

WORKSHOP MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2008

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER, ILLINOIS HELD AT THE BEECHER VILLAGE HALL, 724 PENFIELD STREET, BEECHER, ILLINOIS BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 18, 2008.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: President Lohmann and Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt (arrived 6:40 p.m.), Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber and Treasurer Nelson Collins.

GUESTS: None.

The Board discussed the future of the yard waste bag distribution program and the status of the Refuse Fund. The costs of the yard waste bag giveaway program, man hours of the leaf pick-up program and the equity of who receives the leaf pick-up service and who receives bags were considered. It was suggested to eliminate the yard waste bag giveaway next year due to there being complaints, and confusion with the residents on the west side of town not receiving bags. Rebates on water bills of those who currently receive bags in lieu of giving out bags next year and providing leaf pick-up to the east side of town were considered. After some discussion it was decided to keep the yard waste bag giveaway for the residents on the east side of town and move the distribution to the east side of town next year. The Village will work with the School District to secure a location, possibly at the Junior High School.

The Audit Management Letter was reviewed in detail. Staff explained the deficiencies noted in the letter. The Village Board agreed with the Auditor that reconciliations need to be done. Staff is currently working with the Auditor on this. It was the consensus of the Board not to separate the Water and Sewer Funds or change the Capital Improvements or Debt Funds as recommended by the Auditor. Administrator Barber was also directed to contact the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association and ask them to address some of the Auditor's issues with their Annual Report.

There was a discussion of the future of the Village's finances and Cost Effective Measures provided by department heads. Cost effective measures were provided by Administration, the Police Department and Public Works. The consensus of the Board agreed that Public Works Superintendent Cowger needs to put a dollar value on the cost effective items in his report and how they would impact the department. Chief Weissgerber also needs to provide a better explanation of the actual cost savings on the items in his report. In addition, Board members discussed limiting committee reports on the Board meeting agenda, holding a combination of

meetings and workshops, sharing of equipment between municipalities and eliminating tree trimming. The cost effective measures were discussed in case cuts need to be made in the future due to the economy.

When there was no further discussion, Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adjourn 10:10 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