

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE
PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER
HELD AT THE BEECHER VILLAGE HALL,
724 PENFIELD STREET, BEECHER, ILLINOIS
JANUARY 22, 2008 -- 6:30 P.M.**

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: President Lohmann and Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kuhlman and Wehling.
ABSENT: Trustee Gardner.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner and Administrator Robert Barber.

GUESTS: None.

The Board took a tour of the old Knuth's grocery store at 500 Indiana Avenue for consideration of a future new Village Hall. The owner, Dale Schilling provided a sales price and rent price for the building. The Board discussed pros and cons of the building. Alternate locations for the Village Hall such as the Hallmark building were also discussed. Consensus of the Board was that the Village cannot afford to purchase a building for the Village Hall at this time. The Public Works facility needs to be made the first priority and built first.

Re-authorization of the 1997 General Obligation Bonds for the purposes of constructing a new Public Works facility was considered. This would allow the Village to afford a new Public Works facility without raising taxes. Administrator Barber asked if a consultant should be hired to investigate this. If it is to be reauthorized, a referendum would need to be held in the Fall of 2008. The consensus of the Board agreed with the need to have the referendum. This issue will be placed on the agenda at the next regular Board meeting.

Trustee Szymanski explained the issue of changing the procedure for variance and zoning requests. The administrator suggested establishing a policy that a hardship must be proven to determine the need for a variance. This issue will be discussed on Thursday at the Planning and Zoning meeting. Board members voiced that they would like to be informed on proposed variances before they come to them for final consideration. The Administrator indicated he would start providing Planning and Zoning Commission packets to Village Board members so they are informed of the issues ahead of time. It was determined that variance applicants will still be required to come before the Board to be referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission but will not be given any feeling on if the Board would approve the variance once it comes back to them. They will simply be referred.

President Lohmann announced Brad Coats has resigned from the Planning and Zoning Commission. He asked if anyone had a suggestion for a replacement to let him know.

Installation of a wingwall in Hunter's Chase Subdivision to try and solve flooding problems was discussed. Staff asked if an engineer should design the wall and who should do the work; Public

Works or an independent contractor. It was decided to have the Village Engineer solicit proposals for the work and this will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

The Board went over a 5-year plan for employee salaries. There were concerns expressed about the state of the economy and how much salaries should be in the coming years. Since the salaries in the coming budget year are already set, it was decided to look at the 5-year salaries again in the Fall to get a better idea how the economy is doing at that time.

The Board went over proposed changes to the Personnel Manual. The final changes to the manual will be brought before the Board in a month for formal approval.

The 5-year plan will be discussed on Tuesday, February 19th at 6:30 pm at a Committee of the Whole meeting at the Village Hall.

There being no further discussion, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk