

**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
APRIL 13, 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, Kim Koutsky, Kevin Bouchard, Tom Brislane, Norman Lange, Tony Scruggs, Kevin Kelly, Joseph Venturella, Dustin Karstensen, Anthony DeLuca and George Schuitema.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 24, 2009 Board meeting. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction; on Page 3, second paragraph, at the end of line 9 change "paintball Chief Weissgerber" to "authorize Chief Weissgerber". Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (2) Trustees Cleary and Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 30, 2009 Budget Workshop and the March 31, 2009 Joint Taxing Body Meeting. Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

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 (\$1,432.99) and the Beautification Commission (\$800.00). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$2,232.99 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) It was the consensus of the Board to declare the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in the Village of Beecher as requested by ABATE of Illinois.

4) RESOLUTION #2009-07 - A Resolution accepting a gift of \$50,000 for improvements from the estate of Garneta Ehlers. It was noted that the money will be put in a separate account and must only be used for improvements. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-07. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

5) Clerk Conner read aloud a thank you letter from Little People's Preschool II for the fingerprinting and safety car seat checks held at the Preschool by representatives of the Police and Fire Departments.

6) Clerk Conner reminded Board members that economic interest statements need to be filled out and returned to the Will County Clerk by May 1st.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Anthony DeLuca, the State Representative who replaced George Scully, introduced himself to Board members. Mr. DeLuca reported that the resurfacing of Route #1 from Goodenow Road to the Kankakee County line is expected to be completed this year. He could not answer whether the section between Church Road and Pasadena will be resurfaced also. Mr. DeLuca stated that he is currently mayor of Chicago Heights, and described his qualifications and family information. He is resigning as Mayor to devote his time as State Representative. Mr. DeLuca answered questions from President Lohmann about the third airport legislation being proposed by Senator Toi Hutchinson. Mr. DeLuca stated that he supports a third airport. The Board reiterated that Beecher does not want Jesse Jackson's plan for control of the airport. The Village wants local control if the airport is to be in our back yard. Administrator Barber asked about raising income taxes. There were discussions in Springfield about potential property tax relief if the income tax is raised. Mr. Deluca's district office will be located on Exchange in Crete.

Tony Scruggs and his partner, Kevin Kelly, were present to request a temporary use permit to put a concession stand in the parking lot in front of Tubby's Wine and Spirits, 311 Dixie Highway. Mr. Scruggs is currently a caterer and plans to have a 7'x16' Wells Cargo Trailer out of which he would sell barbeque sandwiches. The trailer and equipment will be all new and will be Health Department certified. There will be no seating and it will be strictly a carry out business. The consensus of the

Board preferred the petitioner's proposed "Site 1" location. Mr. Scruggs indicated he does not want to have a land-based business at this point, due to the economy. President Lohmann asked Mr. Scruggs if he has checked with the neighbors in the area because of smoke that would be generated by the business. Mr. Scruggs responded that he has never had a complaint in the past, such as when he had a place in Manteno. Mr. Scruggs proposed to be open May 1st until Halloween, depending on his customers, and only plans to be open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday unless customers want more. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve a temporary use permit for a concession stand at Tubby's Wine & Spirits at 311 Dixie Highway with location of the concession stand being site #1 as stated in the application and the stand to be open only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber noted that this temporary use permit is for calendar year 2009.

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 \$156,980.69 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.

RESOLUTION #2009-08 - A Resolution adopting an identity theft policy for the Village as required by law. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-08. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The annual report from Comcast Cable was provided in the packet for review.

The Village switched to Airbaud on April 1st as their internet provider, after the installation of Airbaud's antennas on the water tower.

Results were provided from the Budget Workshop. Trustee Szymanski recommended banking the surplus amount in the budget as reported by the Administrator. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to bank the \$7,706 surplus. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Szymanski provided a report on a Retail Shopping Center Trade Show and whether the Village should participate. After some discussion, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 to Hamilton Associates for participation in the Retail Shopping Center Trade Show. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

The Village will not be seeking membership in the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported on upcoming youth activities, as listed on the schedule provided in the packet.

The Board considered the purchase of a Lydar radar system using DUI enforcement funds collected in the prior two years. Chief Weissgerber stated that the radar system that was available for \$1,795 is no longer available, and a new state bid radar unit would cost \$2,655. Chief Weissgerber wishes not to pursue this item at this time since the additional money is not in the budget.

Chief Weissgerber provided a status report on problems with airing Village Board meetings on Comcast Cable. The old camera is no longer working so the camera will now be fed into a DVD recorder and DVD's will taken to the Peotone Access League for airing.

Chief Weissgerber reported that there are a lot of solicitors going door-to-door now that the weather is getting warmer. Residents are complaining. The Village cannot stop most from soliciting, but the solicitors do have to register with the Village. Complaints have been received about some U.S. Energy solicitors and the Chief explained what they are doing.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The ComEd 2008 annual report of electrical service in the Village was provided in the packet for review.

Status was provided on the condition of Church Road. It will now be 2010 not 2009, for the LAPP project, according to Ray Koenig of Baxter and Woodman. The Board discussed where water will flow along this road, since it is in a wetland area. It was asked if a culvert should be added under the road. Trustee Cleary was concerned because of water flow over the road, that repaving the road

could cause further problems. Ray Koenig addressed some of the questions about this. The Board discussed maybe doing tar and chip instead of asphalt but Ray Koenig felt that would cost as much as asphalt. There was much discussion as to whether to pave this road or not. Public Works Superintendent Cowger said the road is a maintenance nightmare and something needs to be done. Trustee Szymanski recommended putting a traffic counter on the road to determine how much traffic goes down the road, and look into what annual maintenance costs should be with and without paving the road. Staff will take care of this.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The Board considered a proposal in the amount of \$64,500 for the design of the watermain replacement project and application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for federal stimulus funds and loan. Mr. Koenig explained the process for moving forward with this project. There would be 25% forgiveness on the principal and a 20 year loan on the remaining balance. Mr. Koenig explained that it will cost \$19,750 to do the IEPA application. The Village would also need to demonstrate to the IEPA as to how we will pay the loan back. The Village may have to raise rates to pay for the project, but it was noted that the mains would have to be replaced eventually. The Board will wait one more meeting before voting on this, until more is known about what the actual cost of the new Public Works facility will be and if enough money will be left over after that project.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Approximately 100 bids were received and opened on April 2nd for the various portions of the Public Works building project. Administrator Barber explained some problems with the bid qualification process. Details are not yet ready for release. Trustees were asked if they want to review bids or let JMA handle everything for now. It was the consensus of the Board to let JMA handle the bids for now. The architect and attorney are working through some issues relating to the bids. JMA will be present at the next meeting to provide recommendations.

The Spring 2009 newsletter is being worked on and a draft will be emailed to Board members when it becomes available.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Buchmeier building progress update was tabled until the next Board meeting.

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.

Ray Koenig of Baxter and Wood reported on the following items:

- a. Status of The Preserves at Cardinal Creek (MGM Development) punch list items, letter of credit, and engineering reimbursements
 - Cole Taylor Bank has until April 17th to decide what they will do next or the Village will draw on the letter of credit to make needed improvements. According to President Lohmann, it will cover engineering and legal fees.
- b. Status of Nantucket Cove (Montalbano Homes) punch list items:
 - They have until July 8th to complete punch list items or the Village can draw on the letter of credit.
- c. Final lift and punch list items in Hunter's Chase East and West:
 - Mr. Lotton is supposed to install final lift by June 21st. They may delay final lift for Hunters chase East.
- d. Bike path in Hunter's Chase East:
 - Lotton is not obligated to put bike path in until the subdivision is accepted by the Village.
- e. Final lift and punch list items in Prairie Crossings South:
 - Mr. Sova has been receptive to getting paving done and has been contacting paving contractors for prices.
- f. Status of erosion control in all uncompleted subdivisions:
 - The Army Corp of Engineers is looking at other area communities erosion control. Mr. Koenig was asked who would be responsible to handle these issues. The subdivision developers are responsible. The Board discussed who would look at erosion issues and who would take erosion fences down that are no longer needed. Someone from Baxter and Woodman will monitor these issues on a regular basis.
- g. Street lights in Hunter's Chase East:
 - ComEd has been paid but has not provided an installation date.
- h. Curb failures in Hunter's Chase (Original subdivision accepted in 2007):
 - Mr. Koenig will get together with Superintendent Cowger and look at curb failures in detail and provide a report at a future meeting.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

RESOLUTION #2009-09 - A Resolution adopting a community-wide strategic plan for the year 2030. Trustee Wehling made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-09. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer is working on a proposal for a community newsletter that would be self-funded through advertising, and to better inform the community on issues for all of the taxing bodies.

President Lohmann is concerned about Representative DeLuca's stance on the airport authority.

The Illinois Municipal League and Will County Governmental League lobby days are scheduled for April 21st and 22nd. Administrator Barber will attend.

Results were provided on the Capital Bill Public Hearing held at South Suburban College on April 8th. President Lohmann attended this hearing.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk