

**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 26, 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, Police Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber and Treasurer Nelson Collins.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from The Daily Journal, Bill Voss, Kevin Bouchard, Andrew Ahrendt, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Pat Lane, Tom and Mary Pavlik, Matt Lohmann, Joseph Venturella, George Schuitema and Chet Hanson.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 12, 2009 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction: Page 2, last paragraph, 4th line, delete the word “inspect” and insert “review the progress on the building”. 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) Trustee Szymanski made a motion to declare a Compaq Presario (Windows98) laptop computer as surplus property. Anyone interested in the computer will have one week to place a sealed bid on the computer to the Clerk. The computer was the used by the previous and current Treasurer. The computer will be available for inspection at the Village Hall. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Clerk Conner announced the names of those running for Village office on April 7th.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Tom Pavlik of 29980 Blue Heron asked if MGM Development property is to be foreclosed on and who will take care of it if no one owns it. The Village did not know if the property was being foreclosed on. President Lohmann and Administrator Barber talked to Jack Mayher of MGM earlier in the day to try and address some of these issues. The Village is trying to get yards landscaped through a letter of credit of MGM's. The residents living in the homes paid for the landscaping to be done, but MGM hasn't done the work.

Chester Hanson of 29961 Blue Heron asked if Cardinal Creek Golf Course goes bankrupt, could the Village take it over? Administrator Barber explained the history of when the Village tried to take over the golf course in the past and the referendum did not pass. This matter would have to be initiated by the residents, not the Village. Some discussion followed.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

RESOLUTION #2009-02 - A Resolution adopting a five-year financial plan for the Village of Beecher. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-02. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski provided results from the recent Fourth of July Commission meeting. The Fourth of July Commission approved an amount not to exceed \$7,000 per year from the Commission's budget to hire a part-time person for maintenance in Firemen's Park. A job description has been created for the seasonal job. This would be for park maintenance only, not for upkeep of any ballfields. Public Works would still mow the park and maintain the bathrooms. The consensus of the Board supported the idea. The Commission will make a recommendation to the Board as to who would fill this position.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize a public hearing be held on Monday, February 23, 2009 to consider the use of credit cards as payment for Village services. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann explained the benefit of a report listing general fund revenues by monthly collection for 2008, as provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Szymanski stated that he and Bill Voss attended the Drivin' the Dixie meeting on January 24th. The event will be held on June 20th this year and will be called the Dixie Dash. A new

procedure will be implemented as to how the cars will go from town to town. Trustee Szymanski explained the changes made to this year's event, and recommended the liquor license be in effect from noon to midnight on June 20th.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department Annual Report for 2008 was provided to the Board.

The Annual Report of the Animal Control Officer was provided in the packet for review

Trustee Wehling made a motion to authorize the letting of bids for a two-door coupe for the Fourth of July Commission giveaway car. March 11th is the last day to submit bids. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Board considered bids for the joint purchase of unleaded fuel and diesel fuel. Two sealed bids were received but the Gas City bid was deemed not in conformance with the bid specifications. Trustee Cleary made a motion to award a bid for the joint purchase of fuel to Heritage F/S at a price of \$2.073 for 87 octane unleaded, and \$2.298 per gallon for diesel, which includes all taxes. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Village has ordered an additional 125 tons of salt and will use the reimbursement funds from FEMA from the September floods to cover the cost.

The Public Works Superintendent was not in attendance, therefore no annual report was provided.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The water billing register for the months of November and December were provided in the packet for review. They were mistakenly omitted from the January 12th Board packet.

The Water Billing Annual Report for 2008 was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve the purchase of a Flgyt pump in the amount of \$6,719.40 to replace the K.J. slot #3 pump in the influent lift station at the sewer treatment plant. A copy of the quote was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Public Works facility. The Board met with the architects on January 14th to review the plans. Bids are expected to be let at the February 9th Board meeting, as well as approving the authorizing bond ordinance for sale of the bonds later in March or April.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Building Department Annual Report was provided in the packet for review.

The Code Enforcement Annual Report was provided in the packet for review.

The Economic Development Coordinator's Annual Report was provided in the packet for review.

Results were provided of the January 22, 2009 Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting. Trustee Ahrendt reported that the workshop was continued pertaining to digital display signs. Don Thomas of Baxter and Woodman recommended to require a special use for digital display signs in doors or windows exceeding 6 square feet. A public hearing will be held on this matter on February 26th

The carport at 747 Woodward Street has been removed, therefore no further action is required.

ORDINANCE #1108 - An Ordinance establishing a professional services agreement. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1108. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

The Board considered referral to the PZC of a proposal to amend the land use plan in an area around St. Paul Lutheran Church and an area south of Church Road and east of Racine. Administrator Barber commented on the process that the Village would need to go through to change the land use plan. The zoning classification on the land use plan for this area was chosen because of the location of the third airport. The Board discussed the need for a buffer between the rail spur and residential property in town. Some concerns were expressed that if the Village spends more money on the land use plan, we may be asked again later to change it relating to the third airport or others that do not like the plan zoning in a particular area. The area of the plan being considered for a change in zoning classification involves land which is not currently annexed to the Village. Trustee Szymanski felt that the Village didn't have the \$6,500 - \$7,500 to spend on a new plan right now and the Village will deal with the individual user when they come to the Village with a use for the land. No action was taken.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann asked Clerk Conner to read aloud a letter from the Will County Health Department explaining their new prescription drug program open to all residents of Will County.

President Lohmann asked Clerk Conner to read aloud a letter from Toi Hutchinson, the new 40th district Senator, introducing herself and indicating she wants to work with local officials. She replaced Debbie Halvorson.

President Lohmann asked if the Board wanted to hold an elected officials forum as held in the past. The Board supported having a public officials forum. Administrator Barber will set up the meeting with the public officials for Monday, February 23rd at 7 p.m. at the Washington Township Center. This will be held before the regular Board meeting.

Trustee Kuhlman also announced that Lisa Dugan, State Representative, will attend the PAKT (Police and Kids Together) meeting on January 27th at 6 p.m. at the Beecher Community Hall, for any Board members that wish to attend.

Trustee Wehling reported that he attended Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson's open house last weekend. She will be in this area once per month to address local issues. She voiced that she wants to get the word out that she wants to work with local governments. Trustee Wehling brought up the Illiana Expressway and truck traffic, industrial development, and properties already bought by the State for the airport at the meeting. Trustee Wehling said it was a great meeting.

Administrator Barber and President Lohmann met with Jack Mayher of MGM Development earlier in the day. Mr. Mayher was informed that the Village will draw on his letter of credit if The Preserves at Cardinal Creek subdivision improvements are not completed. It was estimated that \$600,000 in improvements need to be done. Mr. Mayher indicated that he would complete all of the improvements. Administrator Barber noted that Mr. Mayher will also have to provide a maintenance bond for improvements once they are done.

A deficiency letter was sent to Montalbano Homes giving them a July 1, 2009 deadline to complete the Nantucket Cove subdivision. If they do not, the Village will draw on the letter of credit which expires on August 26, 2009.

An intergovernmental meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. Work will begin on a strategic plan. The results of the survey taken by Don Thomas will be discussed, which will be the basis for the strategic planning process.

Results were provided from the January 21st Open Space Initiative meeting. Washington Township is planning on going for a referendum, seeking 120 acres adjacent to the Washington Township Center. Township representatives will attend the intergovernmental meeting to provide information on the open space plan.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining and a Public Works disciplinary matter. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to return to regular session at 9:41 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk