

**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
MARCH 14, 2011 -- 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, Andrew Ahrendt, George Schuitema, Ernie Bleicher, Jonathan Kypuros, Ron and Stacie Mazurek and Carl Caballaro.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the February 14, 2011 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) Clerk Conner announced the need to review closed session minutes at the next regular meeting.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: The new full-time officer Ronald Mazurek was introduced to the Board by Chief Weissgerber.

Carl Caballaro provided a presentation on recycling clothes and shoes. His company had placed a collection bin at a local business in Beecher until Code Enforcement notified him it was against ordinance. He explained that his company recycles useful items to divert them from being placed in landfills. They do a revenue share of site hosts where bins are placed. He addressed concerns expressed to him about dumping around these types of bins and said he would not allow this to happen. Mr. Caballero showed other communities' ordinances regulating these types of bins. He proposed entering into a franchise agreement with the Village and the revenue sharing would come

to the Village or could be shared by participating groups. President Lohmann proposed that he make a presentation at the intergovernmental meeting and get other government agencies involved in this such as the School District and Washington Township. If approved, the company would negotiate with the Village as to how many bins would be allowed. There were concerns expressed pertaining to how often the bins are maintained, opening up the ordinance which could allow other organizations to place bins in town, and negative information found about the company online. Trustee Szymanski asked for some references from other area towns that have the bins and suggested that this could potentially be a funding mechanism for parks where there is now none. There were no objections to Mr. Caballero coming to the next Intergovernmental meeting.

Ernie Bleicher introduced himself as the new barber in the Village. His barbershop is on Penfield Street just west of the Village Hall.

Committee reports were done in the following order: Water and Sewer; Public Buildings and Properties; Planning, Building and Zoning; Finance; Public Safety; and Streets and Alleys. The minutes are listed in original agenda order for record keeping purposes.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review and the Treasurer was present to answer questions. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report of Activity for the month of February and bills in the amount of \$267,412.06. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

A list of bills totaling \$82,987.61 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 Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1140 - An Ordinance regulating the use of Social Security numbers obtained by the Village of Beecher. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1140. 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 authorizing the attorney to draft an ordinance amending the code pertaining to the position of Village Treasurer. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A budget workshop meeting is scheduled for March 28th at 6:00 p.m.

Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the transfer of \$100,000 from General, \$50,000 from Operations and Maintenance, and \$30,000 from Refuse thereby establishing the Capital Equipment Replacement Account. Trustee Gardner 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.

New full-time officer Ron Mazurek was introduced to the Board.

Chief Weissgerber reported that he is not optimistic about receiving a squad car grant this year since there are so many agencies applying.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion authorizing the purchase of a 2011 Ford Crown Victoria in an amount not to exceed \$23,000 from Terry's Ford at state bid pricing. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber informed the Board that a youth had a facebook page as "Beecher creeper" and was inviting Beecher youths to be friends. A lot of stories surrounded this person about him following buses and other rumors. The youth has been identified and police talked to his father and the Facebook site has been taken down.

Trustee Gardner said he was contacted by residents on Deer Crossing that have requested a stop sign at the intersection of Cardinal Creek and Deer Crossing. There are some visibility issues and it is a blind corner due to a hill and center median. According to Chief Weissgerber the median is a problem and a safety issue. Some felt that the median should be cut back. The Police Department was asked to do a traffic study to determine if a 4-way stop is needed at that intersection and report back to the Board.

President Lohmann asked Chief Weissgerber for the youth activities schedule by March 29th for the intergovernmental meeting.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Board discussed the Pine Street flooding issue. Trustee Szymanski reported that he has some solutions that require land acquisition and requested a closed session be held to discuss land acquisition to alleviate flooding.

The Board considered filing an application for CMAQ funds to install the bike path from Church Road through Hunter's Chase East and Nantucket Cove. Administrator Barber felt the Village didn't have the money to do this at this time and the project would be too expensive. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to decline filing of an application for CMAQ funds to install the bike path. 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 declaring the 1990 Chevy pickup as surplus property and obtaining junk title for scrap. 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 waive bidding requirements for the purchase of a refurbished 2005 Ford F550 articulated bucket truck. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the purchase of a refurbished 2005 Ford F550 articulated bucket truck with 60,000 miles and with two-year warranty in the amount of \$55,000 from I-80 equipment of Colona, IL. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion declaring the 1990 bucket truck as surplus property and offering for sale to the highest bidder. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the purchase of an F-250 3/4 ton 4 x 4 pickup truck with 8-foot plow and tow package from Curry Motors in Frankfort, IL, in an amount not to exceed \$26,252. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the dump truck replacement.

An update was given on the street sign grant program. Superintendent Cowger explained that the new signs are bigger than existing signs due to new Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) requirements. Public Works will need to put the signs up and see how they work on the poles.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The water billing register for the months of January and February were provided in the packet for review.

Superintendent Cowger explained the program to replace old water meters in the old part of Beecher.

The annual \$0.10 water and \$0.10 sewer rate increase went into effect March 1st and will be reflected on the May bills.

An update was provided on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) watermain replacement loan. The project has been scaled down to be more in line with a loan the Village can afford. According to Administrator Barber, a winter bid is preferred which will save money on this project.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Veteran's Memorial. Trustee Wehling reported that the Amvets have ordered flags and poles. Location of paver bricks was discussed. Pathways will be installed with blank bricks and sections will be replaced with imprinted bricks as more are sold. Money raised to date is \$79,611.42.

Superintendent Cowger met with Doug Short last week about reseeding the field in Welton Stedt Park. Beecher Recreation will be ordering the limestone for the ballfield. The Village is supposed to only help with manpower. Digging will begin when the weather breaks. Trustee Cleary asked about drainage in the park. Superintendent Cowger is putting in clay to try and address drainage problems. The field is only supposed to be used for practice, not games.

Superintendent Cowger reported that he has a meeting with a lighting representative on Wednesday regarding ballfield lights in Firemen's Park.

April 20th is the target date for mailing the spring newsletter.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

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

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion approving payment in the amount of \$18,504.07 to Iroquois Paving from Montalbano Escrow for the completion of Nantucket Cove road work and 5% retention. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion approving payment in the amount of \$16,245.27 to Iroquois Paving from MGM Escrow for completion of the road work in The Preserves at Cardinal Creek and 5% retention. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion approving a proposal from M.E. Simpson in the amount not to exceed \$2,980 for the turning, painting and GPS of 60 water valves in The Preserves at Cardinal Creek. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion approving a proposal from M.E. Simpson in the amount of \$1,392 for the turning, painting and GPS of 29 valves in the Nantucket Cove Subdivision. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered an ordinance regulating the use of holiday decorations. Trustee Ahrendt would like to see an ordinance implemented that decorations would need to be taken down a month or so after the holiday. Trustee Cleary expressed concerns about administering an ordinance like this. Other holidays also need to be considered. Overall, the Board felt it would be difficult to enforce. An article

will be put in the newsletter to ask residents to cooperate and take decorations down in a timely manner.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann said he was approached by Jamie Lyne of the Will County Governmental League (WCGL) to participate in a grant application to conduct a detailed land use plan around the airport when the state hasn't committed to do the airport yet. Further meetings will be held at the end of March regarding this matter.

The new census numbers are in. The Village grew from 4,111 to 4,359 (248 residents) from 2007 to 2010. Trustee Wehling asked about changing the population signs at the entrances to town. Staff will check into replacing these signs.

NIMEC is to make presentation to the Will County Governmental League on the pooling of residential electric rates.

President Lohmann had a meeting with new Representative Adam Kinzinger and discussed different issues concerning Beecher.

An Intergovernmental Committee meeting is scheduled for March 29th at 7:00 p.m. (This meeting was later changed to April 28th at 7:15 p.m.)

A budget workshop will be held on March 28th at 6:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center.

A Fourth of July Commission meeting will be held on March 31st at 6:30 p.m. at the food stand in Firemen's Park.

H. NEW BUSINESS

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:56 p.m. to discuss land acquisition pertaining to the Pine Street flooding. Trustee Cleary 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 Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann commented on an anonymous letter received that complained about garbage being put out before 5 p.m. violating current ordinance. It was discussed if this should be enforced and if so, by whom. Chief Weissgerber felt it was not a Police Department issue, and thought it should be a code enforcement issue. Trustee Cleary felt it should be enforced by the police if they see the

violation. After some discussion, Chief Weissgerber was authorized to enforce violations of the garbage ordinance.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk