

**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
APRIL 11, 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 and Jonathan Kypuros.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 14, 2011 Board meeting and March 28, 2011 budget workshop. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Gardner.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) There were no objections from the Board to a Proclamation declaring May as motorcycle awareness month in the Village of Beecher as requested by A.B.A.T.E. 3) Clerk Conner reported on a recent Municipal Clerks of Illinois seminar she recently attended.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Jim Testin of Hamilton Engineering provided a presentation on the institution of quiet zones in Beecher along the Union Pacific Rail line. Mr. Testin explained what a quiet zone is and what different things the Village would need to do to get a quiet zone. Questions were asked by the Board. Maintenance of quiet zone areas would become the Village's responsibility which includes improvements made to get a quiet zone (medians, quad gates, etc.). This would not include the actual tracks themselves. Costs were estimated at \$200,000+ per crossing in improvements and engineering costs that would be needed to get the quiet zone. Some grants are

available for this. There were some potential issues regarding the distance between the crossings and adjacent roads and driveways. The cost of the initial study is estimated at \$17,000. President Lohmann said he would like a survey of the community to see if residents would be interested in something like this. The Village would take on some liability by having a quiet zone. Trustee Szymanski suggested checking with other communities that have tried for quiet zones and see how much they have had to pay for studies, improvements, etc.

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. Trustee Wehling questioned the balance in the Ehler's Fund. Treasurer Collins has written some checks out of the fund recently. Trustee Cleary made a motion approving the Treasurer's report of activity for the month of March, 2011. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A list of bills totalling \$105,542.91 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 Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary reported that the March 28th budget workshop went well. A public hearing is scheduled for April 25th.

ORDINANCE #1141 - An Ordinance amending the code pertaining to the position of Village Treasurer. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1141. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2011-04 - A Resolution of binding participation in the Illinois Public Benefits Council (IPBC) for a period of three years. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2011-04. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Eastern Will Benefits Cooperative adopted a new set of bylaws, which was provided in the packet for review.

The Comcast annual report of resident complaints was provided in the packet for review.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

ORDINANCE #1142 - An Ordinance amending the code pertaining to dogs and the licensing of dogs. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1142. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the traffic study for the intersection of Deer Crossing and Cardinal Creek Boulevard. Chief Weissgerber reported that in looking at the intersection, that the elevation needs to be changed on the median. The cost to change the median was discussed. The median is owned by the homeowner's association. Installation of a stop sign would be a less expensive option. The Chief has not done a traffic count yet due to weather conditions, but will be conducting a count soon. Administrator Barber suggested a concave mirror be placed at the intersection. Chief Weissgerber will conduct a traffic study before the Board makes a decision on placing a stop sign at the intersection.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to renew a ten-year agreement with Prairie Point Commons Corporation for the enforcement of traffic regulations on common property. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

The Board considered a request to amend the garbage rules to allow for early outplacement of garbage on Sundays before 5 p.m. There have been other requests for variances from residents. Trustee Kuhlman felt that excusing one resident would cause problems. It was the consensus of the Board not to give any variances to the ordinance.

The Village has received a letter from the Will County Circuit Court Clerk pertaining to payments for the use of the Peotone Atrium for the eastern branch court. Administrator Barber felt that the Village doesn't have a legal obligation to pay this fee. Sixty percent of traffic citations go towards court costs so the Village shouldn't have to pay for court rental separately. The Village could tell them to send our cases to Joliet court instead of Peotone court. It was the consensus of the Board to send a letter to Will County District 1 Board members and the Will County Executive informing them about this issue.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to award a bid for the 2011 Fourth of July car to South Oak Dodge in the amount of \$19,999.00 for the purchase of a black 2011 Chrysler 200 four-door touring sedan. Trustee Gardner seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber reported on plans for 2011 youth activities: June 4th is the bike rodeo. A bean bag tournament, Joliet Jackhammers outing, paintball at the Badlands, bowling at Striker's and skating at Lynwood Roller Rink are all being looked at.

Trustee Kuhlman stated that the March 17th Beecher Herald headline announced that the schools don't intend to re-institute the SRO officer. Trustee Kuhlman said that topic shouldn't have been the front page headline and felt that the SRO officer should not be a dead issue. He wants to open communication between Village, school and parents to discuss this issue. Grants are available for 50% match for an SRO but Chief Weissgerber reported that it is tough to get grants because we don't have the crime level they are looking for in grant criteria. Officer Leroy still visits the schools regularly according to Chief Weissgerber. Trustee Kuhlman was asked to talk to School Board members or the School Superintendent about this issue. This matter will be discussed with school representatives at the next intergovernmental meeting. The Chief said he can still apply for the grant but was not sure who would pay the 50% half that the grant doesn't cover.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the letting of bids for the 2011 paint striping program. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A field trip is planned to IMEL's truck refurbishment plant in New Bluffton, Indiana to view refurbished dump trucks.

Superintendent Cowger reported that there won't be a fee for the mosquito spraying permit this year as first thought. He will be doing a Notice of Intent (NOI) this year.

The Village will be renting a street sweeping machine from E & J Rentals in Manteno, and begin street sweeping soon.

Spring banners will be going up this week and will be replaced with patriotic banners the last week of May.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

An update was provided on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) loan application. The loan application was submitted on March 16th and the loan review process is expected to take 90 days to complete.

An emergency watermain repair took place in the 600 block of Oak Park Avenue. This is the third time this year that section of pipe ruptured causing flooding and property damage so it was decided to declare an emergency and replace the section of main right away.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to approval a proposal in the amount of \$5,200 to M & J Underground for the replacement of the watermain in the 600 block of Oak Park Avenue. Three bids were obtained. M & J was the lowest bid. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve payment of three bills from the watermain replacement account: Prairie Material (\$832.42); Lange Excavating (\$547.63); and HD Supply (\$4,801.21). Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was the consensus of the Board not to pursue the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application at this time, and wait one more year on the watermain replacement project.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that the 16' stainless steel star for the Veteran's Memorial is complete. Public Works will pick it up this week. Flag poles and concrete are scheduled for installation soon and the electric still needs to be done. Total donations raised to date is \$79,611.42. The Village is still accepting donations and are selling engraved bricks. The next meeting is scheduled for May 5th.

Superintendent Cowger reported that he is waiting for the new bucket truck to come in before starting work on the Firemen's #1 ballfield lights.

Superintendent Cowger provided an update on the Welton Stedt ballfield restoration. Trustee Wehling thanked Superintendent Cowger for his work on this project.

A copy of the Spring 2011 newsletter was provided in the packet for review.

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.

The Board considered a proposal in the amount of \$2,560 to level off the clay piles and fill on the north side of Sunset Cove Boulevard. According to Administrator Barber a resident in this area has had water in his basement as a result of ponding in the vacant lot next door and his sump pump runs continuously. Administrator Barber explained a berm in the area is diverting water flow and improper grades in empty lots have caused them to hold water. Filling in and leveling these lots should allow water to flow to the pond properly. Money for this would come from the MGM Escrow Account. Trustee Cleary asked if the Village has enough money for other things to be done in this subdivision if we do these types of things. Trustee Wehling asked if the Village can do some kind of recapture on doing this kind of work. After much discussion, Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve a proposal in the amount of \$2,560 to level off the clay piles and fill on the north side of Sunset Cove Boulevard using the MGM Escrow Account. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered procedures for weed and erosion control in the Nantucket Cove and Preserves at Cardinal Creek subdivisions. Administrator Barber said if the Village decides to do this, it will be expensive. President Lohmann didn't like the need for engineer, bid specifications and observation and costs for this. It was questioned why an engineer is needed and the project needs to be bid out. Administrator Barber advised conferring with legal counsel before deciding to spend money out of this fund to make sure it is done properly. It was the consensus of the Board to check with legal counsel about this matter.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve a letter of support for a proposed 60-unit senior citizen affordable housing complex to be located at the southwest corner of Church Road and Dixie Highway. 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

The Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) meeting has been rescheduled for April 26th.

Administrator Barber will attend the Will County Governmental League (WCGL) Lobby Day in Springfield on April 12th.

The Intergovernmental meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 28th.

President Lohmann reported that he and Administrator Barber attended a meeting on March 23rd regarding failed subdivisions. It was learned that Beecher has few problems compared to other communities.

President Lohmann reported that he could not attend the Eastcom Board of Directors meeting. Administrator Barber attended the meeting and reported that they are looking at a new formula for billing, possibly based on new census figures. A larger dispatch center for Eastcom was discussed.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the payment of \$1,000 to the Will County Center for Economic Development as a one-time annual investor fee. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

President Lohmann provided his State of the Village address.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber reported that there have been people looking at the surplus vehicles for sale. Chief Weissgerber has received bids for both cars. Bids are scheduled for opening on April 15th.

Administrator Barber reported that the property tax levy has been certified by the County. Assessed valuation of the Village has decreased by 2.24%. Administrator Barber felt that the calculations were right on budget for what will be received. Administrator Barber reported on the drop in assessed value, tax caps and their effects on what the Village will receive.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Cleary 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 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk