

**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
AUGUST 10, 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, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber and Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Kim Koutsky, Kevin Bouchard, George Schuitema, Warren Mandel, Don Deubel and Paul Toepfer.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the July 13, 2009 Board meeting. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Szymanski 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 Fourth of July Commission (\$30,130.18) and the Beautification Commission (\$806.25). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$30,936.43 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) There were no objections to a block party request in the 200 block of Castine Way, subject to obtaining one more affected resident's signature. 4) There were no objections to a block party request in the 600 block of Woodward Street. Clerk Conner will notify the Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works regarding the block parties.

President Lohmann requested that the Trustees follow the agenda for their committee reports and bring up any new items under “New Business” at the end of the 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. Treasurer Collins explained some changes to his report and noted that \$516,000 has been received and is in the bank for Nantucket Cove Subdivision.

A list of bills totalling \$90,211.31 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills, minus the bill to Shorewood Home and Auto (\$17.49), which was a Beautification Commission bill. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the month of June were provided in the packet for review.

The Fiscal Year 2008/2009 audit is in full swing. The project should be completed and ready for presentation at the first meeting in October.

A status report was provided on the State budget and Capital Bill. Both have been adopted but the Village has been told that it may take months before it sees any of the \$125,000 allocated in the Capital Bill.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that he will spray again for mosquitoes on Thursday night.

ORDINANCE #1122 - An Ordinance adopting an updated disaster plan for the Village of Beecher. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1122. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Board considered bid letting for the Church Road east project. Administrator Barber indicated that the Village can delay traffic signal funding and fund this now since the traffic light won’t be ready for installation until next year. The Beecher Community Church is breaking ground on Sunday,

August 16th and it was worried that construction of their new building could damage the new road with concrete trucks, etc. It was the consensus of the Board to table the Church Road project for now. President Lohmann asked staff to write a letter to Church Road residents keeping them informed, since the residents thought improvements were being made this year. The Chairman of Streets and Alleys will sign the letters.

Crack sealing will take place in the Fall.

The Chestnut/Dixie Highway traffic signal project has been delayed until the November 11th bid letting. It is engineered and ready to go.

The 2009 tree trimming list was provided in the packet for review. Public Works will complete the work by September 30, 2009. Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger will inspect the trimming work.

Ten free yardwaste bags will be distributed to residents not living in the leaf collection zone on October 10th and 17th from 9 a.m. until noon at the Junior High School off of Cardinal Creek Boulevard. Trustees are to email Administrator Barber with their preferred dates to work.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the two watermain breaks that occurred since the last Board meeting. A piece of pipe taken from the break at Birch and Penfield was in the room for everyone to see. Superintendent Cowger explained what makes mains break and the poor condition of the mains in that area.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has notified the Village of the ARRA project deferral. A copy of the letter was provided in the packet for review. President Lohmann forwarded to State Legislators an email from Administrator Barber that stated displeasure with why the Village didn't get the loan. Representative Dugan is investigating the matter. No answer has yet been received.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing payment of the following bills from the Bond Redemption Account, plus a bill added for AT & T in the amount of \$113.19, subject to waivers of lien. These bills are either for the new Public Works facility or the ARRA loan application:

Baxter and Woodman	Engineering Penfield/Maxwell watermain	\$ 4,675.00
Baxter and Woodman	ARRA loan application	654.00
Witech, Inc.	Excavation of site	58,625.10
Builder Concrete Services	Footing and foundation	42,931.80

Pride Plumbing	Underground work	12,610.80
Ryan Fire Protection	Parts on hand for sprinkler system	2,330.77
Service Sanitation	Port-a-john for the month	102.14
GeoCon	Testing of cement during delivery	967.00
East Jordan Iron Works	Risers for sanitary and storm manholes	1,415.60
C&M Pipe and Supply	Parts for watermain riser into bldg.	79.85
TOTAL BILLS FOR THE PERIOD:		\$ 124,392.06

Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A construction progress meeting is scheduled for Tuesday morning at the construction trailer.

Trustee Gardner asked questions about the joint newsletter project between the Village and Washington Township. Administrator Barber explained some of the logistics of selling ads. The matter will be discussed at the intergovernmental meeting at the end of August. Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing Marcy Meyer to sell ads to go in both the Washington Township and Village newsletters. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the Ehlers Memorial Committee meeting. Trustee Ahrendt reported that the Committee brain stormed on how to use the money. The Committee came up with a few ideas and Garneta Ehlers' niece will be contacted with ideas that came out of the meeting. President Lohmann reported that the Commander of the Amvets will attend the next meeting to discuss using the money for a memorial. Fundraising may also be involved to pay for the whole project. President Lohmann spoke to Julie Riechers who has a relative that's a landscape architect who may be willing to draw up some plans for an Amvet memorial.

Trustee Wehling will arrange a time with Administrator Barber to conduct safety inspections before Labor Day.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Results were provided from the Business Expo held during the August 1st Lion's Club Beef Roast. Trustee Cleary reported that a lot of people came through the Business Expo. The layout for the booths was better this year. President Lohmann felt that it would have been helpful if the Chamber of Commerce, Library, Washington Township and the School District would have a booth at the expo. This matter can be addressed at the upcoming intergovernmental meeting.

Business owners from the downtown area met two weeks ago to form a downtown association. Bill Byrns from The Daily Journal is writing an article for the paper this week. The businesses plan to hold future meetings.

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 Woodman provided an update on the following items:

a. Curb work in Hunter's Chase original and illegal dumping of concrete at 250 Mallards Cove. The contractor plans to do curb repairs in a couple of weeks. Administrator Barber said old curbs were dumped in the subdivision (illegal dumping of concrete.)

b. Nantucket Cove punch list items, grading and letter of credit – The Village has received funds for the full letter of credit (\$516,000) which will all probably be needed to complete work in Nantucket Cove. According to Administrator Barber, the Village may hold off and do most of the work next year.

c. The Preserve at Cardinal Creek (MGM) punch list items and letter of credit – Mr. Koenig received a call from the MGM Field Superintendent asking for a punch list from a year ago. It is unknown if MGM plans to make any improvements. Administrator Barber voiced his intent to draw on the letter of credit for subdivision improvements on Tuesday. The Board discussed improvements needed.

d. Hunter's Chase West punch list items - Mr. Koenig provided an update.

e. Prairie Crossings South punch list items and illegal dumping of concrete (Sova) – The concrete contractor dumped pieces of curb and it will be cleaned up.

f. Prairie Crossings South retention pond (Igoe) – Vince Igoe has done some work with cutting weeds, some repairs to the silt fence and cleaned the cement trough of the pond. Mr. Igoe is cutting the flat portion of the pond. He is not mowing the slope and other work still needs to be done.

g. Sunset Cove Boulevard landscaping issues and \$15,000 letter of credit update – Administrator Barber is waiting on this letter of credit. He is having some legal problems with this.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Illiana Expressway coalition met last week and discussed how to get this project moving. The group needs Indiana and Illinois to decide on alignment through IDOT, INDOT and legislators. Another meeting will be scheduled to try and get an alignment of the road.

An intergovernmental meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 31st to discuss the joint newsletter, strategic plan, participation in next year's Business Expo and information on the Illiana Expressway. Administrator Barber suggested offering the community's response to swine flu, in case it becomes a problem.

The volunteer recognition dinner is scheduled for October 17th.

The Board considered video poker gaming in the Village. An update from the Illinois Municipal League was provided in the packet for review. President Lohmann asked the Board if they had any problem with video poker machines in the Village. Approval of video poker gaming can also be petitioned by residents of the Village to hold a referendum under the new law. The Village would get a small percentage of revenue for video poker gaming if we approve it. This is only for businesses that hold a consumption-on-premises-only liquor license. The Board wanted to get more information before deciding anything on this. The matter will be discussed further when more information is available.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to cancel the August 24, 2009 Board meeting, due to a lack of agenda items. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber provided each Board member with a survey that needs to be completed. He explained how the questions were worded and how the backup material is used with the survey. Survey results should be returned by the September 14th Board meeting. This survey is conducted every four years.

Trustee Szymanski will forward an email regarding the Chamber's thoughts about hosting an Oktoberfest in the old downtown area. This is for information only at this time.

Trustee Wehling said a circus would like to come to town and use Firemen's Park. The last time this occurred a lot of damage was done in the park and very little money was raised. It was the consensus of the Board to deny the request to rent the park for a circus.

President Lohmann reported that he attends all Washington Township meetings. There is one resident from the unincorporated area that wrote a letter to the editor about the eminent domain and the Third Chicagoland Airport, and provides a lot of input regarding the airport. President Lohmann read aloud a portion of a letter received from this resident.

Administrator Barber commented that the bills paid tonight were less than \$100,000. It has been a long time since the bill total was this low.

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 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk