

**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  
MAY 11, 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 Attorney Tim Kuiper.

**GUESTS:** Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Kim Koutsky, Kevin Bouchard, Andrew Ahrendt, Pat Lane, Tom Stluka, Tom Brislane, Joseph Venturella, George Schuitema, Jim Cooney, Rich and Helen Szutenbach, Bill Voss and Ed Barry.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the April 27, 2009 Public Hearing. 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.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the April 27, 2009 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting with the following amendment: Page 7, Item F, second to the last line of the last paragraph, change motion to: Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to not refer to the PZC a change in the zoning ordinance pertaining to expanding special uses in a B-1H historic downtown business district to include residential on the first floor. 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 provided. 2) Bills were presented for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$9,559.39 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) A bill from F. Weber Printing was received in the mail after the bills were closed out, that needs to be paid out of the 2008/09 fiscal year budget. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve a bill from F. Weber Printing in the amount of \$1,090 for printing of the Spring newsletter, to be paid out of the old fiscal year's budget. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

4) The Will County Clerk's abstract of votes for the April 7<sup>th</sup> election was provided for review.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Pat Lane of 508 Highlinton Court, was present regarding the condition of the golf course pond he came to the Board about last year. Mr. Lane said that the golf course has not done improvements as promised last year. Algae and cattails are floating in the pond. Mr. Lane asked the Board to send a letter to Cardinal Creek Golf Course and get them to complete the required improvements, including an aerator that they said they would get. Trustee Szymanski said he spoke to someone from the golf course and they are aware improvements must be completed by June 21<sup>st</sup>. Administrator Barber noted that the ponds on Fairway Drive are also in bad shape. Staff will send another letter. Mr. Lane also reported that there is another tree down on the property.

#### **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.

Administrator Barber noted the bills that came in late that were added to the list of bills which were not reviewed by the Chairman. A list of bills totalling \$78,054.36 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.

The Board considered an ordinance establishing the criteria for the determination of a responsible bidder for the Village of Beecher's Public Works projects. A four-minute video presentation was shown on responsible bidding. Attorney Kuiper prepared a sample ordinance for the Board which was provided for review. He explained the ordinance to the Board. Concerns were expressed about

this ordinance, who benefits and how it relates to unions. Ed Barry with the Laborers District Council explained the union apprenticeship program and how it works. The Board discussed how it might affect Beecher in the future. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to table the responsible bidder ordinance for the Village of Beecher Public Works projects. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion. Attorney Kuiper will make more changes to the ordinance.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A Fourth of July Commission update was provided.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve the final payment in the amount of \$9,012.73 on the Ford Expedition. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber noted that the digital camera needs additional work and hopefully it will be ready to go at the next meeting.

Trustee Cleary raised the issue of open pit burning in town. Some complaints have been received and Village Ordinance does not allow open burning. What type of burning can be done in town needs to be clarified. Information needs to be put in the newspaper about this to let people know what is going on before making any decisions, according to Administrator Barber. This matter may be discussed in a future workshop meeting. No action was taken.

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

The Fourth of July banners and American flags are scheduled to go up the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>, and will remain up until the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Hanging baskets are scheduled to be put up the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Street sweeping is scheduled for either this week or the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>. Richton Park Public Works is hired to provide this service.

Paint striping is scheduled to begin on June 1<sup>st</sup> and be completed by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Penfield Street asphalt patch is scheduled for installation this week.

Public Works has begun restorations to areas damaged by snow plows.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the speed and traffic volume study for Church Road east of the Beecher Junior High has been completed and will be provided with Public Works Superintendent Cowger's proposal for repairs to Church Road. Chief Weissgerber asked the Board what type of data they want included on the report. Speeds, vehicle type and quantity on a daily basis was data that the Board desired in the report.

Superintendent Cowger reported that hydrant flushing will be conducted at night for about four days, the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **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 March and April was provided in the packet for review.

At the June 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman will provide a detailed report on watermain replacement.

President Lohmann reported that he had a meeting with Representative Dugan and Senator Hutchinson about the stimulus funds to be used to pay for the watermain replacement project. Concerns were expressed that the Village has to pay engineering fees out of pocket before we can even be eligible to receive money to do this project.

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

The Board considered payment from the Bond Redemption Account for the following invoices:

- JMA Architects in the amount of \$6,820.42 for the letting and opening of bids and \$6,900 for review and qualification of bids for a total of \$13,720.42.
- A bill to HD Waterworks for watermain materials for service to the new Public Works facility in the amount of \$2,238.96.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve payment to JMA Architects in the amount of \$13,720.42 and HD Waterworks in the amount of \$2238.96 out of the Bond Redemption Account. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Payments out of the Bond Redemption Account are going through a different process than Accounts Payable which will now require separate motions for approval of payment. The architect will eventually build a spreadsheet showing costs incurred to date and amount remaining on contracts. These two payments are the first out of the account.

An update was provided on the Public Works facility. Trustee Wehling expressed concerns about ensuring quality of the work on this project. Administrator Barber noted that the architect is responsible for keeping track of this. Our inspectors will also be inspecting this project. A discussion was held about key card access and other security measures but the costs are not yet available. A pre-construction meeting will be held next week.

The Board approved a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Public Works facility to be held on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony will be informal with gold shovels and a photo opportunity. There will be no reception afterwards.

A report was provided on the condition of Welton Stedt Park. Superintendent Cowger reported that Beecher Recreation does not plan to play there but the school is using it for gym class. The property needs to be leveled, reseeded and fertilized. The road by the fields needs to be “beefed up”, but it is ok for now. Drew Beck from Beecher Rec is offering to help with park maintenance. Superintendent Cowger will address drainage issues on the property.

President Lohmann asked about JULIE locates at the end of Hodges Street. Superintendent Cowger said the property is being located so a swinging gate can be put in to keep motorists from driving and parking in Firemen’s Park.

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

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) will meet with Chamber representatives on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the sign ordinance.

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.

Trustee Ahrendt reported that Mr. Buchmeier is out of town and she will meet with him when he returns, regarding the status of the Buchmeier building.

Clerk Conner swore in the newly elected Board members: Paul Lohmann, Scott Wehling, Gayle Ahrendt and Ron Kuhlman.

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

A bike path meeting will be held at the Washington Township Center on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Board considered the creation of a new goals and objectives plan for the Village Board for the years 2010 to 2014. A copy of the prior plan, to be used as a template, was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Wehling made a motion to consider creation of goals and objectives for 2010

to 2014 and to hold a workshop in the Fall in order to complete the plan. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann reported that he met with newly elected mayors in the district with Senator Toi Hutchinson and Representative Lisa Dugan. The state is looking at raising state income tax and providing relief on property tax. No gas tax rate increase is planned but other fee increases are being considered to raise revenues. President Lohmann reported that he voiced complaints at the meeting that the state is spending money on airport land acquisition when they have a 12 billion dollar budget deficit. He indicated that the mayors' meeting was very informational.

Last week Administrator Barber, Chief Weissgerber and President Lohmann toured the new Will County detention facility. The tour was very interesting. The facility will probably be at capacity within three years, according to Administrator Barber.

President Lohmann reported that a Census meeting was held on April 28<sup>th</sup>. There was good participation from representatives of the community. It is good to let constituents know how important this is to our municipality and how it affects them. The next meeting will be held in June.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:11 p.m. to discuss personnel: appointments of officials and committees, employment agreements, and police collective bargaining. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber, Chief Weissgerber, Superintendent Cower and Clerk Conner were excused from the executive session since their contracts were being discussed.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to return to regular session at 9:35 p.m. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1113 - An ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an employment agreement with the Superintendent of Public Works. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1113 as amended. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1114 - An ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an employment agreement with the Village Administrator. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1114. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1115 - An ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an employment agreement with the Police Chief as amended pertaining to the Chief's fuel allowance and use of Village vehicle. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1115. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1116 - An ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an employment agreement with the Village Clerk. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1116. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann noted that the Clerk's contract broke out the Village Clerk and Office Manager positions and their different pay.

ORDINANCE #1117 - An ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an employment agreement with the Economic Development Coordinator. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1117. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann made his annual appointments as follows:

Village President Pro-Tem: Scott Wehling

Finance and Administration Committee

Chair: Brian Cleary

Co-Chair: Ron Kuhlman

Public Safety Committee

Chair: Ron Kuhlman

Co-Chair: Brian Cleary

Streets and Alleys Committee  
Chair: Greg Szymanski  
Co-Chair: Joe Gardner

Sewer and Water Committee  
Chair: Joe Gardner  
Co-Chair: Greg Szymanski

Public Buildings and Properties, Parks and Recreation  
Chair: Scott Wehling  
Co-Chair: Gayle Ahrendt

Planning, Building and Zoning  
Chair: Gayle Ahrendt  
Co-Chair: Scott Wehling

ESDA Coordinator: Lt. Rick Emerson  
Village Administrator and Zoning Administrator: Robert Barber  
Village Clerk: Janett Conner  
Chief of Police: Jeff Weissgerber  
Public Works Superintendent.: Harold "Bud" Cowger  
Building Department Services: Independent Inspection Services, Inc.  
Village Prosecutor: Tom Knuth  
Village Corporate Counsel: Austgen and Kuiper, P.C.  
Village Treasurer: Nelson Collins  
Deputy Treasurer: Julie Riechers  
Code Enforcement Officer: Julie Riechers  
IML Delegate: Greg Szymanski  
EASTCOM Board of Directors  
Member: Robert Barber  
Alternate: Ron Kuhlman

Planning and Zoning Commission Secretary, Economic Development Coordinator: Marcy Meyer

Joint Fuel Committee (one Board member and Administrator): Greg Szymanski and Robert Barber

Village Engineer: Baxter and Woodman

Annexation Committee: on an as-needed basis

Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC):  
Phil Serviss, Chairman (term expires 5/1/15)  
Dan Walsh (term expires 5/1/14)  
Kim Koutsky (term expires 5/1/13)

Denis Tatgenhorst (term expires 5/1/12)  
Kevin Bouchard (term expires 5/1/11)  
Althea Machtemes (term expires 5/1/10)  
Wayne Wiechen (term expires 5/1/16)

Beautification Commission:

Paul Lohmann, Village Representative	Sandy Lohmann
Harold Lattz, President	Steve Weishaar
Julie Riechers, Vice President	Julie Cleary
Jackie Hameister, Secretary	Jean Smith
Barb McWhorter, Treasurer	Debbie Reising

Fourth of July Commission:

Joe Gardner, Village Representative	Larry Cox	Irene Brothers
Greg Szymanski, Village Representative	Ken Hameister	George Obradovich
Ron Kuhlman, Village Representative	Bill Voss	Paul Lohmann
Chuck Hoehn, President	Robert Barber	Brad Coats
Jerry Meyer, Vice President	Steve Koehn	Bob Howard
Christine Szymanski, Secretary	Greg Ohlendorf	Patty Meyer
Nelson Collins, Treasurer		

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve President Lohmann's annual appointments as presented.

Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt asked if Kevin Bouchard can be on the PZC and be employed by the Village. Attorney Kuiper felt it was appropriate but will check into the matter to be sure.

It was noted that Wayne Wiechen was reappointed to the PZC for seven more years.

President Lohmann reported that Clerk Conner notified him of liquor licenses that expired at renewal time and staff had to notify the businesses as such. Chief Weissgerber was sent to notify one business. The Board discussed making a business that allows their license to expire to remove the liquor on the day of expiration or close the business. It was the consensus of the Board to implement a late fee. Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the Village Attorney to draft an amendment to the liquor license code pertaining to procedures and late fees in the event an expired liquor license is not renewed. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Ahrendt asked that Code Enforcement Officer Riechers drive around because she felt there is a lot of high grass around town.

Trustee Ahrendt also mentioned that someone moved into a home owned by Sligo, on the corner of Forest and Lange, and wanted to know if staff was aware of it. Julie Riechers will be asked to check into the matter.

A construction trailer has been moved into Prairie Crossings. Staff will look into if a permit is needed and/or if it has been obtained.

Trustee Ahrendt expressed concerns about all of the homes being rented out in town.

Trustee Szymanski asked if we can do rental property inspections. The costs of such a program and liabilities were discussed.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk