

**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
JUNE 14, 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, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

GUESTS: Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Kim Koutsky, Andrew Ahrendt, George Schuitema, Deborah Jones, Rebecca Johnson, Jade Newton, Mike Darabaris, John J. Dellaquila and Vic Reato.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 10, 2010 Board meeting and Public Hearing. 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.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Bills were presented for the Police Youth Activities Account (\$454.98) and the Beecher Fourth of July Commission (\$3,666.99). Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the list of bills totalling \$4,121.97 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Mike Darabaris introduced the new Board of Directors of the Homeowners' Association for The Preserves at Cardinal Creek. They are taking over from Bonita Royster and are working to get the HOA issues taken care of, collect dues and pay bills of the HOA.

President Lohmann asked Mike Darabaris to have landscapers stop blowing grass from medians onto the streets as this could cause drainage problems.

Vic Reato was present to request permission to allow residential on the first floor of commercial buildings in the downtown historic business district. He asked if there is a master plan for the redevelopment of the downtown area. Mr. Reato said that he is willing to spend his own money to improve his building. He reported that seventy percent (70%) of his building is vacant. Previously, other property owners in the area were asked to be here to discuss this plan but only Mr. Reato was at the meeting. The Board discussed the effect on this area if businesses change to residential and the effect on other business areas in Beecher. Some problems discussed were limited parking, the economy, location, etc. Mr. Reato said he had other business owners in the area sign a form that they had no problem with his proposal. Another option could be to re-zone Mr. Reato's property. The Board was asked which way they want to go with the old downtown area. Trustee Szymanski said that he wanted to look at all options that may be available for the old downtown area before committing to this change and wanted input from other business/property owners in the area. Trustee Gardner asked for more time to consider this. Trustee Cleary raised life safety issues relating to changing this area to residential. After much discussion, the Board agreed to hold a special meeting on July 26th to discuss the future of the old downtown business district, and invite downtown business owners to discuss this matter. The Board may also invite an outside consultant to hear ideas for the downtown area and ask for a representative from the Fire Department to come to provide information on fire safety issues.

John Dellaquila from Nantucket Cove Subdivision voiced concerns about speeding cars in his subdivision because there are lots of children in the subdivision and he is concerned about safety. Mr. Dellaquila asked about speed bumps or other ways to slow traffic down. Administrator Barber said he can also add "slow children playing" signs for the area. Staff will address this matter.

John Dellaquila also asked about Route #1 from 394 south being in really bad condition. The Board informed him that the road is scheduled for repair this summer. Mr. Dellaquila also felt that the turning lane on Route 1 at Hunters Drive is unsafe.

John Dellaquila also asked about the third airport. He said he would like to see our Village, along with other affected villages, get together and oppose the airport. Some discussion followed on what is going on with the airport process.

John Dellaquila also commented on establishing a special assessment district for the old downtown area.

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. Treasurer Collins went over some items on his report. The Board discussed separating the extra \$4 per month billing being collected on water bills to pay for watermain improvements.

A list of bills totalling \$94,851.83 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 Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

The Annual Treasurer's report is being prepared for publication in the Beecher Herald. The audit will begin in July.

Codification of all municipal codes for 2009 has been completed and inserts are available. All Village codes are also on the website.

RESOLUTION #2010-20 - A Resolution adopting a debt policy for the Village of Beecher. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2010-20. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1134 - An Ordinance adopting the prevailing wages as of June, 2010. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1134. 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 was provided for review.

Trustee Kuhlman publicly thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and Lion's Club for helping out for Officer Bob Bossi's benefit breakfast held Sunday at the Amvet Hall.

Chief Weissgerber reported that new auxiliary officers are being trained to be ready to work by July 4th. The department is also looking to hire more part-time officers.

Chief Weissgerber reported that a total of 56 people attended the Basset training seminar held on May 19th. It was a good class and everyone passed. Another class will be held at the Princess Café on Monday, June 28th at 7:00 p.m. Attendees should contact Linda at the Police Department to register.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the bike rodeo held June 5th. Twenty-six children attended the event and two bikes were given away. TMW and Goldie's Auto Body sponsored the bikes and will reimburse Youth Activities for the cost. No new youth activities are being scheduled until after July 4th.

RESOLUTION #2010-21 - A Resolution opposing a new 9-1-1 Center and advocating the fair distribution of 9-1-1 funds throughout the county. This resolution is in response to the 9-1-1 Board plan to build a \$43 million facility using \$10 million it has in reserves and borrowing funds to buy the land and complete the project. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to adopt Resolution #2010-21. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Trustee Szymanski provided a brief report on Village road projects and questioned some of the patching that was done.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve a bid award in the amount of \$250,000 in state funds for repairs to Route #1 from Pasadena to Church Road, contingent on the State of Illinois reimbursing the Village on its 100% share of the project. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the Chestnut/Dixie Highway traffic signal. This project is expected to begin sometime after July 4th.

Thirty snowflake decorations will be stripped, repainted and rewired for the next holiday season.

A copy of the annual inspection report from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) on the Village MS4 permit was provided in the packet for review.

Copies of the new Fourth of July flyer were provided to the Board for review. Trustee Szymanski reported on new things being done this year. Village officials were invited to participate in the Pitch Burst. Trustee Szymanski noted the need for volunteers in the food court, beer stand and other stands down at the park during the festival.

The Board considered a change order for The Preserves at Cardinal Creek in the amount of \$25,414 for paving the median buffer between the bike path and the roadway along Cardinal Creek Boulevard from Blue Heron to Church Road. Administrator Barber explained the history on this. Status on the letter of credit was provided. Trustee Szymanski expressed concerns that it looks bad and needs to be repaired but asked if we should spend money now and find out later that something else major needs to be done and we might not have the money for it. Concern was also expressed that this was not in the original letter of credit. Administrator Barber expressed that the road currently is dangerous and needs to be fixed. Trustee Szymanski also expressed concerns that there needs to be some type of separation between the road and bike path for safety reasons to separate vehicle traffic from bike traffic. Chairman Szymanski recommended tabling this matter for now. There were no objections.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that the hydrant flushing program went well and that he will provide a detailed report at the next meeting.

Trustee Gardner stated that he will continue to try and apply for Community Development Block Grants for watermain replacement.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve submitting an application to the University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Public Administration, for an M.P.A. Capstone Project for a water and sewer rate study. Trustee Wehling 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 General Obligation Bond Account in the amount of \$17,135.07. Trustee Ahrendt 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.

Trustee Wehling reported that the next meeting for the Ehlers Bequest Committee will be held on Monday, June 21st at 5:30 p.m. Renderings are being drawn of the proposed veterans memorial and will be reviewed at the meeting. Donations for the memorial will be accepted at the Fourth of July festival.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

A Planning and Zoning Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to pay SEC Group for professional services for construction observation in the amount of \$19,248.60, with \$9,431.82 being paid out of the Montalbano Escrow fund and \$9,816.78 being paid out of the MGM Escrow fund. Trustee Szymanski 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. Trustee Cleary asked about a difference between the Building Department report and the Independent Inspections report in the packet. Administrator Barber will check into the details and report back to Trustee Cleary.

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

The Board discussed the status of a fence at Dave's Auto Body. It was believed that the fence has not been fixed. The Board tabled any action until the next meeting, after staff has had a chance to further investigate the matter.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to accept the improvements in the Hunter's Chase West Subdivision. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion. The Board discussed who is to be responsible for the two ponds, which are on two commercial pieces of property that are privately owned. There was much discussion as to who will maintain the two ponds, as well as other ponds in the Village. Some Board members wanted a letter from John Lotton stating that he will maintain the ponds.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked about the SEC Group bill that was added by Administrator Barber to be paid.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported on the Illiana Expressway bill signing by Governor Quinn held last week at the Lansing Airport. The State of Illinois and Indiana will be cooperating on getting this expressway built.

President Lohmann appointed Kevin Bouchard to the Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve the appointment. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann reported on the Relay for Life, American Cancer Society fundraiser and asked the Board to support this campaign by forming a team or providing a donation. The next Relay for Life will be held on July 30 and 31, through the night, at Peotone High School. President Lohmann pledged \$100 and wants the Village to be a sponsor.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss land acquisition, an employee resignation, and the hiring of a new part-time police officer. 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 return to regular session at 9:47 p.m. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize a special meeting to be held on July 26th to discuss the old downtown business district. Trustee Cleary 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 Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk