

**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
SEPTEMBER 14, 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 Harold "Bud" Cowger, Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman and Attorney Tim Kuiper.

GUESTS: Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from The Daily Journal, Joanne Buchmeier, Bob Carter, Kim Koutsky, George Schuitema, Jim Sprague, Diane Williams, Chuck Hoehn, Bill Voss, Bob Howard, Pam Moreland-Doup, Ken Papas, Corinne Sansone, Richard Hartmann, Betty Wood and Attorney Tim Guare (arrived at 8:30 p.m.)

President Lohmann introduced new Beecher Herald reporter Lynn Dill.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 10, 2009 Board meeting. Trustee Wehling 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 provided. 2) Bills were presented for the Beecher Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$1,172.62 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) There were no objections to the Knights of Columbus holding their Tootsie Roll Days from September 18-20 in the Village. 4) There were no objections to approve the closing of Gould Street from the south end of Hamilton Circulation Supplies to the north end of Halo Pizza and from the north edge of Joe Suppes' house to the north end of Teapots Café for an Oktoberfest on October 3rd. Joanne Buchmeier, representing the Beecher Historic Downtown Association, explained that the Oktoberfest was being done to bring attention to the old downtown area. Ms. Buchmeier thanked the Board for approving this fest. President Lohmann also asked Ms. Buchmeier to notify Beecher Fire Department of the street closure.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: “Bob Carter” provided a presentation on the possible impacts of the proposed Third Airport. He asked that a town hall meeting be held to talk about this issue. President Lohmann recommended that Washington Township organize this because this involves them directly. Washington Township Supervisor Bob Howard said he is willing to set up a meeting if it is held as a joint meeting with the Village. Bob Howard will get with President Lohmann and Bob Barber to try and set up a meeting.

The Board considered a request for assistance for removing cattails from the wet bottom pond at Prairie Crossings. Residents from the Prairie Crossings HOA were present. Diane Williams, President of Prairie Crossings HOA spoke on behalf of the group. Ms. Williams explained problems with the Prairie Crossings wet bottom pond. Estimated costs for the cattail removal by Doug Short was \$1,150. There was also an estimate of \$450 to control algae on the pond. Ms. Williams said that the Prairie Crossings HOA does not have the total funds to treat these problems and asked the Village for assistance in removal of the cattails. Pictures of the pond were provided for review. Concerns were expressed about setting a precedent by helping this HOA when there are other ponds in town that may need similar help. Much discussion followed. The HOA members asked if the Village could pick up the cattails if they have them removed from the pond. There were concerns about going onto private property to pick them up. It was the consensus that the Village cannot provide financial support for this but Public Works would be willing to pick up the plantings if they are put to the curb. Public Works Superintendent Cowger may also have to lower the level of the pond to allow the Prairie Crossings HOA to do the work. Staff will work with the Prairie Crossings HOA on this.

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 \$116,785.80 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 as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

All field work on the audit is complete and the auditor will present his report to the Board at the October 12th Board meeting.

Trustee Cleary made a motion adopting a group health insurance plan for Village employees for November 1, 2009 through October 31, 2010. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

IMRF announced the Village's 2010 pension rate at 9.01% for 2010.

The five-year financial plan process has begun.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Superintendent Cowger provided his last update for 2009 on the mosquito abatement program. The in-house program appears to be very effective.

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held to discuss personnel to consider a labor agreement with the Teamster's Local #714 for patrol officers and to consider names for hiring a new police officer to replace Russell Ledezma.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Dixie Highway/Chestnut Lane traffic signal. Utility conflicts have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the project is being placed for January, 2010 bid letting.

The Board considered a proposal from Perm-A-Seal to provide crack sealing in Hunter's Chase and Prairie Crossings subdivisions. Trustee Szymanski asked if any other bids were taken. If more bids were obtained, the engineer would need to get involved to do this and it would cost more. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve a proposal from Perm-A-Seal to provide crack sealing in the Hunter's Chase and Prairie Crossings Subdivisions in the amount of \$19,985. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Village received a state bid order for salt in the amount of \$57.96 per ton for 500 tons for the 2009/2010 season.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the 2009 tree trimming will be completed by September 18th.

Yardwaste bag distribution days will be October 10th and October 17th. Trustees Wehling, Gardner and Szymanski will work on October 10 and Trustees Kuhlman, Ahrendt and Cleary will work on October 17th.

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 July and August were provided in the packet for review.

There was no update on the status of the ARRA application for watermain replacement.

The Village is slated to receive \$125,000 in the state's capital bill, but a funding mechanism has not yet been secured.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing payment from the Bond Redemption Account in the amount of \$202,458.51 for items related to the construction of the Public Works facility and watermain replacement. 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 new Public Works facility. The shell is not completed but it is coming along. Questions were raised about the rapid curing on the cement floor.

Clerk Conner will email a draft of the Fall newsletter to Board members for review.

The Board discussed ads that Marcy Meyer, Economic Development Coordinator, is obtaining for next year's Village and Township Newsletters.

Trustee Wehling reported on the Ehlers Bequest Committee. The Committee is looking to construct a war memorial. Each Committee member is getting ideas from other memorials.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting for September 24th will be cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

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 reported the status on the following:

- a. Hunter's Chase Original Subdivision curb work
- b. Prairie Crossings South punch list items and acceptance of subdivision (Sova)
- c. Prairie Crossings South dry bottom pond (Igoe)
- d. Nantucket Cove (Montalbano). The Village has received the \$516,000 in cash on the draw of the letter of credit and are establishing procedures for completing the improvements in 2010.
- e. Preserve at Cardinal Creek (MGM). The Village has received the \$856,000 in cash on the draw of the letter of credit and are establishing procedures for completing the improvements in 2010.

The Board considered a proposal from Jim's Trees in the amount of \$8,552 to complete the landscaping of occupied homes on Sunset Boulevard in The Preserve of Cardinal Creek. Ken Papas was present and explained that he paid MGM for landscaping for his mother's house at the time of closing, but MGM never followed through on completing it. Mr. Papas paid Jim's Trees to get the landscaping done on his own, therefore actually paying twice. Mr. Papas still does not have irrigation on the property. Another property owner from Sunset Boulevard, Dave Hartmann, was also present and also completed his own landscaping. President Lohmann wants to get everyone from The Preserve together in one room who needs their landscaping completed or already completed it themselves to determine what needs to be done. Jim Sprague from Jim's Trees has looked at the properties and has a good idea of what needs to be done. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize the Village President to disburse funds as he sees fit from the \$15,000 landscaping escrow for the Sunset Boulevard area. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Mr. Hartmann and Mr. Papas thanked the Board for taking care of this stressful issue. Mr. Hartmann asked some questions about the absence of a homeowner's association in The Preserve and problems relating to this. President Lohmann said that meetings are being held with The Preserve's management company and issues are being worked on.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:40 p.m. to consider a labor agreement with the Teamsters Local #714 for patrol officers and to consider names for hiring a new police officer to replace Russell Ledezma. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A five minute break was taken.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 9:05 p.m. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1123 - An Ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a contract approving a labor agreement with Teamsters Local #714 for patrol officers. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1123. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman suggested the Board consider names for hiring a new police officer to replace Russell Ledezma. Seven candidates are being interviewed for the position this week. Chief Weissgerber and the Committee will interview and make a hiring recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

The Board considered a proposal to have MGM Development complete the improvements in the Preserve at Cardinal Creek in lieu of a public bid process. This is a legal method which would allow MGM Construction to complete the public improvements in the Preserve at Cardinal Creek with little Village involvement while securing \$32,800 in maintenance fees for the HOA so that the medians can be cared for through 2011. Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the engineer to put bid specifications together for Montalbano Homes and The Preserve at Cardinal Creek to complete public improvements in lieu of a public bid process for completion in 2010. They are separate projects but being bid at the same time. (They will also be bid with the Church Road project.) Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann reported on the results of the August 31st Intergovernmental meeting.

Clerk Conner reported that the menu has been set for the Volunteer/Employee Recognition Dinner at Cardinal Creek Golf Course. The Committee is looking at giving away an ornament to each employee/volunteer as a gift.

Clerk Conner reported on the 2010 Census Count Committee, the giveaway items provided by the Census Bureau and plans for getting the word out for the 2010 Census. The Library will conduct a bookmark design contest and the school will hand out pens and post-its to students, after January 1st.

An update was provided on the Illiana Expressway project. A meeting is being scheduled with local officials on the Indiana side.

The strategic plan surveys have all been completed and Administrator Barber will compile a report for the Board.

H. NEW BUSINESS

President Lohmann announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is looking for projects because they have stimulus money available. He suggested applying for a watermain loan through this avenue. It was the consensus of the Board to pursue this. Staff will set up a meeting with the USDA to see if this can be done, since there is no money available from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for the project.

Washington Township Supervisor Bob Howard asked if there is a sign ordinance for electronic signs. Administrator Barber said a special use permit is needed. A hearing will be held on the sign ordinance in October. Mr. Howard asked for some direction on putting up a sign for the Township.

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 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk