

**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
JANUARY 25, 2010 -- 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, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger and Treasurer Nelson Collins.

GUESTS: Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Andrew Ahrendt, George Schuitema, Kim Koutsky, Mike Buchmeier and Arnold Cooper.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 11, 2010 Board meeting and January 12, 2010 workshop meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Cleary.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) A bill was presented for the Beecher 4th of July Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the bill in the amount of \$53.50 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) A report on the January 21st Census meeting was provided. President Lohmann asked Clerk Conner to get a sample Census form as an example to residents.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing a special Board meeting on the proposed budget for Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing a public hearing on the proposed budget be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2010. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to authorize a workshop meeting be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report for December was provided in the packet for review.

The 2009 Police Department annual report was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Cleary asked Chief Weissgerber questions about codes on the monthly report.

President Lohmann asked if Chief Weissgerber was in the process of hiring more police officers. The Chief reported that the department is in the process of hiring some more part-time officers.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Dixie Highway and Chestnut traffic signal.

A low bid of \$79,805.92 was obtained from Iroquois Paving for the Church Road West ARRA project. Work is expected to be in April or May. Trustee Szymanski noted the problems with past Village work done by Iroquois Paving.

A concrete pad is to be put in next to the fuel pumps by the Washington Township Center. President Lohmann suggested adding an asphalt area from the pad to the end of Township property.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion awarding the bid for the joint purchase of fuel for 2010 to Heritage FS. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to defer an application for a battery backup at the Church Road and Chestnut traffic signals. This was a 50/50 grant which would require a \$10,000 match by the Village. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) conducted an MS4 compliance inspection of the Village storm sewer system. Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger attended the review at Baxter and Woodman's office earlier in the day and learned what corrections need to be made. Administrator Barber provided a report on where the system is deficient and what needs to be corrected. More training of employees is needed. It was unclear as to why Beecher is in the MS4 area even though some surrounding communities are not. President Lohmann recommended sending letters out to local legislators as to why Beecher is in this area. Administrator Barber asked that this be done after the MS4 inspection process is complete.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The water and sewer monthly reports for December were provided in the packet for review.

The 2009 Sewer Department annual report was provided in the packet for review.

Superintendent Cowger provided the 2009 Public Works Department Annual Report. Trustee Cleary asked Superintendent Cowger questions about the water report for the month of December. Unbilled water used by the Fire Department was discussed. Superintendent Cowger was asked that unmetered water used by the Fire Department be noted in his report in the future. Trustees Gardner and Cleary asked if a meter could be put on the Fire Department line just to monitor how much water is lost relating to the pumped vs. billed ratio for next year's annual report.

Superintendent Cowger provided highlights of the annual report. Board members asked questions.

The water billing register for the months of November and December were provided in the packet for review.

It was reported that the ARRA watermain replacement application is not officially dead.

The Board discussed the need to establish a \$2 per month (\$4 per billing) flat charge on all water accounts as a water infrastructure replacement fee. President Lohmann voiced concerns that the Board only use the money for the specific improvements it is intended for. The Board discussed making the wording of the ordinance very specific. Trustee Gardner made a motion authorizing the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance establishing a \$2 per month (or \$4 per billing) flat charge on all water accounts as a water infrastructure replacement fee and placing the proceeds from said fee into the capital improvements account for the sole purpose of replacing the aging water distribution system. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion. After further discussion, Trustee Gardner withdrew his original motion and Trustee Cleary concurred. Trustee Gardner then made a motion to draft an ordinance establishing a \$2 per month (or \$4 per billing) flat charge on all water accounts as a water infrastructure replacement fee and placing the proceeds from said fee into the capital improvements account for the sole purpose of replacing aging water mains and associated hydrants and valves. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve payment of bills from the Bond Redemption Account in the amount of \$3,325.82. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. Trustee Cleary questioned the ceiling fan in the project.

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 Board considered an indemnity agreement with the Beecher Fire Protection District for the storage of a brush truck at the old Public Works garage during the winter months. Trustee Cleary questioned why the Village is not charging a fee to the Fire District for storage like we are for N. Lange Trucking and Excavating to utilize storage. Superintendent Cowger noted times that the Village has shared equipment with the Fire Department and vice versa. Administrator Barber said these are short term solutions. The Fire District just needs to store the old brush truck until it is sold. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve an indemnity agreement with the Beecher Fire District and an indemnity and use agreement with N. Lange Trucking and Excavating for storage space at the old Public Works garage during the winter months. Lange has agreed to contour a swale that the Village needs on property east of the Public Works garage at no charge for an estimated value of \$2,500. 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 war memorial project. Administrator Barber has an upcoming meeting with Greg Bales from Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson's office to see if a grant could be obtained through her office.

Ideas for Spring newsletter articles should be given to Clerk Conner. Some of the suggestions were new garbage rules, police department nixle service and the 2010 census.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

There was discussion on the status of the Buchmeier building at 752 Penfield Street. Mike Buchmeier was present and thanked the Village for extending the permit to fix the building. He said the building should be complete or at least occupiable by the end of the permit extension. It is taking longer to complete due to his having other work to do, as well as funding problems.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize the Economic Development Coordinator to draft a list of proposed architectural and subdivision aesthetic guidelines for residential subdivisions. Questions were asked if this could be applied to existing subdivisions, which it could not. The Board discussed clarifying what fees are in effect now for new development. The Board asked that something be put in writing as to the current fees. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Building Department monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The 2009 Building Department annual report was provided in the packet for review.

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The 2009 Code Enforcement annual report was provided in the packet for review.

The Economic Development Coordinator monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Village Attorney sent a compliance letter to Bob Tully and Bud Von Alven for property maintenance code violations at 606 Gould Street. A copy of the letter was provided in the packet for review.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Board considered projects for federal grant applications. President Lohmann suggested continuing cleaning Trim Creek south or north of the Village with a grant. Wind energy grants are being funded at 100%, therefore being a good project. Watermain replacement should also be pursued. There were no objections to pursuing grant applications, but it was noted that most grants require a matching amount. Administrator Barber will find out what grants the Village may be eligible for.

An update was provided on the Illiana Expressway. There wasn't much new since it was discussed at the public officials forum. Indiana plans to privatize the road.

An update was provided on the third airport. This subject was discussed at the public officials forum.

President Lohmann reported that he spoke with Representative DeLuca about questions he asked regarding the budget shortfall, balancing of the budget, paying bills, jobs, etc. No real answers were provided to the questions.

President Lohmann requested a closed session be held to discuss employee compensation and benefits for non-union personnel.

President Lohmann asked the Board their opinion about liquor fines and requiring Basset training for those who violate liquor law. The Village Attorney opinion on Basset training requirements was provided for review. There were many issues discussed regarding who should be required to take the Basset training. The Board suggested someone take the Basset course to see what is involved. Staff will conduct more research and look at other communities' ordinances for Basset training.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss personnel: non-union salaries and benefits for the upcoming fiscal year. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 9:39 p.m. Trustee Gardner 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 Cleary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner, Village Clerk