

**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  
OCTOBER 12, 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, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Ahrendt.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Ray Koenig from Baxter & Woodman, Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer and Auditor Curt Dykstra.

**GUESTS:** Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Kim Koutsky, Kevin Bouchard, Glen Abney and George Schuitema.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the September 28, 2009 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, 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 \$565.13 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann read the State Comptroller's quarterly report regarding the State of Illinois being unable to pay out tax checks to local governments, health care providers, local colleges, social programs and other state run programs. Administrator Barber referred the Board to a spreadsheet to show the Village's trend of taxes being collected. The State is holding income tax checks from the Village and other tax revenues are also down.

President Lohmann asked for Board support of a hiring freeze of new full-time employees until February 1<sup>st</sup> because of reduced revenues coming in. The Village will still be able to hire part-time employees for the Police Department and Public Works. The Board also discussed changing brush pick up to every other Monday next year instead of every Monday to save money. The consensus of the Board supported implementation of a hiring freeze of new full-time employees until February 1, 2010.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Glen Abney, Somewhere in Time bar owner at 614 Gould Street, was present to express concerns about kids hanging out next door to his business, in front of his business and in the street throwing stones, congregating in the streets and causing problems for his patrons. The kids are coming from the business next door - Teapots Café. Mr. Abney was asked to call the police whenever this happens. The police are aware of the problem but want him to call the police when it is happening. There are also problems with kids hanging out in Water Tower Park. Chief Weissgerber wants to meet with some of the kids' parents to see why the kids are being dropped off there unsupervised. The Chief will set up a meeting with Mr. Tully from Teapots to talk to him about the problem. This matter is mostly a problem on Friday and Saturday nights.

Mr. Abney also complained about the loose bricks on Mr. Tully's building and wanted to know what is happening with that. It is being handled in the court right now.

#### **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 \$111,663.27 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 Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber will hold the crack sealing check until Superintendent Cowger has reported that the work has been satisfactorily completed.

Curt Dykstra, from Smith, Koelling, Dykstra and Ohm, provided a report on the findings of the audit. Board members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Trustee Cleary made a motion to accept the audit for Fiscal Year ending April 30, 2009. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Village Board strategic plan workshop is scheduled for Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the drafting of a property tax levy for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 collectible in 2010 in an amount not to exceed 5% forgoing the Public Hearing requirement. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski asked about clarification of the letter of credit pulled for two subdivisions and what the money could be used for. There was also discussion about grading work needing to be done in Nantucket Cove Subdivision.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held to discuss the hiring of a new police officer.

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

Leaf pickup has begun and will continue until the week of Thanksgiving.

Yardwaste bag distribution was held on October 10<sup>th</sup> and will continue on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. until noon at the Beecher Junior High School.

Superintendent Cowger reported that crack sealing has not been completed due to rain.

Joe Spanier has resigned from the Public Works Department to take a job with the Elwood Fire Department. Trustee Szymanski asked why continue taking applications when there is a hiring freeze now in place. Administrator Barber stated that he likes to have a list of those available in case someone else quits. An ad has already been placed in the papers. Staff will continue taking applications.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the Public Works Superintendent to pay \$25 per hour for stand-by callout personnel for snow removal at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. Superintendent Cowger explained plowing routes and the need to have an additional person for plowing. According to Superintendent Cowger, Rob Deenik will probably be his first pick to plow because of his experience. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE**

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

Superintendent Cowger reported that flushing will be conducted the night of October 21<sup>st</sup> and he will flush some select areas he wants to get cleaned up for the winter.

Approximately 380,000 gallons of liquid sludge are scheduled to be removed from the Sewer Plant, at a cost of \$20,000. The work is scheduled to begin this week.

Status was provided of watermain replacement design. Ray Koenig of Baxter and Woodman reported that there is money being released, according to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) website, for some water projects. There is still a lot more money being applied for than what is available.

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

Trustee Wehling made a motion to authorize payment of bills from the Bond Redemption Account in the amount of \$51,068.95. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the new Public Works facility. The floor has been poured. Contractors are working on the above ground fire protection and plumbing. Doors are being installed this week.

The Fall edition of the Village newsletter was mailed last week.

Trustee Wehling reported that the Ehlers Committee met last Wednesday and discussed alternative locations for a war memorial. Joliet Junior College has taken this as a class project and will provide renderings for the project. The Committee will meet again in early December.

Trustee Szymanski reported that the Fourth of July Commission approved \$1,000 to spend on an ice skating rink. An exact location in Firemen's Park is still being sought. There were no objections from the Board.

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

Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$1,275 relating to developer cash escrows. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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. Ms. Meyer reported on the Oktoberfest held in the old downtown area.

A Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The agenda includes a public hearing on changes to the sign ordinance and a workshop on the status of unused variances which have been granted.

There was some discussion of building permits that were issued but never picked up.

Status was provided on the Homeowner's Association (HOA) at The Preserve of Cardinal Creek and Sunset Boulevard. Administrator Barber reported on the meeting held with Royster Management. There are 66 homes in the subdivision. There are not enough homes to collect enough money to make their budget to maintain common properties. There was some discussion regarding educating people in the future who are buying properties in HOA's and who is responsible for educating buyers. Trustee Gardner recommended that HOA's be defined in the Village newsletter. There was some discussion about forming a special service area (SSA) to pay for the maintenance.

Status was provided on Nantucket Cove Subdivision's maintenance.

Status was provided on Hunter's Chase East water runoff into Degroot's property.

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

- a. Hunter's Chase curb work
- b. Hunter's Chase West punch list item and pond maintenance
- c. Hunter's Chase East letter of credit reduction and commitment to complete bike path
- d. Sunset Boulevard driveway dips  
Discussed need to get these fixed. One resident can't get into his garage without bottoming out. This is a definite problem that needs to be worked on.
- e. Prairie Crossings South punch list items (Richard Sova)
- f. Prairie Crossings South retention pond (Vince Igoe)  
There was discussion that Huey's One Stop and First National Bank of Grant Park are not obligated to contribute financially to pay for improvements to the pond even though their stormwater goes into the pond. They have both indicated that they do not plan to contribute towards this.

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

President Lohmann reported that the funding of fire and police pension funds was one of the topics discussed at the recent Will County Governmental League legislative reception.

An update was provided on the Volunteer Recognition Dinner originally scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>. The dinner has been postponed until early next year. Clerk Conner showed the ornaments that are to be given to each volunteer/employee. The ornaments will need to be distributed before the holidays. President Lohmann asked Board members to help distribute them.

President Lohmann reported on Representative DeLuca's new Economic Development Committee. The Committee of 15 members will meet once per month.

Mike Margraff from Peotone Access League (PAL) called President Lohmann about state news, local weather and other programs he wants to continue running on the local access channel. He asked for \$350 from each community to keep these programs going. There was some discussion that these extra things take away from local updates and delay seeing local news. Donating towards this was an issue for some Board members because of the hiring freeze and the need to save money as discussed earlier in the meeting. This matter will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Szymanski relayed information to Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger about a resident with a tree problem on Keenan Lane.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:28 p.m. to discuss the hiring of a new full-time police officer. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to return to regular session at 9:44 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk