

**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
FEBRUARY 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, Kim Koutsky, George Schuitema, Jonathan Kypuros and Representative Anthony DeLuca (arrived at 7:45 p.m.)

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 10, 2011 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes with the following change: page 3 under Public Safety Committee, second paragraph, replace second sentence with "One cluster box located at the intersection of Bald Eagle and Cardinal Creek Boulevard will possibly be relocated because it is in the middle of the street." Trustee Ahrendt 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 reminded residents that dog tags are on sale and must be purchased by March 15th.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Kim Koutsky asked the Board why there is no mail delivery to the old section of town. Cluster boxes are in the newer part of town. The Board discussed the history of this. The Village does not want individual mail boxes on the street but wouldn't be opposed to cluster boxes. The residents in a neighborhood would have to request cluster boxes from the Post Office and there would have to be a minimum of participants before a cluster box would be erected. Trustee Wehling asked who is in charge of clearing snow around cluster boxes so they can be accessed. It is the property owner's responsibility at this time.

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 explain changes made to the report and amounts paid in the last month for commission bills. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and activity for the month of January, 2011. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totalling \$94,252.27 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: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Staff is currently working on the Treasurer's job description. When completed, the committee will review it and then it will be presented to the board for adoption.

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet with President Lohmann and Administrator Barber on Saturday, March 5th, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. If the work can't be done by 11 a.m. that day, the meeting will be split into two Saturdays.

A health insurance update was provided in the packet for review.

An annual report on the usage of the Village's website was provided in the packet for review.

A copy of the letter from Comcast notifying the Village of a March 1st rate hike was provided in the packet for review.

The Board considered an ordinance adopting a policy for the use and storage of Social Security Numbers on file with the Village. Trustee Cleary thought the fine amounts were too low, and that employee termination should be added as a second step. Administrator Barber recommended amending the Personnel Manual to address employee discipline issues. Trustee Gardner agreed that it is a serious matter if a Social Security Number gets released. Trustee Szymanski asked if there can be a difference in penalties if it is done with criminal intent versus inadvertently. It was questioned whether an ordinance should be adopted or if a policy should be approved. After much discussion, Trustee Cleary made a motion to table action on this ordinance so more information can be obtained on this policy from the Village Attorney. Trustee Szymanski 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.

The 2010 annual Police Department report was provided to the Board. Chief Weissgerber explained some items in the report and answered questions. Administrator Barber asked for the number of calls for service for the year. Chief Weissgerber estimated 2,000 calls. There were many questions from the Board.

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held to discuss the hiring of a new police officer.

The 2010 annual report of the animal control program from the Beecher Veterinary Clinic was provided in the packet for review.

The Board considered authorizing the Public Safety Committee to draft an ordinance amending the Village Code pertaining to dogs. Staff found a flaw in the current ordinance pertaining to number of dogs allowed that needs to be clarified. There will also be other changes to be considered in the new ordinance.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion advertising for bids for the 2011 Fourth of July raffle car. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board returned to the previous item pertaining to dogs. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion authorizing the Public Safety Committee to draft an ordinance amending Village Code pertaining to dogs. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. Trustee Wehling asked that vicious dogs be added to this ordinance

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

State Representative Anthony DeLuca arrived at 7:45 p.m. President Lohmann announced that Representative Anthony DeLuca was at the meeting to address issues relating to the Village. Mr. DeLuca updated the Board on some house bills he is working on. The Board and audience asked questions of Representative DeLuca. Much discussion followed about local control of the proposed airport.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to award a bid for the joint purchase of fuel to Will-Dupage FS in an amount of \$0.15 per gallon above low rack prices, FOB Chicago. 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 authorize the Fuel Committee to lock in a price for the remainder of the fuel contract if prices change. 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 Pine Street flooding issue. The Committee plans to meet with the Church Road property owners to determine if they are interested in allowing acquisition of an easement and installation of a swale along the south property line of the Church Road parcels to the storm sewer extension.

An update was provided on the meeting with Larry Young to discuss his flooding concerns. The extension of a storm sewer located at Penfield and Birch north to Birch and Park to divert some of the storm water coming off of the business areas on Dixie was decided to be a solution. The sewer line will be installed later this summer.

A list of some of the smaller current Public Works projects slated for 2011 was provided in the packet for review.

Results were provided on the cleanup and response efforts from the 2011 blizzard. Trustee Szymanski recognized the Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department, volunteers, Village staff and residents for pitching in and helping their neighbors and for their work during the blizzard. Trustee Szymanski commented that the main roads coming in and out of the Village were blocked, which is dangerous in case of emergencies. Trustee Szymanski would like to open up communication with Washington Township and the State to try and address these problems to keep roads open in the future for safety reasons.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The annual report of the water and sewer system was provided in the packet for review. Administrator Barber said that there are probably 300 meters in town that need to be replaced. A plan needs to be established to get these meters replaced. Trustee Gardner will meet with Superintendent Cowger to discuss these issues. Trustee Cleary asked if Public Works informs residents about the need for double check valves and expansion tanks.

The 2010 annual Public Works Department report was provided for review.

An update was provided on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) loan. The Village is still on target for a submittal to the IEPA by March 1st.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Ehlers Bequest Committee (Veteran's Memorial). Trustee Wehling reported that the Committee discussed engraved paver bricks that are on sale now. The project is on budget at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

An update was provided on the Welton Stedt ballfield improvement project. The Village will work with Beecher Recreation on this. Doug Short will seed the field.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the Firemen's Park ballfield #1 light repair project. Contractors are waiting for the weather to improve before they look at the pole and determine what needs to be done and provide estimates.

An update was provided on the Spring newsletter. Trustee Wehling wants information regarding Veteran's Memorial bricks in the newsletter. Trustee Cleary wants information regarding the expected opening of the Veteran's Memorial.

Trustee Wehling reported he met with Ted Deery and Mike Stanula in regards to a dog park. They discussed trying to get people to visit the old downtown area by putting a dog park there. It could be located across from the old Public Works garage, at the southeast corner of Hodges and Gould. It is believed that property is owned by the railroad, and not sure what the railroad would charge for rent of this property. President Lohmann felt that the railroad would not go for it because when trains go through the dogs would howl and disturb the neighbors. President Lohmann felt there was not enough need from Village residents for a dog park. Other Board members expressed concerns about this location. Trustee Wehling asked if the Board wants a dog park in the Village. A consensus was taken to determine whether Board members supported a dog park. Some agreed they would not be opposed to it as long as taxpayer dollars are not used and some didn't think it should go in the Village. After much discussion it was the consensus to not move forward on a dog park at this time.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

The 2010 annual Building Department report and comparison to previous years was provided in the packet for review.

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

The 2010 annual Code Enforcement report was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the completion of a list of improvements in The Preserves at Cardinal Creek Subdivision for the use of escrow cash in the MGM account. 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 authorizing the completion of improvements in the Nantucket Cove Subdivision using the funds remaining in the Montalbano Escrow Account. 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 authorizing the transfer of funds from the MGM and Montalbano escrow accounts to the General Fund equal to the amount of reimbursement necessary to pay for attorney and engineering fees incurred by the Village on behalf of Nantucket Cove and The Preserves at Cardinal Creek. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported that the 2010 Census numbers have not yet been released.

Letters were sent to public officials inviting them to attend any upcoming meeting.

President Lohmann appointed Bruce Becker to the Beecher Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to accept the appointment of Bruce Becker. 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 authorizing the acceptance of donation of land, Lot #8 of the VanVoorhis Subdivision on the north side of Indiana Avenue along the east shore of Trim Creek. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann commented on the facilities plan from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) pertaining to the third airport. He and Administrator Barber went through the report and found

some information was incomplete or obsolete. Administrator Barber will be providing official comments on problems with the plan.

RESOLUTION #2011-03 - A Resolution of support for the cleanup of Lake DePue as a superfund site as requested by the Village of DePue, Illinois. President Lohmann explained a letter he received last week from the Village of DePue. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2011-03. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann requested a closed session be held to discuss Public Works personnel, benefits and leave.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:42 p.m. to discuss the hiring of a new full-time police officer and Public Works benefits and leave. Trustee Ahrendt 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 10:02 p.m. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to authorize Chief Weissgerber to offer a full-time police officer position to current part-time officer Ronald Mazurek and if he doesn't accept the position the Chief is authorized to hire the second candidate discussed in executive session. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Ahrendt asked about doing a quiet zone for trains in Beecher. President Lohmann is looking into this but there are a lot of issues involved. The Village would have to assume liability for the crossings and pay for engineering for required improvements. Will County would also have to agree to it. President Lohmann will forward information to Trustee Ahrendt on the procedure for doing this.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Ahrendt 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 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk