

**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 24, 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 Ahrendt, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustees Cleary and Szymanski.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber and Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Voss, Andrew Ahrendt, Kim Koutsky, Chuck Hoehn, Kevin Bouchard, Tom Stluka, LeeAnn Bultema, George Schuitema and JoAnne Alexander.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 9, 2009 Board meeting. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (3) Trustees Ahrendt, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Gardner.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) Bills were presented for the Beecher 4th of July Commission. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$4,190.10 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) There were no objections from the Board to approve a Proclamation declaring the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in the Village of Beecher, as requested by A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Kevin Bouchard, 291 Mallards Cove, announced that the Beecher Lion's Club annual Texas Hold 'em Tournament will be held on April 18th at Cardinal Creek Golf Course. Tickets are \$55 each.

JoAnne Alexander, Executive Director of Eastern Will County Senior Services (EWCSS) provided a presentation on the services available to all senior citizens of eastern Will County. Ms. Alexander became the EWCSS Executive Director on January 1st. She explained that their bus service goes to all towns served by their organization, not just within a certain limited area like the dial-a-ride programs. She also explained the meals on wheels program, tax assistance, Bingo games at the center in Monee, and other programs available to seniors.

President Lohmann announced that personal trainer Scott Kausal from Beecher is trying to organize a program for seniors for basic exercise and fitness. Washington Township is looking into having the fitness classes in the Township Center.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

A budget workshop is scheduled for Monday, March 30th beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the Beecher Community Hall.

The Village received an "A+" rating with a stable outlook from Standard and Poors for the \$1,100,000 General Obligation Bond. The bonds were bid on March 23rd. Two bids were rejected by Ehlers and Associates for being too high. Ehlers is proceeding with a negotiated settlement with a large bank from downstate who handles these types of issues. Ehlers and Associates will make a recommendation to the Village on Monday, March 30th.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Will County Emergency Management Agency is promoting a new G.I.S. system for residents with special needs. Chief Weissgerber handed out a copy of the sign-up sheet to be provided to those with special needs that would qualify for this program. This new G.I.S. system would allow a database to be created to allow anyone with special needs to be notified in the event of a disaster. Chief Weissgerber is working on getting a link on the Village and Police websites which would allow people to sign up online.

Chief Weissgerber provided clarification on school speed zone statutes, reporting that 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. is school speed zone times. Chief Weissgerber read from State Statute for definition of "when school children are present" and explained the Police Department's interpretation of the statute. Chief Weissgerber has heard from a lot of people in regards to school speed zone tickets issued and has spoken to his department about these tickets. There was some understanding that these tickets were issued under a grant program but that was untrue. This was just speed enforcement done in

school zones. Tickets that were issued in speed zones were to those going 10 m.p.h. or more above the speed limit. Some of these issues came up at a previous Beecher Chamber of Commerce meeting. Kim Koutsky asked the Chief about grants that the department receives for enforcement and what it pays for. Trustee Ahrendt asked for information on the amount of traffic that goes through the grant enforcement zones. Chief Weissgerber would have to look into this. President Lohmann suggested handouts be given to kids in school to be taken home to parents to explain the laws in school speed zones. School Board President Tom Stluka will work with Chief Weissgerber on this.

The Board considered an application for a C.O.P.S. Grant to fund a new police officer for three years at 100%. Material was provided in the packet for review. Tom Stluka said that the School Board has discussed whether they plan to continue the SRO program in the future. The school likes the program and it is funded by a grant. They plan to continue as long as the grant funds the program. Their was discussion as to the additional costs of hiring another officer once grant funds run out. Chief Weissgerber said that an officer retired this year and it was decided not to replace him which is saving the Village money. Chief Weissgerber was directed by the Board to complete the grant application and apply for the grant and, if needed, the Board can turn it down if it is decided not to move forward and hire another officer. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to paint ball Chief Weissgerber to apply for the C.O.P.S. Grant to fund a new police officer for three years at 100%. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to award a bid to Van Drunen Ford in the amount of \$18,775 for a 2009 Ford Mustang for the Fourth of July Commission car raffle. Copies of bids received were provided in the packet for review. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber announced upcoming youth activities: April 18th is movie night; April 25th a princess party for girls 3-11; May 2nd is paint ball; May 16th is a beanbag tournament, May 30th a Joliet Jackhammers baseball game; and June 6th is the bike rodeo. The Chief also reported that last Saturday 80 kids attended a skating event. The Police Department is also partnering with Kohl's Care for Kids Program and will be receiving \$500 from one Kohl's store and potentially another \$1,000 to help with the youth programs.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION #2009-06 - A Resolution asking the State of Illinois to include the resurfacing of Route #1 from Goodenow Road to the Kankakee/Will County Line (including through the Village) as a priority project for 2009 in the proposed Capital bill. A copy of the resolution was provided in

the packet for review. Trustee Gardner made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-06. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that brush pick-up began that day.

Superintendent Cowger said that asphalt plants are not expected to open until April 1st so road patching will begin after April 1st.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The Board reconsidered a pre-application for the replacement of watermain on Penfield Street from Dixie Highway to Woodward Street; Maxwell Street from Penfield Street to Indiana Avenue; and Indiana Avenue from Dunbar Street to Oak Park Avenue. Trustee Gardner felt that it was the previous consensus of the Board that we might not be able to pay for this project. However, he thought it was a good deal that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) pay for 25% of this project and fund the rest at 0%, and that the replacements are badly needed. These costs will only go up in the future. Administrator Barber stated that there may be leftover funds from the Public Works facility to help pay for this. Trustee Gardner made a motion to submit a pre-application for the replacement of watermain on Penfield Street from Dixie Highway to Woodward Street; Maxwell Street from Penfield Street to Indiana Avenue; and Indiana Avenue from Dunbar Street to Oak Park Avenue. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Bid opening for the bonds is scheduled for March 30, 2009 and is being handled by Ehlers and Associates. The bid opening for the Public Works facility is scheduled for Thursday, April 2nd at 11:15 a.m. at the Washington Township Center.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Chamber of Commerce President Chuck Hoehn explained that an Outdoor Market will be held in conjunction with the Car Cruise Nights on Wednesdays. So far there are three or four vendors that are interested in participating. Twelve or thirteen spots will be available from 4-8 p.m. at the Market. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve a temporary use permit for an Outdoor Market sponsored by the Beecher Chamber of Commerce, to be held in Striker's Bowling Alley parking lot. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Skruggs Barbeque has not yet submitted his application for a special use permit to have a food wagon in the parking lot at Tubby's Wine and Spirits.

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting for March 26th has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

An Intergovernmental meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31st at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center.

President Lohmann reminded all residents and builders that the building permit fees, cash in lieu of land fees, and tap-in fees, have not changed. The highest building permit fee is \$14,231.00 for a single-family home and some fees are lower due to locked in park fees and lower tap-in fees negotiated with developers.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber reported on the Church Road Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) grant project applied for through the Will County Governmental League. The grant amount has been reduced back to \$100,000 instead of \$109,000 as applied for.

Administrator Barber reported on information received from Will County for a low income summer worker program, age 18-24 and 32 hours a week for 12 weeks. A summer worker could be used in Public Works. This would be a grant paid for by Will County. It was the consensus of the Board to apply for the summer worker program through Will County.

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

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss land acquisition and pending litigation. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to return to regular session at 8:38 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Board members continued discussion on a matter considered in closed session regarding a request to put a fence between commercial and residential property (behind the new dental office on Dixie Highway) that was promised to the resident before the new commercial building was put up. The resident behind the dental office is complaining about headlights shining in her windows from the parking lot. The Board discussed if the Village is to put up the fence and where. Trustee Gardner recommended getting the resident to sign an agreement as to exactly what she wants before a decision is made as to what will go where. It will also need to be determined whose property the fence would be put on. It was the consensus of the Board not to construct a fence on top of the retaining wall. Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger will meet with the resident again to get specifics on what she wants and obtain the cost to do it.

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

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk