

**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  
SEPTEMBER 13, 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, Arnold Cooper, Ed Machtemes, Andrew Ahrendt, Bob Carter, George Schuitema, Bob Howard, Joe Burgess, John Dellaquila, J. Kypuros and Don Sala.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 9, 2010 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

**ABSTAIN:** (1) Trustee Szymanski.

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 Kuhlman made a motion to approve the list of bills totaling \$2,156.81 as listed on the Clerk's Report. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

3) Clerk Conner read aloud a thank you note from the American Cancer Society. 4) There were no objections to a request from the Knights of Columbus to conduct Candy Days in Beecher, September 17-19, 2010.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Bob Carter made presentations on the proposed third airport and the Illiana Expressway. Mr. Carter said that the airport will cause dangerous pollution and noise and showed a map explaining the proposed routes for the Illiana Expressway and the location for the third airport.

Bob Howard said as a Village resident and taxpayer that he would like to see vacant property that is Village-owned be used as a dog park and asked that the Village look to the future on this with cooperation of Washington Township. The cost for improvements could be split by the Village and Washington Township and the end user would pay for it according to Mr. Howard. President Lohmann asked if Washington Township residents would pay for dog tags to bring the dogs into town. Mr. Howard said yes. Trustee Wehling will stay in touch with Mr. Howard and see what can be done.

John Dell Aquila provided a petition signed by residents of Beecher and Washington Township in opposition to the third airport and asked the Board to approve a resolution pertaining to this. Mr. Dell Aquila explained reasons for opposition to the airport. He doesn't expect Beecher or Washington Township to get directly involved in this due to potential litigation, and is looking at what can be done on a civil suit process. Mr. Dell Aquila said the airport will adversely affect residents in Nantucket Cove and Hunter's Chase and affect property taxes in that area. President Lohmann reiterated the Village's stance opposing the airport, which has been on record since 1990. Administrator Barber explained the Village's concerns about taking a stance opposing the south suburban airport and the implications if it is built in the future. The resolution will be considered at the next meeting.

The Board again considered Vic Reato's request to convert one of his first floor units at 759 Penfield Street from commercial to residential. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to deny referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) for a request to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow for special use permits for residential units on the first floor commercial space in the B-1H Historic Downtown Business District. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review and Treasurer Collins was present to answer questions. A discussion was held on investing in CDs. Since rates are low at this time, Treasurer Collins felt it is not the best time to invest in CDs.

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

A list of bills totaling \$130,397.76 to be paid was available for review. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Szymanski.  
Motion Carried.

A report on comparison of sales tax receipts per capita was provided in the packet for review.

### **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

The new part-time Police officers were not available to come to this meeting for introduction to the Board.

Chief Weissgerber reported that there were 22 in attendance from local businesses and some Peotone businesses for the September 1<sup>st</sup> Basset training session held at Cardinal Creek Golf Course. There are still a couple of businesses that have not sent anyone to training. Chief Weissgerber will be contacting those businesses.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to establish Trick-or-Treat hours from 4-7 p.m. on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

### **C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE**

A report was provided on the Route #1 road patching project. Work will not begin this week. The State hasn't paid the Village yet for the project and we don't want to pay for the road patching until the State pays. There was discussion as to why the patching cost went down and if the job will be incomplete compared to what was originally priced.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize payment in the amount of \$1,178.11 to SEC Group for construction management on the Route #1 repair project, pending receipt of funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Trustee Gardner 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 and Dixie traffic signal. There was discussion that IDOT may now want to test for debris coming off the site which may cost the Village more. The IDOT inspector said that the sidewalk torn out last week was not to ADA standards. This would be another \$2,000+ change order for the job. There are also problems with the fiber optic cable on the job.

Trustee Szymanski reported on the draft of the ten-year road plan. A copy of the report was provided in the packet for review.

Village-wide leaf collection will begin the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>. Public Works will try to make one pass per week on all streets. There will be no yardwaste bag giveaway this year.

Trustee Szymanski summarized the proposals received for the 2010 crack sealing program. He hasn't had time to look closely at the proposals, but the project needs to be completed while the weather is still warm. Trustee Szymanski, Public Works Superintendent Cowger and Administrator Barber will look over bids and choose the best bid for the project. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize the budgeted amount of \$19,900 for crack sealing. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered authorizing to repair damaged curbs on Chestnut and Linden east of Dixie (ring road). Administrator Barber and Superintendent Cowger recommended going with the Iroquois Paving bid. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize repair of the 75 linear feet of damaged curbs on Chestnut and Linden east of Dixie Highway (ring road) to Iroquois Paving in the amount of \$67 per linear foot. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion. Trustee Kuhlman questioned what caused failures to the curbs. Administrator Barber commented that the curbs were probably constructed according to old subdivision standards.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

#### **D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE**

The Water and Sewer Department monthly reports were included in the packet for review. Trustee Gardner noted that there were only two watermain breaks last month.

The water billing register for the months of July and August were provided in the packet for review.

President Lohmann asked staff if there were any plans for cleaning the water tank on the north end of town. Superintendent Cowger responded that it could be washed by Public Works or he thinks he can hire it to be done at a reasonable cost but it is on the list of things to be done. Staff will investigate what the cost would be to get the tank cleaned. The matter was referred to the Committee. The project should be completed prior to the start of leaf collection.

#### **E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Wehling reported that he did not go to the meeting with Beecher Recreation, but spoke to the President of Beecher Recreation. Beecher Recreation doesn't have the money to improve Welton Stedt Park field and neither does the Village, so nothing can be done right now. Something will be done in the future when the money flow gets better. The Board discussed what needs to be done at Welton Stedt Park field. There have been problems with getting the ground completely flat.

Trustee Wehling reported on the recent Ehlers Memorial Committee meeting. Mike Stanula came up with firm figures for the cost of the proposed memorial. Mr. Stanula also wrote up an estimate for his cost for the work. The total cost is estimated at \$75,000 to \$80,000 for the military star design. Some fundraising will be done to help pay for the project. Trustee Kuhlman questioned why the cost is up to \$80,000 when the gift from Ehlers was \$50,000, and why spend that amount of money in the old downtown area when that area is in bad shape. The Board discussed the raising of donations to make up the difference between the Ehlers donation and actual project cost. Much discussion followed. Numbers are still to be discussed by the Committee.

Work is being done on the Fall newsletter. An article and photo will be included regarding the Ehlers memorial.

A final report on the General Obligation Bond Account was provided in the packet for review. The project is done.

#### **F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

The next meeting for the Downtown Committee will be held after September 20<sup>th</sup>, according to Trustee Ahrendt.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to authorize payment of bills from the MGM Escrow Account in the amount of \$6,224. Trustee Cleary 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.

An update was provided regarding the drafting of an ordinance regulating the type of activity which is occurring at 950 Penfield (wood pile storage). Trustee Szymanski recently viewed the property and it is in better shape than what was shown in the photos included in the packet. Trustee Szymanski felt there was not a need to rush any action since it has been cleaned up some and he didn't like the options given by the Attorney. Individual rights of residents on their own property were discussed. The residents at 950 Penfield are not really violating any ordinance. Trustee Szymanski felt the main problem is when the wood is being collected and cut in the yard. No action was taken.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Don Thomas as Village Planner on an as needed basis until further notice. 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**

Administrator Barber reported on the items purchased at the recent Beatty Lumber auction.

Results were provided from the August 30<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental meeting. The library is lacking state funding for the book exchange program and doesn't know how much longer they will be able to exchange books within the system. Ideas to save the old downtown area were discussed, re-examining commuter rail. No position was taken on commuter rail.

An update was provided on the Vincennes Trail bike path. Administrator Barber said a resolution was drafted at the last bike path meeting. A meeting will be held September 29<sup>th</sup> with affected property owners to discuss this plan. The Will County Forest Preserve will handle the meeting.

The Board considered a request to install a sign at the north end of town for the Beecher Muskies baseball team national championship. A picture of the sign was provided in the packet for review. Administrator Barber said permission may be required from the property owner. Trustee Wehling asked who would maintain the sign. That is unknown at this time. It was not known what size the sign would be. After some discussion, Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve a request to install a sign at the north end of town for the Beecher Muskies baseball team national championship, subject to permission by the property owner and the sign cannot exceed 2' x 4' in size. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann noted that Larry Walsh's administrative assistant Matt Ryan passed away.

Administrator Barber reported that a 9-1-1 public meeting will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Administrator Barber asked if anyone was attending the Illinois Municipal League Conference on September 23-25. Administrator Barber is attending as a presenter and Trustee Szymanski was considering attending.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:13 p.m. to review closed session minutes for approval and release to the public and consider destruction of closed session audio recordings. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to return to regular session at 9:45 p.m. 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 approve executive session minutes from January 25 through August 9, 2010. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2010-23 - A Resolution releasing certain executive session minutes. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2010-23. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve destruction of audio recordings of executive sessions from June 23, 2008 to March 9, 2009. 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 Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk