

**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
AUGUST 9, 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, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Corporal Jeff Dopke, Corporal Bill Little and Police Officer Roger Sipple.

GUESTS: Lynn Dill from the Beecher Herald, Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Kim Koutsky, Joanne Buchmeier, Ed Machtemes, Vic Reato, Dee Swanson, John Dellaquila, Bob Howard, Byron Harden, George Schuitema, Bob Bacon, Arnold Cooper, Jonathan Kypuros, Don Sala, Brian Jones, Grace Carlson, Anthony Messana and Brad Sonichson.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the July 12, 2010 Board meeting and July 26, 2010 special Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, 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 \$4,098.66 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: A representative from Beecher Recreation asked about the ball fields at the Beecher Junior High, stating that they are unplayable. Beecher Recreation wants to know if one of the backstops can be moved into town so another field would be used. The backstops were believed to be put in by Beecher School District. The fence needs to be fixed at the field in town. Due

to limited funds, the Beecher Junior High field hasn't been improved yet. In addition, the fields were being used before they were ready, which damaged them. The Village doesn't have money right now for parks. Trustee Wehling will go to a Beecher Recreation meeting to try and work something out.

Administrator Barber asked if the Board wants him to take bids on directional signage for the old downtown as discussed at the downtown meeting. There is a need to define if it will just be directional signage or advertising for actual businesses. Joanne Buchmeier felt the Village should have signage directing people to the downtown business district. She has some designs and pricing for signage that the Downtown Business Owners Association worked on previously. Trustee Szymanski asked if the Downtown Business Owners Association could find a location where they would like to put a sign and come back to the Board. The Board discussed putting some signage at the entrances to town where the Fourth of July and Lions Club have an existing frame, maybe using those signs for directing to downtown businesses.

Joanne Buchmeier submitted a written letter regarding the request to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow a special use for residential units on the first floor commercial space in the B-1H Historic Downtown Business District. She opposed this request feeling that it would be the end to the downtown business district. Trustee Ahrendt commented that allowing first floor residential on commercial was not well received by residents and business owners. Bob Bacon commented that the downtown business district has nothing going for it and property owners should be allowed to do what they can to make things work. Dee Swanson asked what the Village's plans are for the downtown area. Administrator Barber pointed out that the Village can't improve those buildings, the property owners must do this. Trustee Szymanski pointed out there has not been support from the property owners in the area for Vic Reato's request. Ms. Buchmeier said that the downtown area is in horrible disrepair. She would like to see it improved through the Downtown Business Owners Association. Ms. Buchmeier supports Mr. Reato but not the residential request. She felt turning the area around is doable. She was asked to work with Trustees Szymanski and Ahrendt along with Vic Reato to try and find solutions to make changes to the old downtown area. The request for a special use was deferred.

Trustee Kuhlman presented lifesaving awards to Officer Roger Sipple and Corporal Bill Little due to their assistance in saving a resident's life while on duty. Corporal Jeffrey Dopke was presented the department commendation medal for dedication to the Will-Grundy Crimes Task Force for excellence in investigating and using available resources during an investigation. President Lohmann commended the officers on an excellent job.

Brad Sonichson of Tubby's Wine and Spirits wants to open a sports bar and restaurant next to his liquor store at 311 Dixie Highway. Trustee Cleary asked if there would be enough parking. According to Mr. Sonichson there are seventy parking spaces. Sonichson wants a separate liquor license for each business. President Lohmann asked for the Board members' thoughts on the request. Questions were asked by the Board but there were no objections expressed to the request.

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 the Fourth of July financial report.

A list of bills totalling \$70,519.59 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: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the month of June were provided in the packet for review.

The audit is now in full swing. The field work has been completed and a presentation is scheduled for the first Board meeting in October.

RESOLUTION #2010-22 - A Resolution of participation in the Illinois Public Benefits Council. Administrator Barber explained that the insurance plan will stay the same for employees. As proposed, the surplus will be pooled by all communities until enough assets are built up that the money can be split, probably after 4-5 years. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2010-22. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Comcast Cable television channel line-up change notice was provided in the packet for review.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The new part-time Police officers will be introduced at a future Board meeting.

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held later in the meeting to discuss the hiring of new part-time police officers.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize payment in the amount of \$129,593.05 from the Public Infrastructure Account to Iroquois Paving for completion of work on Church Road East, 400 feet of Church Road west, Hodges from Dixie to the Elementary School drive, and Catalpa from Miller to Country Lane. Trustee Ahrendt asked if we should keep money in retention in case of any road failures. Administrator Barber said the project has been completed and approved by the engineer. There were no outstanding items to hold money for and it was not in the contract to retain funds for failures. Staff may be asked to require a maintenance bond on these contracts in the future, for

recourse if there are failures in the road. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize payment in the amount of \$7,604.00 to the SEC Group for construction management of the Church Road east, Catalpa and Hodges Street projects. 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 Route #1 deep patching repair through town.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize payment in the amount of \$17,500 to Baxter and Woodman once the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) funding is received for the design of the Route #1 deep patching project. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Status was provided on the Route #1 resurfacing from Goodenow Road to Church Road.

Status was provided on the traffic signal installation at Chestnut and Dixie. Administrator Barber reported that the longer the project is delayed the longer we have to save the money for the project. It was reported that the islands on Chestnut and Linden will be removed with this project.

Trustee Szymanski, Administrator Barber and Public Works Superintendent Cowger drove the Village streets and made a list of what roads need to be done for the ten year road improvement plan. President Lohmann asked if engineers should be involved in these projects. This would cost the Village more. Engineers will probably only be used for observation work.

The parkway tree trimming and maintenance list for 2010 was provided in the packet for review.

President Lohmann reported that the Lion's Club Beef Roast crowd was down from last year and there were fewer exhibitors. Overall it was felt that numbers for the whole event were down.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

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 \$46,664.13 plus a bill in the amount of \$4,957.30 to Pride Plumbing to finish out the project for a total amount of \$52,621.43. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Distribution of the fall newsletter is scheduled for the second week of October. Administrator Barber noted that there is still money in the newsletter account from the spring. Washington Township still needs to be reimbursed for their share of the ads sold. Township Supervisor Howard commented that people in Pheasant Lake Estates get the newsletter and think they live in Beecher. It was suggested that an article be put in the Village newsletter letting the Pheasant Lake Estates people know they are not in the Village of Beecher.

Trustee Wehling reported on the recent Ehlers Bequest Committee (Veteran's memorial) meeting held last week. Mike Stanula was present to talk about the design. Mr. Stanula will prepare a contract, be general contractor to get bids and oversee the work. Mr. Stanula is also checking into prices for stainless to purchase the star. Prices are needed to determine how much is required in donations to complete the project. The Committee will meet the first Wednesday of every month.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting scheduled for August 26th has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize payment of bills from the MGM Escrow Account in the amount of \$316,891.02. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize payment of bills from the Montalbano Escrow Account in the amount of \$365,228.04. 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.

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review. Code Officer Riechers asked for direction from the Board in her report regarding the fence at Dave's Pro Collision. Trustee Kuhlman said the fence is still unsightly and it has not yet been painted. Dave Miramontes asked if he paints the fence, will he still have to go to court on August 31st? It was decided to let the court date stand, he can go to court and let the judge decide.

The Board discussed proposed architectural guidelines and development fees. Trustee Szymanski thought that there was a committee formed at the last intergovernmental meeting with representatives from each governmental body that were to meet to discuss the fees and provide recommendation on these fees to their Boards. This will be put on the agenda for the intergovernmental committee to discuss at their meeting on August 30th.

The Board considered a request to adopt an ordinance regulating the storage of wood piles on residential property. Administrator Barber explained the complaint regarding a large wood pile at 950 Penfield Street and results of the meeting with the complainant. The Village does not have an ordinance that addresses this directly. There is a general nuisance ordinance but Chief Weissgerber thought aesthetics can't be deemed a nuisance. Further criteria is needed. The Chief explained what the judge would look for if taken to court. A long form complaint would have to be filed. One issue was noise when wood was being cut. As long as the noise occurred during certain hours it would not violate any ordinance. It was discussed if the Village can regulate wood piles. Concerns were also expressed about enforcement on everyone who has wood stored on their property because other people in town might violate a new ordinance pertaining to this. Much of the Board expressed that the amount of wood being stored on the property is excessive and this needs to be regulated. Staff was directed to consult with the attorney and investigate the feasibility of drafting an ordinance regulating the amount of wood that can be stored on a property. Much discussion followed.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the proposal from Jim's Trees for the completion of landscaping around the Cardinal Creek lift station in the amount of \$4,260.00 using the MGM letter of credit. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann got permission from the bank who now owns the property, to fix Mr. Tully's building on Gould Street. Glen Abney has indicated he will allow the bank on his property to fix the bricks. Code Enforcement Officer Riechers will contact Mr. Tully to let him know about this. The bank will pay for the repairs.

President Lohmann and Administrator Barber were at Beatty Lumber earlier in the day and found some items that Public Works could use that he would like to bid on at their auction. A photo of a rack with parts was provided for review. Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing the Village President or Administrator Barber to bid on items at the Beecher Beatty Lumber auction on Thursday, August 12th up to a total amount not to exceed \$5,000. 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 Illiana Expressway.

An Intergovernmental Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 30th.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to cancel the September 27, 2010 regular Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to designate Greg Szymanski as delegate and Brian Cleary as alternate delegate to the Illinois Municipal League (IML) convention. 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 to be discussed in open session, Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss the hiring of part-time police officers. Trustee Gardner 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 9:09 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt 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 Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk