

**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 25, 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, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Ahrendt.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger and Chief of Police Jeffrey Weissgerber.

**GUESTS:** Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, George Willy, Tom Brislane, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Wayne Babiak, Tom Stluka, Kevin Bouchard, Joe Burgess, Bob Howard and Mike Stanula.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the February 11, 2008 Board meeting and February 19, 2008 Committee of the Whole meeting. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Wehling.

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. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$840.43 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Joe Burgess, Washington Township Clerk, proposed a list of the senior activities that he plans for the Village and Township to move forward with this year. He was also looking for any ideas from the Village for other activities. Mr. Burgess also proposed ideas for youth activities and asked that whoever is handling Village youth activities should get back with him

with their plans and ideas. Chief Weissgerber reported on scheduled youth activities and recent youth outings such as movie night, paintball, etc. It was suggested that the Township handle and sponsor senior activities and the Village handle youth activities with both the Village and Township names on both. Some Board members wanted to be sure both the Village and Township worked together on both group's activities and preferred not to separate the two. The Village and Township representatives can meet at 5 p.m. once per month on a date to be determined to discuss and plan activities. Trustee Wehling made a motion to appoint an oversight committee for youth and senior activities, consisting of the following members: President Lohmann, Chief Weissgerber, Lieutenant Emerson, Township Supervisor Howard and Township Clerk Burgess. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Wayne Babiak from JMA Architects provided a presentation on a design proposal and cost estimate for the new Public Works facility. Mr. Babiak showed a PowerPoint presentation on the Phase I Public Works Garage proposal and showed a number of different variables for the building with four "packages" with different options shown with each package. Mr. Babiak answered questions from the Board. The Board discussed the location of the Public Works garage on the property and the future location of the Village Hall and Police station if built at this location. The Board discussed flipping the building to the west side of the property instead of on the east side. The Board wanted to find ways to bring the estimated costs down. After some discussion, the Board members wanted more time to think about this proposal. The matter will be considered again at the March 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Mr. Babiak from JMA Architects will come back to discuss the matter and answer any questions.

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

The Board tabled consideration of a resolution adopting a five-year financial plan.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adopt a four-year compensation plan guideline for Village employees effective May 1, 2009. This would include increases of 3.5% in the first two years and 4% in the last two years. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve changes to the Village personnel manual effective May 1, 2008. A memo outlining the changes proposed was included in the packet for review. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An Economic Development Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

### **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Chief Weissgerber reported on the Police Department's youth bowling event held on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The event went very well and 187 participants bowled as many games as they could in one hour.

A state-wide tornado drill is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. All schools will be participating.

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

The Board discussed the future of Church Road east of the Junior High School. The Board previously discussed tearing up the road and returning it to gravel in some areas. Costs to improve the road were a major concern. It was considered to have staff get a bid from Washington Township to again tar and chip the road. Public Works Supervisor Cowger felt the problem with the road is the base which means tar and chip might not work. Trustee Kuhlman expressed concerns about keeping the dust down if the road is returned to stone. It was the consensus of the Board to return the road to stone. Staff will need to check with Washington Township to get a cost for using the grinder to grind up the current asphalt parts of the road and return it to stone.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has requested a full Phase 1 report for the Dixie Highway/Chestnut traffic light. Strand Engineering is requesting an additional \$30,000 in engineering fees for completion of the design. The Board discussed if more money is invested in this project if there would be a chance that the Village could lose money and still not get the light. Administrator Barber expressed concerns that the original \$224,000 cost of the light might still go up significantly. After much discussion, Trustee Cleary made a motion to proceed with Strand Engineering's option #2 - IDOT street light proposal. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Option #2 assumes the Village will apply for federal participation for both the completion of the Intersection Design Study (IDS) and the bidding documents in Phase II. This option also delays the start of construction since the preparation of the IDS, the review and approval of the IDS, and the preparation of the bidding documents will be delayed.

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

Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve a proposal from Baxter & Woodman Engineering to expand the Village's Facilities Planning Area (FPA) by 160 acres south and east of Eagle Lake Road and South Park Avenue for \$8,000 in engineering fees and \$1,600 in application fees. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

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

The Firemen's Park/OSLAD Grant project is awaiting better weather to move forward.

Staff has begun the process for a Spring 2008 newsletter. Publication may wait on plans for a Public Works facility if a decision is not made soon. Trustee Wehling asked for possible articles for the newsletter.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a contract in the amount of \$425 per month with South Suburban Sweeps for cleaning the municipal building for fiscal year 2008/09. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

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

The Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to meet on February 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. to hold workshops on the Reichert Planned Unit Development and Trinity Industrial's request for I-T zoning upon annexation.

Administrator Barber provided results of the community visioning meeting. Many concerns were expressed about the intermodal development and its impact on the community. Township Supervisor Howard also provided a report on what was discussed at the meeting.

Trustee Wehling provided the status of new residential developments in the Village. A report was provided in the packet for review. Supervisor Howard asked how many homes have been issued a permit but do not yet have a certificate of occupancy, as ones not yet sold and models. Supervisor Mr. Howard asked about permit renewal fees and how much the Village is losing out on tax dollars until models, etc. go on the tax rolls.

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

A letter from the Village Engineer regarding the leachate report was provided in the packet for review. The Engineer wants an additional \$5,000 to conduct a more thorough study. Trinity Industrial has agreed to pay the \$5,000 to complete the study, and Sexton has agreed to furnish the new information. Concerns were expressed as to why the Engineer wants another \$5,000 to complete the study. Administrator Barber explained changes to our sewer plant parameters since the last study was done which calls for a further look at leachate. Some Board members indicated that they did not want to treat the leachate or move forward with this process. Administrator Barber said that Crete has expressed interest in doing this if Beecher does not. Thorn Creek Sanitary would run a line

into the landfill area to treat the leachate. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize the Engineer to conduct a more thorough study of the leachate of the landfill. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (3) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski and Gardner.

NAYS: (2) Trustees Kuhlman and Wehling.

Motion Carried.

The Board will continue the leachate treatment discussion at a future meeting when all Trustees are present. Administrator Barber was asked to check with other communities that treat leachate and ask for their pros and cons of doing this.

Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer has drafted a letter which will go to all of the property owners on Hillcrest Drive. Staff has uncovered a 20' right of way which now runs through the Hillcrest properties which shows up on Will County's tax maps. A meeting will be held with Hillcrest Drive residents once results are produced regarding ownership of the 20' right of way.

The Village received its first unofficial tally from the special census. There are 1,138 new residents since 2004 for a total population of 4,108. The certification of this number is expected in 60-90 days.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner, Village Clerk