

**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 11, 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 Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Cleary.

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

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Kevin Bouchard, Tom Brislane, Pat Lane, Don McWhorter, Scott Soppet, Jay Bradarich, Andrew Ahrendt, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Roberta Patzer, Steve Lange, Helen and Richard Szutenbach, Jerry Pocus, Ken Burns, Janet Burns, Annette Schwer, Darlene Dymerski, Janice and Harry Braun, Al Buitter, Eric Ophoff, Duane Temme, Bob Dolezal, Jim and June Cooney and Larry Bunte.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the July 28, 2008 Board meeting. Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, 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 provided. 2) Bills were presented for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission (\$2,360.15) and the Beautification Commission (\$34.00). Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$2,394.15 as listed on the Clerk's Report and add a bill for \$100 for the Beautification Commission paid to the Dallas City Flood Relief Fund. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Roberta Patzer, 521 Highlington Court, provided a copy of a letter and photos of a Cardinal Creek Golf Course pond to the Board members. Ms. Patzer read the letter aloud (to be attached to these minutes). Ms. Patzer stated that she has made multiple complaints about the pond to Code Enforcement Officer Riechers and Village officials. She has complained about mosquitos breeding in the pond and the stench coming from the pond and said nothing was done about it. Ms. Patzer was referred to Ron Lyon, Golf Course Manager, and he has not handled the problem. President Lohmann said he spoke to Ron Lyon and he said he would get this cleaned up. Administrator Barber received a letter from Ron Lyon that he read aloud indicating he would address the concerns but needed more time to do this. Ms. Patzer said some problems have been on-going for many years with the ponds. Administrator Barber explained courses of action to get this resolved. First a timeline must be given in which to complete the work, and then a long form complaint could be filed.

Richard Szutenbach, 512 Highlington Court, complained about mosquitos and stagnant water on the golf course.

President Lohmann said he felt part of problem was when Cardinal Creek Golf Course weedeated around the pond earlier this year and cut the cattails, prairie stalks, etc. into the pond and it made it look worse than it did before.

Patrick Lane, 508 Highlington Court, complained about garbage in the pond, an old utility shed and equipment stored in that area that look bad. Mr. Lane claims that he had made an attempt in the past to get an aerator installed in the pond. It was the consensus of the Board to give Cardinal Creek Golf Course until the next Board meeting to address these problems or a long form complaint will be filed. A letter will be sent by staff informing Ron Lyon of these matters.

Jerry Pocus from ATI Clark was present to request a referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) to expand Walt's Food Centers at 1111 Dixie Highway to the north to add to the store and have the maximum 10,000 square feet, be allowed to create 30 new parking stalls in the rear of the building, and request pylon signs at the northwest corner of the shopping center by the old Maxwell's Restaurant. Mr. Pocus was referred to the PZC for their August 28th meeting and then a public hearing would be held in September.

Tom Brislane, 529 Highlington Court, asked that a letter from Bob Howard be read into the public record.. Mr. Brislane read a letter from Washington Township Supervisor Bob Howard regarding the Hillcrest Drive issue asking that the Village come to him in these types of matters before getting outside help from those that are not elected officials, such as Will County Board candidate Pam Hoffman. President Lohmann indicated that Mr. Howard was made aware of this matter at a joint taxing body meeting approximately six months ago and nothing has been done. Ms. Hoffman offered to help so was taken up on her offer.

Chief Weissgerber presented a certificate of appreciation to Kenneth Burns thanking him for helping in a theft arrest. Chief Weissgerber explained the circumstances.

A public hearing was held to consider a pre-annexation agreement with Trinity Industrial Development for Phase III lands, commonly known as the McWhorter parcel (78 acres) and the Buitter parcel (40 acres). Administrator Barber noted a point made during the public hearing as to why to approve Phase III when Phase II hasn't been approved yet. It was decided to delay the vote on this since Phase II hasn't been approved yet. It was the consensus of the Board to defer this matter until the next meeting.

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. Administrator Barber noted some account transfers made last month and the reason for current fund balances.

A list of bills totalling \$110,021.44 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered a plan of finance and an expansion of the purposes of the General Obligation bonds for the upcoming referendum. Enclosed in the packet for review was a copy of the latest draft plan and a recommendation to expand the scope of the G.O. Bonds to include other items in the event the bids for the Public Works facility are too high and the Village Board goes in a different direction for financing public improvements. Administrator Barber indicated some concerns expressed that the architect thinks the Village can't do the Public Works garage for less than \$1.1 million. Administrator Barber asked if the Village should try and allow the use of the G.O. Bond to be more flexible in case it can't cover the entire scope of the public works garage project once bids are opened. Administrator Barber read through other projects that could be done if the Public Works garage bids come in too high and the project can't be done. Giving flexibility in the use of the bonds could allow other improvements to be done but could also confuse the public. For example, the Village could do road improvements, replace water and sewer mains or other projects. It was the consensus of the Board that the first goal is to get a new Public Works garage built. Trustee Szymanski felt that the question on the ballot should say that the Village will construct a Public Works facility with options to do other water, sewer and road projects. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the financial plan submitted by Ehlers and to authorize bond counsel to draft a referendum question for the November 4th election asking residents for permission to sell \$1,100,000 in General Obligation Bonds for the purposes of constructing a public works facility and for other public works projects in the event there are funds remaining.

Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Clerk Conner reported that the menu has been finalized for the Employee/Volunteer Recognition Dinner and the committee is working on decoration and entertainment ideas. The Committee is looking at a local person to be the DJ. A "save the date" postcard is being mailed this week to let people know about the dinner which is October 4th. The next meeting is scheduled for September 4th.

Village ordinances have been codified for the prior year. The Village website has also been updated to reflect these code changes.

The Board discussed the Village's fiscal condition for future years. Trustee Szymanski wished to hold a workshop in the fall to address various issues. Department heads will be asked for five suggestions for cost effective measures.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported that a video camera is on order which will be paid for by a grant.

President Lohmann asked Chief Weissgerber the status of the ESDA trailer. Public Works Superintendent Cowger and Chief Weissgerber are to work on this in the coming week.

President Lohmann asked who will be spotting tree locations for fall planting. Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger will handle this matter.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Crack sealing work is scheduled for the week of August 25, 2008.

President Lohmann requested Washington Township members to come to the August 26th Intergovernmental meeting to get the Hillcrest Drive issue resolved.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

Superintendent Cowger reported that well #5 is up and running.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Firemen's Park/OSLAD grant project. Staff is in the process of getting photos of the site and hopes to submit the photos soon and get reimbursed quickly by the State. The park bathrooms are opened at 6:00 a.m. and closed at dusk.

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park. Public Works has started moving the two topsoil piles offsite. Trustee Wehling asked about the shed being built by the School this fall. At the last meeting it was decided that the Village can't help with this project until we have the money.

An update was provided on Prairie Park. The contracts have been signed. This park is being installed behind the Beecher Car Wash. Work should be under way in October, 2008.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The next PZC meeting is scheduled for August 28th. The agenda includes public hearings on the Solis request (361 Fairway Drive) to amend the zoning ordinance to allow for hard covers on pools in lieu of fences, and a request for a fence in the front yard setback at 263 Woodbridge.

An update was provided regarding the Prairie Crossings South retention pond. President Lohmann reported some progress and it is still being worked on. Trustee Ahrendt asked about the erosion control for the pond. Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman said what has been done so far looks good but there is still work to do. The pond still needs to be seeded. Mr. Koenig will work with Code Enforcement Officer Riechers to see that the work gets done. President Lohmann recommended holding up building permits to make the developer make the improvements. There have been rumors that the developer will apply for permits soon.

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

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

The Economic Development Coordinator monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Chairman of Streets and Alleys and Water and Sewer was asked to look at the Village's property in front of the Washington Township Center. There are erosion problems on the property going into a pond. Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger will also look at this with the Committee Chairs.

President Lohmann mentioned that he would like to work on a recycling program for Firemen's Park. Administrator Barber obtained some recycling containers for Firemen's Park to start using. President Lohmann commented that he would like to see the many plastic bottles being thrown away to be recycled. There were no objections from the Board.

An update was provided on the Dallas City "Sister City" Flood Relief effort. A group is leaving at 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 16th and will be making a presentation of a check in Dallas City at 10:30 a.m. Board members were asked if anyone else would like to attend. It was discussed who would drive.

The Attorney is working on the amusement tax issue.

Administrator Barber talked to Tom Durkin of Crete regarding the Beecher/Crete Facilities Planning Area (FPA) expansion, and will set up a meeting.

Trustee Szymanski, Administrator Barber, President Lohmann and Clerk Conner will attend the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Conference beginning on September 25th.

President Lohmann appointed Trustee Szymanski as the delegate to the 2008 IML Conference. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve President Lohmann's appointment. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Ahrendt noted that some of the completed homes along Indiana Avenue in Cardinal Creek Subdivision do not have yards put in and it looks bad. Staff will check into this matter.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk