

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP 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 28, 2011 -- 6:00 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 (arrived 6:15 p.m.).

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

GUESTS: Jonathan Kypuros.

A budget workshop was held to review the proposed budget for fiscal year 2011/12. Budget packets were provided to all those present. Administrator Barber provided an overview of the budget and the Board went through each line item.

President Lohmann suggested updating the code book this year. A committee will need to be set up to do this. Staff will go through the book, make recommendations and the updates can be done in the following fiscal year when the codification changes can be budgeted.

The Board approved purchasing a security system including cameras for the new Public Works garage at an amount not to exceed \$2000.

Chief Weissgerber provided a presentation on three different ways he could provide two-car police coverage 24-hours a day. He proposed 1) hiring a new full-time officer; 2) use half part-time and half full-time officers to fill shifts; or 3) utilize extra part-time officers. He provided the budget impacts of these three options. After much discussion, it was decided to change the Chief's hours to 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday through Friday to get as much two-car 24-hour coverage as possible without extra impact on the budget.

The Board discussed the Police Department's youth programs.

In the Parks and Recreation budget the Board talked about using the Water and Sewer Debt Service Fund to pay off the OSLAD grant in the future. This will be discussed again in the future.

Trustee Cleary asked that funding be removed from the Public Infrastructure Account for the Pine Street swale. He felt this was not the intention of this account. It was decided that this project is still probably a year away and could be removed from this years budget. This expense will be deferred until the 2012-2013 budget year.

In discussions of the Water Fund, President Lohmann said that the water tower needs to be inspected. It should be cleaned before the inspection to remove the mildew on the bottom of the tank. It will also need to be painted in the near future.

President Lohmann asked about the Board's strategy for economic development and if the Village needs to invest in brochures or literature to promote the Village. Teaming up with the Chamber of Commerce to promote economic development was discussed. It was felt by some that the internet is the best way to reach people these days. This will be discussed at a future meeting to determine goals and decide how to proceed.

After much discussion, Trustee Cleary made a motion to recommend the 2011/2012 budget for public hearing. Motion seconded by Trustee Szymanski.

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 Cleary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk