

**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
NOVEMBER 24, 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, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

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

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from The Daily Journal, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Tim Smith, Conrad Sweet, Sue Teske, Katrina Deutsche, Andrew Ahrendt, Bob Howard, Tom Stluka, Kevin Bouchard, Bobbie Peterson, Alan Beseke, Mike Smetana, George Schuitema, Fred Postma and Paul Caldwell.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 10, 2008 Board meeting and November 18, 2008 Workshop meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Gardner 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 given. 2) A bill was presented for the Beecher Beautification Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the bill in the amount of \$212.50 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann introduced Katrina Deutsche, newly elected District 1 Board member.

Bob Howard, Washington Township Supervisor and resident of 32245 South Klemme Road, read a written statement regarding the upcoming wind farm presentation. A wind farm presentation was also made at a previous Washington Township meeting and Mr. Howard wanted to provide a report on what occurred at that meeting. He urged the Village to explore this issue further.

A presentation was then provided by Tim Smith of Element Markets, Inc. on wind farm development and its impact on the land and area where a wind farm would be located. Board and audience members asked questions of Mr. Smith regarding wind farms. The effect on property values was discussed and there was some speculation as to how much the School District would see in increased revenue. The State will not allow a wind farm on the west side of Washington Township due to the proposed airport. Frank Pilotte from Grant Park, IL asked about some other wind farms in other parts of the state. The life expectancy of equipment is 20-25 years but it is unknown right now because wind farms haven't been around long enough. Alan Beseke from rural Beecher asked about being able to crop dust on existing fields if they are near a wind farm. It was stated that he would not be able to crop dust on those fields. Bob Howard asked how fast the blades would turn and what would happen during a tornado. The fastest would be 1 rotation every 3-5 seconds. The property would have a substation where all lines would come from the turbines. Tim Smith has spoken with Will County, Washington Township and the Village regarding wind farms in eastern Will County. Element Markets is looking in this area because of the topography of the land. Mike Smetana, Planner from Will County, was present and provided copies of wind farm zoning ordinances for the county. Kevin Bouchard asked some questions about wind farms. George Schuitema of 211 Orchard Lane asked about Smith's company. Bobbie Peterson asked where else Mr. Smith has provided this same presentation. Mr. Smith reported that he has only looked at this local area so far. Mr. Smith was thanked for his presentation on this matter.

A public hearing was held at 7:53 p.m. to consider a tax levy for 2008 collectible in 2009.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

ORDINANCE #1107 - An Ordinance establishing a tax levy for 2008 collectible in 2009. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1107. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Results were provided from the Village Board workshop held on November 18th.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION #2008-16 - A resolution adopting the Will County Emergency Management Plan for County-Wide Hazard Mitigation. A summary of the plan was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to adopt Resolution #2008-16. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the leaf collection program. Public Works will pick up leaves one last time on December 1, 2008.

Brush pickup officially ends on November 24, 2008.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to continue the yardwaste bag distribution program (10 bags) for areas outside of the leaf collection zone and to relocate the distribution area to the Junior High School, upon approval from the School District. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The Board discussed possible projects for streets, water and sewer in the event that there is leftover funds from the bond issue, after the construction of the Public Works facility. Trustee Gardner felt that this was premature but wanted to restate what the bond issue money will be used for – a new Public Works facility. President Lohmann said that ideas are just being considered so the Board can prioritize what should be completed first, if funds are leftover. Trustee Gardner raised questions of lift station maintenance and how it is funded and if it is something that should be considered if there is extra money.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A progress report was provided on the new Public Works facility. Administrator Barber reported that he met with Village engineers and the architect. They discussed flip flopping the building back to the west side of the property which may result in a significant cost savings. This was due to some bad soil borings that were found in the northeast corner of the site. Administrator Barber explained some of the cost savings of doing this relating to extending of utilities. There were no specifics known yet as to how much this would save on the project. The parking area then would be put over the bad soil area. Concerns were expressed that the architect did not provide the best and least expensive plan for the facility. There was some discussion on these plans. There was some discussion regarding access points to the property and not having the main access to the facility coming off of Cardinal Creek Boulevard. Trustee Szymanski recommended to get information on the impact of keeping most of Public Works traffic off of Cardinal Creek Boulevard. There was

some disagreement on this issue. Some Board members were unhappy that the engineers did not notify the Village of the bad soil borings sooner. After lengthy discussion, Trustee Wehling made a motion to construct the new Public Works building on the west side of the property and to have access to Town Center Road that is to be used as the preferred access for Public Works. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling reported that he met with representatives from the Will County Forest Preserve last week and they talked about bike path access. Washington Township is pursuing property from the Village limits to the Forest Preserve. They want to bring the Forest Preserve bike path into the center of town to Firemen's Park.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION #2008-17 - A resolution supporting the Chicago Metropolitan Area Planning Commission's GO TO 2040 land transportation planning effort. This is the planning process for major transportation issues and the resolution supports the process and allows the Village to participate in the planning. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adopt Resolution #2008-17. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the Buchmeier building. President Lohmann spoke with Mrs. Buchmeier about two weeks ago. She said her husband was supposed to start work last week. No work is being done. They have boarded up the broken window. Trustee Cleary asked if they have been billed for the Village cleaning up the broken glass. It was reported that they have not been billed. Staff is not sure if the Village can bill for that. The Buchmeier's are invited to attend the next Board meeting on December 8th to provide an update on progress.

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting scheduled for December 11th has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2009.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported that he has a letter from Mike Einhorn, Mayor of Crete, stating that they will not agree with us on our Facilities Planning Area (FPA) expansion request.

Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer was asked to comment on the Trinity Industrial project. There is not much going on at the moment. Dale Serig has told Ms. Meyer that he is in the process of talking to property owners since the pre-annexation agreements with the property owners have expired.

Administrator Barber explained the zoning specifics on pre-annexation agreements to property owners in the proposed Beecher FPA north of the Village. There was some discussion on the terms of the zoning.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to offer a pre-annexation agreement to all property owners in the proposed FPA north of the Village. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber stated that after the holidays, the property owners will be invited to a meeting to discuss the pre-annexation agreement.

Results were provided regarding MGM Development. The Village Engineer is providing a deficiency letter to the Village Attorney so a notice of intent to draw on the \$2.1 million letter of credit can be issued. The Village will give the developer until February 1st to complete the necessary tasks and if progress is not made we will then notify the bank of our intentions. Staff has already begun the process of drawing on the \$10,000 maintenance bond for completion of sodding and seeding for seven occupied homes on Sunset Boulevard. Public Works will also be boarding up one of the open units with plywood and a bill will be sent to MGM.

Results were provided of the Illiana Expressway meeting held on November 13th. The Attorney will be lining up a meeting with Eastern Will County officials and Indiana officials to discuss this matter.

Results were provided of the Washington Township Open Space Initiative Public Hearing held on November 19th. There will be a referendum on the ballot for Washington Township with two questions: one to approve the open space initiative and one whether or not the taxpayers want to approve paying for it.

President Lohmann provided results of CMAP's developments of regional significance initiative public information meeting held on November 19th and reported on a presentation given by Randy Blankenhorn of CMAP. The meeting was about planning jurisdictions for major projects in the Chicagoland area. The consensus of those present at the meeting wanted to keep plans of regional significance at a local level and not get CMAP involved.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber asked Board members to return the Village audits if they are not using them.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Wehling 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 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk