

**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 26, 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, Economic Development Coordinator Marcy Meyer and Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger.

GUESTS: Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Mike Stanula, Kim Koutsky, Ted Deery and George Schuitema.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 12, 2009 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

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 (\$302.68) and Beautification Commission (\$61.68). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$364.36 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) It was the consensus of the Board not to host an employee/volunteer dinner until after the Fourth of July next year due to tight financial times.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

RESOLUTION #2009-18 - A Resolution adopting an amended budget for Fiscal Year 2009/2010. A list of amendments was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2009-18. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A Village Board workshop is scheduled for October 29th at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The Village's asset inventory was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Cleary asked that more detail be given on some of the equipment on the list.

A first draft of the five-year Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2010 through 2014 was provided with the packet for review.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Halloween Trick or Treat hours are scheduled for 4-7 p.m. on October 31st.

Chief Weissgerber provided a report on the youth problems in front of Tully's Teapots Café. Chief Weissgerber and Marcy Meyer met with Mr. Tully to get more information. The juvenile/SRO officer was also brought in to determine who is causing the problems. The Police Department will send a letter to the parents of the kids believed to be causing trouble, to make them aware of the problem.

Police-sponsored youth activities are put on hold due to staffing issues and the closing of the bowling alley. More events are to be scheduled in the spring.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion authorizing the Village attorney to draft an ordinance increasing the towing fee for arrestees from \$100 to \$300 and assigning the Chief of Police as the hearing officer for all appeals to the towing fee. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held to discuss pending litigation.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Yardwaste bag distribution was completed on October 17th. Trustee Szymanski reported that the Board will need to look at this program at budget time to determine if it will be continued.

Leaf collection is in full swing, until the week of Thanksgiving.

Summer banners will come down, and holiday banners will go up the week of November 16th.

Administrator Barber reported that deep patching is to be done on Route #1, as long as the Village spearheads the project. A letter explaining the project was provided in the packet for review. It is unclear why the State would want the Village to be responsible for fixing their road. Concerns were expressed as to whether the State would reimburse the Village once the money is spent.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

A list of outstanding Public Works jobs was provided in the packet for review. Some Board members asked about items on the list, and discussed the legality of Public Works doing work on private property, completion of restorations, and Public Works' repair of street lights.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve payment of a list of bills from the General Obligation Bond Redemption Account in the amount of \$3,125. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that most of the doors are up and painted in the new Public Works facility. The floor is done, work is being done on the bathroom, and the gas meter is being installed. The facility should have heat by the end of the week.

An update was provided on the Ehlers Committee. President Lohmann met with a representative of the Joliet Junior College Architectural School (JJC), went around town and took photos of potential sites for a war memorial. Representatives from JJC will come up with different designs for the committee to choose from. President Lohmann is trying to get in contact with Mrs. Batterman about selling or donating her property for this project.

Mike Stanula of the Washington Township Board provided information on the proposed dog park (bark park), an off-leash dog park which they may like to have on Village property located east of the new Public Works facility. Mr. Stanula explained what their committee, "The Foundation for a Green Community", is trying to accomplish. Mr. Stanula was looking for input from the Village in regards to the dog park concept. He said it is planned so it would support itself through user fees.

Trustee Wehling had some concerns about this particular location and permanent things like trees that might have to come down later when the property is utilized for Village facilities. The Township likes this location because of available parking. Concerns were expressed about the residential subdivision behind the proposed park and Village liability within the park. The Township would most likely take care of logistics regarding registration, etc. Ted Deery from the Washington Township Board was also present and answered questions. The concept is just being provided for information at this time. Many questions and concerns were expressed. It was the consensus of the Board to be open to a dog park but not necessarily at this location, and liability issues need to be looked into.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Board considered an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to signs. Administrator Barber raised questions about regulation of political signs and the enforcement of banning them and other signs in the right of way. There was some discussion about this ordinance, and on garage sale signs, etc. Action on this matter was tabled since the most recent revision to the ordinance was not in the packet to review.

The Board considered authorizing the Village attorney to draft an ordinance pertaining to fees for sign variances and special use permits. There was discussion on lowering the fee for sign variances only. Some Chamber of Commerce members had expressed that \$750 was excessive for a variance. It was the consensus of the Board to keep the ordinance as it is. No changes were made.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion of referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission amending the Zoning Code pertaining to variance expirations. Our current ordinance does not address variances which were granted but never used and if variances would still be active. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber reported that Marcy Meyer has been put in charge of the project to get the Homeowner's Association (HOA) situation resolved in The Preserve at Cardinal Creek. Ms. Meyer explained information she found in The Preserve Subdivision's covenants and how it affects this HOA. The Preserve has a lot of assets that need to be maintained, such as common areas, a clubhouse and pool.

The Board considered a motion accepting several proposals from Sunset Paving to replace two driveways on Sunset Boulevard due to trench failure and deep patch repairs to Blue Heron Drive and Cardinal Creek Boulevard. The proposals from Sunset Paving were on the table for review. Ray Koenig of Baxter and Woodman is obtaining two bids from other companies. It was asked exactly what work is being included in the Sunset Paving bid since details were not provided in the proposals. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize President Lohmann to approve one proposal from three competitive bids to replace two driveways on Sunset Boulevard due to trench failure and deep patch repairs to Blue Heron Drive and Cardinal Creek Boulevard in an amount not to exceed

\$13,150. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Board considered a contribution of \$350 for each six-month period to the Peotone Access League (PAL) for subscription to National Network. Concerns were expressed about this additional programming taking place of local programming. The consensus was that it was not worth the money. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to not donate \$350 to the Peotone Access League. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The tour of Dutch American Foods originally scheduled for November 7th has been cancelled.

H. NEW BUSINESS

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:53 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to return to regular session at 9:07 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk