

**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
OCTOBER 27, 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 (arrived at 7:02 p.m.), 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 and Treasurer Nelson Collins.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald (arrived at 7:24 p.m.), Tom Stluka, Andrew Ahrendt, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Harold Karstensen, Wayne Bobiak, Brad Townsend, Curt Dykstra, Arnold Cooper and Tom Brislane.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 13, 2008 Board meeting and Public Hearing. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Wehling.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Cleary.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given.

2) A bill was presented for the Beecher Beautification Commission. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the bill in the amount of \$99.00 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.

Trustee Cleary arrived at 7:02 p.m.

3) Thank you notes were read aloud from Jan Kaminski and Rayma Rea of Dallas City.

A public hearing was held at 7:04 p.m. to introduce the referendum question to the voters to consider a G.O. Bond issue in the amount of \$1,100,000 for the construction of a Public Works facility.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

Curt Dykstra from Smith, Koelling, Dykstra & Ohm, PC provided a detailed presentation on the audit for Fiscal Year 2007/08. Mr. Dykstra explained what reports were required by GASB 34 and answered questions of the Board. Mr. Dykstra said his management letter has not yet been completed.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the audit for fiscal year 2007-08. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The five-year financial plan for fiscal years 2009-2013 is close to being released for review. Trustee Cleary asked when the workshop meeting would be held. A date will be set at the next Board meeting.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chief Weissgerber provided pointers from the National Safety Council on Halloween safety, which can be reviewed at NSC.org.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the Village is looking at changing cell phone providers from Nextel to Verizon, because Nextel has poor coverage in Beecher and the Village would save money over the current plan with Nextel.

An ESDA meeting is scheduled for October 29th at 6:30 p.m.

The senior breakfast was held on Saturday, October 25th. Trustee Kuhlman said it was the biggest crowd so far.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Results were provided from the yardwaste bag distribution days. In total, 1,360 bags were distributed at a cost of \$2,584. This program will be discussed at the November workshop. Some Board members felt that the Board should look at a different way of distributing the yardwaste bags

because the residents from the west side were unhappy for not receiving any bags this year. It was suggested to provide leaf collection on the east side of Dixie Highway, too. Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger felt the east side doesn't have many trees yet, but in 10 years Public Works may not be able to handle the volume of leaf collection throughout the whole town if this area is added. Administrator Barber suggested eliminating the yardwaste bag giveaway entirely and providing a rebate on the bills of those on the east side of town who do not get leaf collection. The Board discussed options and will look into what needs to be done in the future.

Crack sealing began last week and some work still needs to be done.

300 tons of salt has been shipped to Beecher and is stored in the dome. A bill in the amount of \$17,388 will be paid in November out of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds.

The leaf collection program is now in full swing.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the purchase of a replacement snow plow for the 2003 utility truck (with funds remaining in the insurance account) at an amount not to exceed \$5,000, and to declare the Boss V-blade as surplus property. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann reported that Superintendent Cowger was called out over the weekend because a glass window of the Buchmeier building at Penfield and Reed Streets was blown out, due to the high winds. Public Works cleaned up the glass in the street. This also happened in 2007. Superintendent Cowger asked if the Village should send a bill to the building owners or if the Village should keep incurring the cleanup costs. There was some discussion on this matter. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to board up the missing windows on the building at Penfield and Reed Streets and bill the property owner (Buchmeier) or lien the property for costs, including costs for cleaning up glass over the weekend, subject to Village Attorney's approval. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger provided a Public Works report.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The Board passed a motion directing each department to come up with at least five cost-effective measures for consideration by November 10th. It was suggested that this item be put on the agenda for the next workshop meeting. Trustee Gardner expressed concerns that different items keep getting added to workshop meetings and meetings go on too long and all items on the agenda do not

end up getting covered during the meeting. Trustee Gardner wants to find a way to solve this problem. Administrator Barber suggested that the five-year plan get delegated to the Finance Committee or delayed until after the holidays. Much discussion followed.

The Board considered authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a five-year lease agreement with Airbaud for \$225 per month to place an antenna on the Village's water tower. Trustee Szymanski was concerned that the monthly amount was not enough and wanted staff on site when they install the antenna or do any maintenance. Administrator Barber reported he recently learned the Village is losing free internet through Comcast and maybe the Village can get free internet through Airbaud. It was asked if the free internet agreement could include the School District and Washington Township. Administrator Barber will go back to Airbaud and try and get free Internet access for all taxing bodies in Washington Township and also request the monthly rental fee of \$225, or raise the rental fee per month if free Internet access is not provided. The consensus of the Board was that the current offer is not enough.

The Board considered replacing the fence around the Elementary School lift station. Trustee Wehling raised concerns if softballs from the adjacent ballfield could break the vinyl fence. Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve replacing the fence around the Elementary School lift station using sludge hauling money, at an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the OSLAD Grant project. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has advised the Village that the payment of \$190,000 has been approved and sent to the Comptroller for processing. The check should be cut and mailed on November 7th

An update was provided on Welton Stedt Park. School Board President Tom Stluka reported on the backstops. Four bids were obtained. The School District has not yet formally accepted the bids, ranging from \$27,000 to \$35,000, for two backstops with two alternates for a 40-foot fence. Mr. Stluka said this will fill the school's obligation to the Village on these fields.

An update was provided on Prairie Park. All of the trees have been planted and all that there is left to do is install a path from the public sidewalk to the playground area. To date, \$52,910 of the \$58,000 donated has been spent on this project.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE #1106 - An ordinance amending the zoning code pertaining to fences around pools. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1106. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

The PZC is leaning towards requiring a special use permit for all digital display signs and regulating the amount of wall or window surface that can be used for the display of paper or cardboard signs. President Lohmann asked how this would affect Walt's and other businesses in town.

It was reported that the Prairie Crossings South retention pond will be Vince Igoe's responsibility to mow next year.

An update was provided on the 9 center pond on Cardinal Creek Golf Course. The portion of the pond visible to the golf course has been cleaned, but the back portion of the pond is still in bad shape. Ron Lyons has indicated that the pond will be addressed in full in November and that a fountain will be installed in the spring.

The Board considered a course of action on several dilapidated buildings in the old part of town. A report and color pictures from Code Enforcement Officer Riechers were provided for review. At 530 Woodward there are violations of broken windows, windows boarded up, the roof needs to be replaced and there is no foundation. Trustee Cleary said the building was built before a foundation was required so requiring a foundation can't be enforced now. The Board agreed not to require a foundation now because the building would be grandfathered in. It was the consensus of the Board that they will support the Code Enforcement Officer on sending a letter to all property owners affected and require them to provide a plan to the Village within 60 days as to how and when they will bring their building up to code. If the property owners don't comply, a notice will be sent for them to appear before the Village Board. If the property owner doesn't appear before the Board, a notice will be sent for them to appear in court.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann provided an update on the Trinity Industrial Park. Dale Serig wants to flip flop the intermodal to the east side of the tracks. The Board will consider this when he has contracts on all of the affected properties. Mr. Serig wishes to drop Phase 3 and not renew contracts. The east side of the tracks would be Phases 2 and 4. Mr. Serig no longer plans on coming south of Church Road with the intermodal.

Status was provided on the Preserves at Cardinal Creek Homeowner's Association. A meeting was held with the management firm responsible for common areas and some lots. Some occupied homes in the Preserves do not have sod or grass as specified in Village ordinance and Jack Mayher is refusing to put the sod or seed in. Homeowner's have already paid Mayher for the landscaping. President Lohmann said he would like to get the homeowner's all together at once and see if they want to file a class action lawsuit to try and get this matter resolved.

President Lohmann announced that he plans to seek re-election in 2009.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Gardner said that it was previously discussed at a Board meeting that on the addition at Beecher Manor they were required to put up the screening of air conditioners on the roof. This matter was also brought up at the PZC meeting. This work has not yet been done and the matter needs to be monitored.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk