

**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 27, 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, Attorney Tim Kuiper, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, and Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Voss, Tom Brislane, Kim Koutsky, Kevin Bouchard, Tom Stluka, James Macjiewski, George Schuitema, Mitch Cadwallader, Norman Lange, Wayne Babiak, Joe Venturella and Vic Reato.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the April 13, 2009 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary 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) Bills were presented for the Beecher 4th of July Commission (\$4,000) and the Beautification Commission (\$9,657.00). Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$13,657.00 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Trustee Szymanski made a motion to cancel the May 25, 2009 Board meeting due to the Memorial Day holiday. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

4) Washington Township sent a letter announcing their “Senior Prom” being held on Saturday, May 16th at Cardinal Creek Golf Course. 5) The Illinois Municipal League is sponsoring a Newly Elected Officials Conference on Friday, May 15th. 6) The Will County Triad for Seniors is holding a Safety and Health Expo on May 13th.

President Lohmann asked Clerk Conner to read aloud a letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) indicating their plan to pave Route 1 from Goodenow Road to the Kankakee/Will County Line.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Bill Voss of 260 Hunters Drive stated that the Beecher Chamber of Commerce has formed a committee to go over the sign ordinance and asked permission to discuss a broader perspective of sign issues with the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) on behalf of community businesses. It was estimated that it could take 6-12 months to get through the process. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to refer the Chamber of Commerce Sign Ordinance Committee to the PZC to review the sign ordinance. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (2) Trustees Cleary and Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

Kevin Bouchard said he and Irene Brothers are looking for volunteers for the food stand at Firemen’s Park over the Fourth of July Celebration. Interested parties should contact Irene or the Village Hall.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

(Items from above committee done out of agenda order.)

Jim Macjiewski from JMA Architects provided a presentation on the proposed Public Works facility and the bid opening. 102 bids were received. A tally of bids and an analysis was provided to the Board for review. Mr. Macjiewski explained issues with some of the bids received. Ron’s Plumbing was the lowest compliant bid but later submitted a letter that he bid too low in error and requested he be released from the bid. The Village can still require him to do the work or he can default on his bond. All bid awards for the public works facility were referenced to the “Possible Base Bid Awards to Reduce Total Project Cost” page of the Bid Results and Preliminary Analysis presented April 27, 2009 by JMA Architects. Upon recommendations from the architect and attorney the following motions were made:

Trustee Wehling made a motion to reject bid packages 1, 3, 9, and 14. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to accept bid package #2 for excavation and grading to Witech, Inc. in the amount of \$95,743. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to accept bid package #4 for the pre-engineered metal building to Area Erectors, Inc. in the amount of \$309,335. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to accept bid package #5 for poured in place concrete to Builders Concrete Services in the amount of \$150,386. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to accept bid package #6 for masonry to Albin Masonry in the amount of \$11,975. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to accept bid package #7 for structural steel to Shelco Steel in the amount of \$14,900. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to accept bid package #8 for carpentry and general construction to Keepsake Construction in the amount of \$36,343. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to accept bid package #10 for plumbing to Pride Plumbing in the amount of \$42,963. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to accept bid package #11 for HVAC to Ron's Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$40,518. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to accept bid package #12 for fire protection to Ryan Fire Protection in the amount of \$24,699. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to accept bid package #13 for electrical to Karstensen Electrical in the amount of \$59,631.99. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was noted that if Ron's Plumbing and Heating defaults on their bid, the Village will draw on their bid bond. It was the consensus of the Board to wait to see if Ron's Plumbing and Heating will honor their bid and then they will decide if it is necessary to consider awarding the bid to the next lowest bidder. Administrator Barber stated that bond proceeds have been deposited in bank.

Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a contract with Lange Excavating in the amount of \$10,550 to assist the Public Works Department with the laying of 36" storm sewer pipe and setting manholes. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing the Public Works Superintendent to order equipment from the bond proceeds per the list provided in the packet as necessary for furnishing the Public Works facility in an amount not to exceed \$51,100, and to include a change from 2 desktop computers to 2 laptop computers. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Gardner felt that desktop computers on the list are not the best option, and that two laptops would be much more useful for the type of work that is done.

Trustee Wehling will work with staff to set a groundbreaking ceremony date for the new Public Works facility.

Clerk Conner reported that the Spring newsletter is at the printers and should be mailed on April 29th.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a one-year contract with South Suburban Sweeps in the amount of \$250 per month for once per week cleaning services in the Village Hall and Police Station. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling referred to the Beecher Recreation schedule for use of the ballfields, as provided in the packet for review. Trustee Wehling made a motion to allow Beecher Recreation to use Firemen's Park fields as is consistent with the schedule as submitted. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary suggested incorporating the Sunday schedule which was not included. Trustee Ahrendt asked if the schedule could be posted somewhere. Beecher Recreation will be asked to post the schedule where it can be seen.

A public hearing was held at 7:53 p.m. to consider a proposed budget and appropriation ordinance for Fiscal Year 2009/2010.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

RESOLUTION #2009-10 - A Resolution adopting a budget for Fiscal Year 2009/2010. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-10. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1112 - An Ordinance adopting an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2009/2010. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1112. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion authorizing the purchase of a squad car in an amount not to exceed \$23,900. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber reported on his presentation at the April 20th Beecher Chamber of Commerce meeting, stating that he attempted to dispel some misconceptions and rumors on the traffic safety grant program. Trustee Szymanski suggested that Chief Weissgerber provide the same presentation at a Board meeting, so that information can be put on the local access cable channel for the residents to see.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the swine flu outbreak and provided Health Department and CDC web site addresses for residents to visit with questions. The Police Department is working on a plan of action with the Health Department in case the flu outbreak hits our area.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION #2009-11 - A Resolution superseding local agency resolution of intent to allow for the payment of debt by Motor Fuel Tax funds. A copy of the Resolution was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-11. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2009-12 - A Resolution of obligation and retirement for the payment of debt service charges in 2009 using Motor Fuel Tax funds. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-12. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2009-13 - A Resolution appropriating funds for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-13. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on Church Road, east of the Beecher Junior High. Chief Weissgerber reported that the traffic study should be done by April 28th. Trustee Cleary indicated he doesn't think the Village should put a culvert under this road. Administrator Barber reported that he spoke with Norm Lange and determined how the road could be done so it drains properly but they were concerned that over the years a wetland area may have formed which NIPC may not allow to be drained. A discussion on drainage followed. Administrator Barber said that a 12" cut can be made along the south side of the road which should drain the water to the north. This work is not ready to be done yet. It will be June or July before the matter will be discussed again.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

Trustee Gardner made a motion to authorize the Village President and Clerk to sign an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) loan application preparation agreement with Baxter and Woodman Engineers for an amount not to exceed \$19,750. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to authorize the Village President and Clerk to sign an agreement with Baxter and Woodman Engineers in the amount of \$42,500 for the design and permitting of the watermain replacement program. This is to design the watermain replacement on Penfield from Woodward to Dixie, Maxwell from Penfield to Indiana, and on Indiana from Dunbar to Oak Park. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

(This committee was handled out of agenda order at the beginning of the meeting.)

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Board considered a referral to the PZC on an amendment to the Beecher Zoning Ordinance allowing residential dwellings on the first floor of buildings in the B-1H Downtown Business District. Vic Reato, the owner of the building at 759 Penfield Street, wishes to convert one of the first floor office areas to a one-bedroom apartment. The Board discussed that if one of these instances is allowed, the Village should be prepared to address more requests. Vic Reato said that the outside of the building would remain the same but he may create a false wall with windows on the inside. Trustee Cleary asked about parking and fire codes. According to Administrator Barber, the Village needs a broader plan for the old downtown area to make it viable for a commercial area. There were many concerns that this would not be the best use for this building and could set a precedent for other commercial buildings in town. President Lohmann asked how to attract business to the old downtown area. Trustee Gardner indicated he needed more time to think about this issue before he could make a decision. President Lohmann asked if the Board would consider commuter rail to the old downtown area to help revitalize it. There was much discussion on how to revitalize the old downtown area. A lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Reato would have to apply for a special use permit and pay the \$750 application fee if he pursues the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to deny Vic Reato's referral to the PZC. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (3) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski and Gardner.

Motion Carried.

Board members decided that the next business breakfast or dinner will be held with old downtown business owners to discuss the future of the downtown. Marcy Meyer, Economic Development Coordinator, will handle the meeting details.

The Board decided not to vote on modifications to an existing legal non-conforming use in the B-1H downtown district. There is a legal non-conforming two flat at the southwest corner of Gould and Hodges. The petitioner was not present. The matter was tabled.

Trustee Ahrendt tabled the Buchmeier building matter until the next meeting.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann attended a meeting last week with Will County and State officials to discuss the status of the airport project, ALNAC and the proposed airport authority legislation.

Administrator Barber reported on the Illinois Municipal League/Will County Governmental League Lobby Days he recently attended in Springfield, IL. He was able to meet with all our local legislators. Administrator Barber reported on the proposed income tax increase, the third airport and who reportedly might control it, and some proposed legislation.

The Board considered a draft resolution urging the passage of a comprehensive capital infrastructure program. A copy was provided in the packet for review. This resolution would show support for the third airport, therefore it was the consensus of the Board not to approve it.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Szymanski 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 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk