

PUBLIC HEARING
FEBRUARY 23, 2009

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER, ILLINOIS HELD AT THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CENTER, 30200 TOWN CENTER ROAD, BEECHER, ILLINOIS BEGINNING AT 9:38 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 23, 2009.

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, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger and Treasurer Nelson Collins.

GUESTS: Terry Gatlin from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Pat Lane, Pat Cleary, Marcy Meyer, Brian and Danna Neville, Kevin Bouchard, Bob Polarek, Frieda and Gordon Wilson, Joseph F. Venturella, Sheriff Paul Kaupus, Lieutenant Jeff McKenzie, Sergeant Jason Ellige, Senator Toi Hutchinson, Representative Lisa Dugan, Will County Executive Larry Walsh, County Board Member Katrina Deutsche, Brian Hayhurst, Ted Deery, Dennis Koehn, Kim and Betty Koutsky, Bob Bacon, Bob Howard, Harold Karstensen and Kimberly Brayboy from the Illinois State Treasurer's Office.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:38 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A public hearing was held to consider credit card acceptance by the Village through the State of Illinois E-Pay Program. Kimberly Brayboy from the Illinois State Treasurer's office provided a presentation on the program. The E-Pay Program would allow those paying a water bill, police fine and certain other fees to pay them online or at the Village Hall with a credit card. Board and audience members provided testimony and asked questions about the program. There was some discussion regarding acceptance of Visa credit cards. If the Village participates in the E-Pay Program and chooses to pass the user fees onto the customer then Visa cannot be accepted because Visa requires the vendor to absorb all user fees. The other cards; Mastercard, Discover and American Express allow the user fees to be passed onto the customer. The Village could also choose to absorb all user fees which would allow acceptance of all major credit cards including Visa.. Staff recommended passing user fees onto the customer so that the fees wouldn't have to be absorbed by all residents, even those who do not use the program. There were no objections to passing on the credit card user fees to the customer for this program.

When there were no further questions or testimony, President Lohmann asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Trustee Wehling made a motion to close the hearing at 10:09 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk