

**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
JANUARY 12, 2009 -- 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, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Bud Cowger, and Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Andrew Ahrendt, Mike Buchmeier, Clint and Stephanie Schilling, John Weisch, Don Sala, Virginia Bath, Mike Hamilton and Richard and Charlene Whitmon.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the December 8, 2008 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt 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 provided. 2) Bills were presented for the Police Youth Activities Fund (\$192.59) and the Beecher Beautification Commission (\$852.46). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$1,045.05 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.

3) Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the Fourth of July Commission bills as listed on the report provided by Treasurer Collins, in the amount of \$80,352.20. These bills were paid in June and July, 2008, when the Commission was pre-authorized to pay bills by the Village Board.

Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

4) Clerk Conner reported that filing dates for the April election are January 20-26 for those running for Village office. 5) Clerk Conner read aloud a letter from Russell and Virginia Bath supporting Mike and Joanne Buchmeier's restoration of the old Myrick building at 752 Penfield Street, and asking that the Village allow them to continue work on the building.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: John Wiesch said he worked with the Buchmeiers on other restoration projects and voiced his support of the Buchmeier's restoration of the Myrick building. Mr. Wiesch said he has worked with Mike Buchmeier in the past and is working with him currently on this project.

Don Sala, 619 Indiana, supported the Buchmeiers and said he felt we need to save these buildings and not tear them down.

Kim Koutsky, 730 Gould, expressed a concern about Beecher's land use map for south of Church Road and east of Ashland Avenue. He asked the Board to put this issue back to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) to reconsider this plan. North of Miller Street also needs to be looked at. Trustee Ahrendt said she would like staff to add an item to the agenda to reconsider the land use plan along with a price for amending the plan. This relates directly to commercial property proposed near a church.

Trustee Kuhlman presented a plaque and a gift to former Police Officer Richard Whitmon on behalf of the Village, thanked him for his 30 years of service and wished him well in his retirement. A copy of the Proclamation was provided in the packet for review. Chief Weissgerber presented Officer Whitmon with his retirement badge and ID, and an honorary night stick on behalf of the Police Department.

Mike Buchmeier asked permission to continue restoring the building at 752 Penfield Street. Trustee Wehling expressed his support of continuing restoration of the building, Trustee Kuhlman agreed. Trustee Cleary voiced his surprise at how much work has been done on this building. The Trustees were recently invited by the Buchmeiers to review the progress on the building. President Lohmann noted that the Building Department still has not been provided prints on the project as requested. Many questions and answers between Mr. Buchmeier and the Board followed. Mr. Buchmeier asked that the Village look at their contract with Independent Inspections and their requirement for renewal fees of historical buildings. Administrator Barber noted that there is no permit on the building at all at the current time. When they renew the permit, there is a cost to them or the Village to renew it. The Board was asked if they want to pay the renewal fee for the Buchmeiers or keep charging a renewal fee every six months. It was felt that six months was not enough time to get the building done. There was a discussion on the options of how long to extend the permit and how much to charge. President Lohmann expressed concerns that there was no work being done on the

building for a long period of time. After much discussion, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to give the Buchmeiers a one year building permit to continue restoring the Myrick building with the same terms as on the previous permit. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Buchmeiers are to come to the June 8th Board meeting to report on the progress of the building restoration.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion that she, or one of the other Trustees, approximately every six weeks, make an appointment with Buchmeiers to look at the progress being made on the building and report back to the Village. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review and the Treasurer was present to answer questions. Treasurer Collins explained his reports and Board members asked questions.

A list of bills totalling \$111,252.71 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall to discuss the five-year financial plan and to review blueprints for the new Public Works facility.

RESOLUTION #2009-01 - A Resolution establishing Pre-Paid Legal, Inc., as a voluntary post-tax employee deduction of wages for pre-paid legal services. A copy of the resolution was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-01. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

The Board considered a policy for the approval of regulatory street sign requests by residents. This matter was in last month's packet but wasn't discussed. Chief Weissgerber read the policy aloud. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve the policy for regulatory street sign requests by residents. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber asked the press to put snowfall parking regulations in the papers: No parking on streets between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. after a 2" snowfall. Depositing snow back on the road is also not allowed.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Administrator Barber explained how much salt has been used so far and how much is left. Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger answered questions regarding salting and plowing.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The Water and Sewer Department monthly reports were included in the packet for review.

Trustee Cleary asked about Well #5 and why the Village is not yet pumping from well #5. Pumping information should be in next month's report. Also, three water main breaks have occurred so far this season.

The water billing register for the months of November and December, 2008, were provided in the packet for review.

The Village is to receive \$7,364.27 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood relief funding as a result of the damages and work incurred as a result of the September 13-14, 2008 flooding.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Public Works facility layout was provided for review by the Board. This will be looked at during the January 14th workshop meeting.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Building Department monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Economic Development Coordinator monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Board considered a motion referring to the PZC a proposal to add wind turbines and wind farms as a special use permit in the Zoning Ordinance in selected zoning districts in conformance with the Will County Ordinance. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to refer to the PZC a proposal to add wind turbines and wind farms as a special use permit. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A PZC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Items on the agenda include continued discussion on the regulation of flashing display signs and a special use permit for windmills or wind farms per the new Will County Zoning Ordinance.

An update was provided on the carport at 747 Woodward Street. The resident was given until the January 26th meeting to take down the carport. Administrator Barber thought the owner may be back before the Village Board at the next meeting to ask for an extension, because he is having trouble getting rid of his carport.

The Board considered an ordinance requiring a land use applicant to enter into a professional services fee agreement with the Village prior to any professional services being performed on the Village's behalf. A draft of the agreement and ordinance were provided in the packet for review. Administrator Barber said the Board should talk about this matter at the January 14th workshop meeting, if there is time.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann gave an update on letters of credit, stating that he is not sure the Village has a valid letter of credit with Montalbano Homes. Ray Koenig of Baxter and Woodman reported that there is a letter of credit with Royal Bank of Canada that is set to expire August 26, 2009. The letter of credit appears to be irrevocable. The matter is in the hands of the attorney. Mr. Koenig said public improvements need to be done by July 7, 2009. The bank appears to be solvent at this time per Mr. Koenig, but Administrator Barber and the Attorney have not been able to get in touch with the bank.

The MGM letter of credit is in the hands of the Village Attorney per Mr. Koenig. The punch list is also done and being handled by the attorney.

Beecher's request for Facilities Planning Area (FPA) expansion of 160 acres between Eagle Lake Road and Church Road east of the Old Milwaukee railroad tracks was approved by CMAP at its

December 10th meeting. This FPA request has now been forwarded to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for its consideration.

An update was provided on Crete and Beecher's FPA overlap and boundary agreement dispute. Both municipalities have held meetings with the property owners in the overlap area, providing each side's view of the issue.

According to Administrator Barber, there will be nothing new regarding MGM's pending litigation until February 7th. The Attorney is working on this.

An Intergovernmental meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. to begin work on a strategic plan.

Washington Township plans to have an open space referendum. An open space meeting is scheduled for January 21st at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the upcoming referendum.

A capital projects letter was sent to Senator Dick Durbin asking for funds in the infrastructure bill for capital projects.

President Lohmann announced that with the economic downturn and the difficulty with people paying their water bills, decrease in tax revenue, etc., that Village services may have to be curtailed some.

A meeting was held with property owners north of town with two Trustees. Trustee Ahrendt said 27 people were in attendance and it went very well. Trustee Wehling also felt the meeting went well. The people in attendance appreciated the Village holding the meeting.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk