

**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  
FEBRUARY 9, 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, Attorney Tim Kuiper and Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman.

**GUESTS:** Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from The Daily Journal, Wayne Babiak, Jim Majciewski, Andrew Ahrendt, Joe Miller, Brad Townsend, Pat Lane, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Arnie Cooper, Joe Venturella, Kevin Bouchard, George Schuitema and Tom Brislane.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 14, 2009 Workshop 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.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 26, 2009 Board meeting and the January 29, 2009 Intergovernmental meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

**AYES:** (4) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.

**NAYS:** (0) None.

**ABSTAIN:** (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Wehling.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Bills were presented for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to

approve the list of bills totalling \$331.80 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Clerk Conner read aloud a thank you letter from a resident of Dallas City, a letter from Angie Bammann of Old Town Dental, and a letter from the School Board President regarding their scholarship program. President Lohmann explained the need for scholarship dollars and asked those who could, to give to a good cause.

President Lohmann provided his annual State of the Village Address.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Joe Venturella of 280 Mallards Cove complained about his neighbor's dog run and his neighbor's dogs barking early in the morning. President Lohmann asked if he was willing to sign a formal complaint and he said "yes". Mr. Venturella was referred to Chief Weissgerber to handle this matter. Mr. Venturella also had some complaints regarding the neighbor's fenced in area being used as a dog run and he felt the location of the fence was not legal. The matter was referred to Administrator Barber and Code Enforcement Officer Riechers who will look into the code pertaining to dog runs.

#### **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. President Lohmann expressed concerns about January 2008 figures compared to January 2009 figures, which indicate that balances are decreasing.

A list of bills totalling \$96,244.81 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 Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski noted that there is an older model Public Works truck that is becoming expensive to repair. Recently a lot of money has been spent just to keep it running. The Board may have to look at replacing this truck in the near future.

The Board considered an ordinance providing for the issuance of \$1,100,000 General Obligation Bonds. Bond counsel Joe Miller from Ottosen, Britz, Kelly, Cooper & Gilbert, Ltd. was present and explained the process of issuing bonds. Brad Townsend of Ehlers & Associates also provided an overview on the issuance of bonds. There was some discussion on this issue.

ORDINANCE #1109 - An Ordinance providing for the issuance of \$1,100,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2009, of the Village of Beecher, Will County, Illinois, and providing for the levy and collection of a direct annual tax sufficient for the payment of the principal and interest of said bonds.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1109. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber noted that the bond money should not be commingled with other Village money and he will get with Treasurer Collins to set up a new account for bond proceeds.

Trustee Szymanski announced that the Chamber of Commerce will host a farmer's market during the summer months and will also continue car cruises this year.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve an agreement with the Beecher School District to provide a School Resource Officer for the 2009-2010 academic year in exchange for full reimbursement of the officer in the amount of \$31,592. A copy of the agreement 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.

## **C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE**

The Annual Report of the Public Works Superintendent was provided under separate cover. Superintendent Cowger noted the age of some of the Public Works Department's equipment and that replacement of equipment may need to be considered. Superintendent Cowger also mentioned that the meter program is at approximately 50% for switching the whole town over to radio read meters. He said that he would like to find a way to get the rest of the town switched over to new meters.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve a lawn mowing agreement with Terry Zeilenga, 801 Donoho, in the amount of \$1,140.00 for mowing Lange's Phase III pond and a 66 foot strip to the north of the pond for 2009. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling stated that Beecher girls softball won a state championship two years ago and the Village has not put up a sign in recognition of that accomplishment yet as was discussed in the past. Trustee Wehling wants to get a sign put on the large board at the north end of town. There were no objections from any of the Board members to getting this sign. The sign should read "Illinois High School Association, Class A, State Champs 2007".

#### **D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE**

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

Trustee Gardner was given information on potential projects that could be funded under the economic stimulus program. The Village may be able to replace old water mains on Maxwell and Penfield Streets if this program goes through. Administrator Barber said the Village may be able to do pipe bursting in this area. This program would be a loan program and the Board would need to commit to doing any project and be sure we are able to pay it back. It is possible funding may be available with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to fix the mains. Staff was told to look further into this program. The consensus of the Board felt it was something that should be pursued. The Sewer and Water Chair, Co-Chair, Superintendent Cowger and Administrator Barber will get together on applying for this and work out the details.

#### **E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Jim Majciewski and Wayne Babiak of JMA Architects provided an overview of the plans for the new Public Works facility. Floor plans were handed out to the Board on the base bid and alternate bids for the project. The architects went over the floor plans in detail for the building. Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing the letting of bids in the month of March for the construction of the Public Works facility. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board was asked to consider topics for the Spring newsletter. Staff will hold off on publishing the newsletter until after the April election. An April 27<sup>th</sup> release date is planned.

#### **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's monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

## **G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Results were provided from the January 29, 2009 Intergovernmental meeting. President Lohmann said the meeting didn't go well. Survey results were discussed and strategic planning policy statements were beginning to take shape. A draft of the strategic plan is being prepared for distribution and discussion at the next meeting scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>.

A public officials meeting is scheduled during the next regular Board meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. President Lohmann encouraged residents to attend and ask questions.

An update was provided on the MGM Development Homeowner's Association. Staff met with Royster Management last week and learned that there are 70 occupied homes in the subdivision and fees are \$600/year. Twenty-two of these homes have not paid their fees to the HOA and legal action has been taken. The maintenance of the common property should not be an issue for 2009, according to Ms. Royster, since prior years' fees are being collected. Ms. Royster committed that they will keep medians/public areas up at least in the next year.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) denied a Facilities Planning Area (FPA) expansion for both Crete and Beecher in the overlap area north of town. A copy of the letter was provided in the packet for review. Either annexation or development will now be the driving factor for providing sewer to this area.

President Lohmann reported that the Beautification Commission will be putting up a gazebo on Reed Street. Three trees will need to be taken down to prepare that area for the gazebo. President Lohmann asked the Board to okay the removal of the three trees. There were no objections from the Board.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Szymanski suggested that staff send a letter to Cardinal Creek Golf Course regarding the upcoming deadline for improvements to golf course ponds. This will need to be addressed by Code Enforcement Officer Riechers.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner, Village Clerk