other taxing bodies are to be involved. This is just exploratory at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for February 14th at the Beecher Community Hall.

An update was provided on the Public Works facility. A drawing from JMA Architects was provided for review. The architect is now in receipt of the top of foundation survey from the Engineer. A presentation will be made at the February 25th Board meeting on the new facility.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

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

ORDINANCE #1089 - An ordinance approving an amendment to the Beecher Zoning Ordinance requiring a maximum of 2 feet of depth for every foot of frontage of an accessory structure exceeding 144 square feet in a residential district. The Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended approval. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1089. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Will County Code Enforcement has sent a letter to the owner of 28835 Dixie Highway after several complaints of free roaming farm animals and unsanitary conditions. Trustee Kuhlman reported that Will County has inspected the property and found animals in good shape and well-fed. Trustee Kuhlman will check again with Will County to keep track of this situation.

CMAP will host a community visioning town meeting on Wednesday, February 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center. Supervisor Bob Howard will go to represent Washington Township. Trustee Szymanski stated that he could probably attend on behalf of the Village.

The Board discussed requiring all generator installations to obtain a building permit. There have been many generators installed in Beecher in the last year. Some residents obtained a permit and some did not. It was commented that since the generators are being hardwired into these homes, a permit should be obtained for safety reasons and to keep improper installations from back feeding into the system. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to require all permanently hardwired generator installations to obtain a building permit from the Village, effective immediately. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Engineer Koenig obtained a report from Sexton on the leachate analysis, and needs to go through the data and provide a formal report at the next meeting. The Board discussed results of ammonia levels in leachate and discussed setting up an ammonia tank at the sewer plant.

President Lohmann provided results on the January 30th Joint Taxing Body meeting. One of the outstanding items from the meeting which the Board needed to address is the status of Hillcrest Drive. There are about 11 homes on this private drive outside of the Village limits which pose life safety concerns to the School District and Fire District. At the Joint Taxing Body meeting the Village Board agreed to plow this road for the remainder of the winter until such time it is determined how this road can be maintained. The use of CDBG money to solve the problem was mentioned as a possible way to pay for improvements to the road. Trustee Wehling said this is a life safety situation and felt it was needed to be done. Trustee Cleary expressed concerns that this service is not being paid for by the residents who are getting the service. Staff requested the Board make a formal motion regarding the plowing of the road for the record. Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the removal of snow from Hillcrest Drive for the remainder of this winter. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber recommended having Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer work on the matter concerning Hillcrest Drive homeowners. Concerns were expressed whether Village insurance would cover plowing on Hillcrest Drive if something happens. Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing Administrator Barber to send a letter to Hillcrest residents explaining the Board's policy to provide snow removal for this winter and to set a date and time to meet with the residents of Hillcrest Drive to discuss annexation and road dedication. 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 to be discussed in open session, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:34 p.m to discuss pending litigation. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to return to regular session at 10:04 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize reimbursement of up to \$5,000 to Joe and Marge Cook for the purchase of a generator. 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 Pro-Tem Wehling asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Cleary 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 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk