

**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  
MARCH 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, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Gardner.

**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, Mike Stanula, Tom Brislane, Andrew Ahrendt, Pat Lane, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Joe Burgess, Ted Deery, Mike Fuhrmann, Mike Mach, Eileen Papas, Forrest Leigh, Arnold Cooper, George Schuitema, Diane Williams and Joseph Venturella.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the February 23, 2009 Public Hearing and Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, 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 Beecher Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$895.00 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Clerk Conner stated that she received a request for a business license to put a concession stand in the parking lot in front of Tubby's Wine and Spirits on Dixie Highway to sell BBQ sandwiches during the summer months. Tubby's has given permission for the concession stand to be put in his

parking lot. Trustee Cleary asked for more information regarding exact location, hours, etc. before approving a business license. Trustee Szymanski then explained the Chamber of Commerce's proposed Farmer's Market, where fresh fruits and vegetables would be sold and any other food would be prepared offsite. The Farmer's Market will be held in the bowling alley parking lot. This would be a similar use as the concession stand at Tubby's. There was some discussion about collecting sales tax on these types sales. Staff will ask someone from the Chamber of Commerce and the person who wants to sell BBQ sandwiches to provide a written application for a temporary business use and also appear before the Board to answer questions at the March 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Mike Stanula from the Washington Township Open Space Initiative Committee provided a presentation on the plans to purchase property and the general obligation bond request which will be on the April 7<sup>th</sup> ballot. Mr. Stanula asked that the Village be added to the list of those organizations from the area in support of the open space initiative. The Board and audience were given the opportunity to ask questions. George Schuitema, Pat Lane, Kim Koutsky, Trustee Cleary, Trustee Szymanski and President Lohmann asked questions of Mr. Stanula and the Open Space Initiative Committee members in the audience. Action will not be taken until the next Board meeting.

#### **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.

A list of bills totalling \$95,283.88 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Cleary asked questions of some of the bills. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered an ordinance repealing the original Bond Authorization Ordinance approved on February 9, 2009. Attorney Kuiper advised the Board members that they need to sign the Memorandum of Disclosure and indicate if they hold more than 7½% ownership in Bond Trust Services, of Rossville, Minnesota.

**ORDINANCE #1110** - An Ordinance repealing the original Bond Authorization Ordinance approved February 9, 2009 and approve 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 on said bonds. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1110. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A budget workshop is scheduled for Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. All candidates for office will be invited to the workshop and be provided a proposed budget prior to the meeting.

Trustee Szymanski will not be present at the March 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting because he will be out of town.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

A tornado drill for all schools was held on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. as part of Tornado Preparedness Week. Chief Weissgerber noted that he is happy the sirens are now activated through the 800 MHZ radio system. It works much better than it used to.

Results were provided from the Eastcom Board of Directors meeting held March 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Directors were to vote on the fiscal year 2009/2010 budget. A copy of the budget was provided in the packet for review. The budget reflected a 5 3/4% increase. Peotone Fire has joined the Eastcom dispatching center which makes everyone's costs less. Eastcom is also looking for more space because Crete needs the current space for their own facilities. Chief Weissgerber explained some of the prospective locations being looked at. Eastcom has signed a 5-year agreement with Crete for the current center but it can be moved if an acceptable new location can be found.

It was noted that the COPS grants available through the federal government are again being funded for 3 years. Trustee Szymanski noted an email he received about a grant available from the State for building new facilities. Some discussion followed.

Chief Weissgerber met with Marla Heldt from the School District. He reported that the school wants to reverse the flow of traffic on the high school drive for loading and unloading buses. This is being done due to safety issues. No changes are planned for the grade school drive. This change will be implemented July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Trustee Wehling asked when school speed limits were enforced. Chief Weissgerber reported that school speed limits are enforced during regular school hours when children are present. The definition of "children present" was questioned.

Administrator Barber noted that the pedestrian crossing at Miller and Dixie is not currently discernable. The State is saying that the Village has to paint it on Dixie Highway. Public Works Superintendent Cowger said he believed we are responsible for this.

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

500 tons of salt have been ordered for the 2009/2010 winter. Staff had to place the order earlier this year due to the problems of supply and delivery.

Brush pickup and yardwaste bag collection will resume Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

The bid opening on the Chestnut/Dixie Highway traffic light has now been scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup>. This schedule will allow the light to be installed and operational by November 1, 2009.

The Village was advised of the STP program stimulus package that could include anywhere from \$36,000-\$73,000 to resurface Church Road from Dixie Highway to the railroad tracks. The Federal Stimulus Bill 2009 call for projects application was provided in the packet for review. Administrator Barber explained that the Village can only use the Church Road project for this grant program because it is the only FAU Route qualified under this plan. The Village's portion of this project would be \$9,000 for engineering costs which would come out of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds. Ray Koenig explained that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will bid out the project and all documentation and reports would go through IDOT. President Lohmann expressed concerns about not resurfacing the road near the railroad tracks where the road is currently alligating and breaking apart. Administrator Barber raised some questions regarding whether this is a direct grant or something we have to pay out of pocket and then get reimbursed. It was agreed to submit an application for Federal Stimulus Bill 2009 for the resurfacing of Church Road from Romans Road west to the railroad tracks. Trustee Cleary made a motion to consider a proposal for Phase I and Phase II design engineering for Baxter and Woodman on the Church Road resurfacing project in the amount not to exceed \$9,000 for design engineering. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2009-04 - A Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) resolution in the amount of \$9,000 for the Church Road resurfacing project.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann reported that the Village is supposed to get signs this fall that were applied for under the sign grant last year.

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

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

The Water Billing Register for the months of January and February were provided in the packet for review.

As part of an agreement for an easement in 1999 to provide a looped watermain for residents on Pasadena east of Dixie, the Village granted two tap-in fee waivers for the two lots at Indiana Avenue and Hillcrest Drive. The waivers are due to expire in December, 2009. The resident

granting the easement did not have an opportunity to use the tap-in fee waivers and is requesting an extension of the expiration date of the waivers. Trustee Cleary made a motion to authorize the extension of tap-in fee waivers for five years from the original date for two lots at Indiana Avenue and Hillcrest Drive. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered the concept of accepting drainage water from Mac's Shell Station from the collection field located around the new underground storage tanks at the Beecher sewer plant. Trustee Cleary said he and Trustee Gardner discussed this and they both felt this was not a good idea to do because if waste is discharged directly into the sewer system there would not be enough time for volatiles to dissipate, and also, the amount of traffic would be excessive. Trustee Cleary recommended not moving forward with this. It was the consensus of the Board to deny the request from Shell.

The Board considered authorizing the delayed payment of water and sewer tap-in fees (at the time of certificate of occupancy in lieu of at the time of building permit application) for 2009. Trustee Szymanski asked if the school and park fees could be deferred. School fees cannot be deferred and park fees are dedicated to debt fees so should not be deferred. Trustee Ahrendt asked what would happen if the builder goes bankrupt and how the fees would then be collected. Attorney Kuiper provided some input. This would apply to any new building permits for a new home in 2009. Attorney Kuiper said other municipalities are doing this to stimulate growth. Also, the Village would still get building permit fees and park fees up front that we would normally get. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the deferral payment of water and sewer tap-in fees until time of certificate of occupancy is issued in lieu of at the time of the building permit for the 2009 year construction season. This does not include park impact fees or cash in lieu of land fees for schools. After further discussion, Trustee Szymanski amended his motion and Trustee Cleary agreed to amend the motion to read: a motion to approve the deferral payment of water and sewer tap-in fees until the time the certificate of occupancy is issued or 12 months, whichever occurs first, for the 2009 construction season. This does not include park impact fees or cash in lieu of land fees for schools. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

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

Bids for the new Public Works facility will be opened on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Washington Township Center. Lighting issues for the facility were discussed.

The Spring newsletter is scheduled to be mailed on April 27, 2009. One of the main articles will be regarding the use of credit cards for Village payments and how the Village is handling the economic crisis with its budget practices.

## **F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

ORDINANCE #1111 - An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code to include regulations for wind turbines and windfarms. Trustee Szymanski asked if this ordinance regulates small wind turbines that would fit on homes. According to Administrator Barber it does address that matter. Trustee Cleary asked about battery containment of the wind turbines. President Lohmann raised questions of pending legislation at the state which may change the current regulation of the wind turbines. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1111. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The proposed ordinance regulating digital display signs was tabled until such time that the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) and the Chamber of Commerce Executive Board can meet and agree to a modified ordinance that addresses the concerns of the businesses. There was some discussion that not enough of the business community was aware of the proposed changes to this ordinance. Trustee Cleary questioned if the entire ordinance was being changed or just certain issues. It should be just the LED signs and signs in windows portion of the ordinance according to Trustee Szymanski.

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.

President Lohmann noted that at the business breakfast the business owners present felt that communications were bad between the Village and their businesses. President Lohmann suggested maybe monthly newsletters to the business community would improve communications. Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer could work on this. He also suggested that in the future, the Village newsletter could be combined with other taxing bodies' newsletters and the taxing bodies could take turns doing it.

Trustee Ahrendt provided an update on the Buchmeier building at the corner of Reed and Penfield Streets. Trustees Ahrendt and Cleary, and PZC member Kim Koutsky went to the Buchmeier building two weeks ago. Buchmeier's have the second floor studded out for two apartments and have made a lot of other improvements to the building. The Committee plans to meet with the Buchmeiers again in six weeks to further monitor progress.

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

An Intergovernmental Meeting is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Administrator Barber and Don Thomas from Baxter and Woodman have come up with a specific list of community goals and objectives to present at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION #2009-05 - A Resolution opposing a Department of Energy plan to design, build or operate an advanced fuel cycle research facility at certain sites in the Chicago area close to Will County. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-05. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger, Administrator Barber and President Lohmann met with Roy Degroot to discuss poor drainage on his farm property east of the Hunter's Chase Subdivision. President Lohmann said there is a problem on the property. Several broken tiles in the field were observed. Mr. Degroot is to get in contact with the Soil and Conservation District and come up with a drainage plan. The Village will try and help him find a solution to the drainage problem. Some discussion followed.

President Lohmann requested a closed session be held to discuss pending litigation and the acquisition of land.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:18 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and land acquisition. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to return to regular session at 9:39 p.m. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk