

PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 12, 2008

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER, ILLINOIS HELD AT THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CENTER, 30200 TOWN CENTER ROAD, BEECHER, ILLINOIS BEGINNING AT 7:05 P.M. ON MAY 12, 2008.

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, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman and Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from The Daily Journal, Kim and Betty Koutsky, George Wille, Dale Serig, Jay Bradarich, Kevin Bouchard, Al Buitter, Joseph Venturella, Joe Jaworski and John Rizzi.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to open the public hearing. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A public hearing was held to consider a pre-annexation agreement with Trinity Industrial for approximately 507 acres of contiguous property referred to as Phase II lands for an intermodal park. Jay Bradarich showed the four parcels of land being considered for a pre-annexation agreement. He showed photos of what the intermodal facility could look like and the buildings fronting Route #1. He also discussed recreation areas in the proposed project to be used as a buffer for homes on Ashland Avenue and the industrial park. Questions were asked of the petitioners regarding access points for traffic.

All below testified and were sworn in by Administrator Barber:

George Wille from 30508 S. State Line Road asked about security within the intermodal facility. Chief Weissgerber reported that most intermodal facilities have their own police protection through the railroad. Mr. Wille expressed concerns about thievery of other facilities like this and if taxpayers will have to pay for security. Some discussion followed.

Joe Jaworski of 291 Mallards Cove asked Chief Weissgerber where Mr. Wille got all of these figures on crime at intermodals. He said he worked near a facility like this and didn't see this problem. There was some disagreement on this matter.

Joe Venturella of 280 Mallards Cove asked how much crime is being committed along Dutch American Way and near Beatty Lumber. Chief Weissgerber stated that to his knowledge, no crime has been reported.

Kim Koutsky of 730 Gould Street asked where Mr. Bradarich stands on this project relating to Centerpoint's project in Crete. Mr. Bradarich indicated he is working towards closing on properties and moving forward on the project. Mr. Bradarich stated that his project is not at all related to Crete's project.

John Rizzi of 281 Spring Cove reported that he is a police officer for the city of Harvey and there is very little crime reported in their intermodal facility. He didn't think the rail yard would be much of a problem.

When there were no further questions or comments, President Pro-Tem Wehling asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to close the hearing at 7:31 p.m.. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk