

**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 25, 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 and Kuhlman.

ABSENT: Trustee Wehling.

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

GUESTS: Bill Byrns from the Daily Journal, Jonathan Kypuros, Pat Cleary, George Schuitema and Anthony Messana.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

Pat Cleary was present about the alley behind her house. She said that the beer trucks going down the alley is causing damage and causing the alley to sink. She would like to see a weight limit on alleys to keep this from happening. She wanted to make the Board aware of this problem before the alley is lost. She also informed the Board about a washout of a sewer on the west side of Indiana Avenue near the railroad tracks on the north side of the road.

A public hearing was held at 7:06 p.m. to consider the budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012.

RESOLUTION #2011-05 - A resolution adopting a budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Resolution #2011-05. Motion seconded by Trustee Gardner.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE#1143 - An Ordinance adopting an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2011/2012. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1143. Seconded by Trustee Szymanski.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

Administrator Barber reported on going to Springfield for Lobby Day. Redistricting was the major topic in Springfield. Representative District #11 is going to change. The Beecher area may go into a different district. The Administrator also reported the State of Illinois is looking again at cutting the Village's share of the Income Tax.

RESOLUTION #2011-06 - A Resolution adopting a policy for public comment at Village Board and committee meetings. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Resolution #2011-06. Motion seconded by Trustee Ahrendt.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A letter was sent to Will County Board members regarding being billed for Peotone Court rental fees. The only County Board member to respond so far is Bob Howard. He indicated that he will look into this and get back to us.

The Board discussed an economic development plan and program for the Village. The matter came up at the budget workshop meeting when \$4,500 was placed in the budget for economic development and it was discussed what types of things would be funded with this amount. Former Beecher Economic Development Authority (BEDA) head Nelson Collins, provided a report on how the BEDA group worked and the benefits it provided to the Village four years ago before it was disbanded. There was discussion as to how other taxing bodies at the time did not want to provide incentives to new or existing businesses. The Administrator asked for direction on leads to potential new businesses he receives from the Will County CED. There were some concerns about the vagueness of the business leads. It was asked how the Board wants to use the money budgeted for economic development. It was suggested to update the information on the website which hasn't been done in a while. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to pursue updating the economic development portion of the website.

The Board discussed review of the Village codes. Trustee Cleary said that only the very outdated codes should be focused on and not things that have been updated in recent years. The consensus of the Board agreed that the department heads should go through the codes first, then bring proposed changes to the Board for review.

The upcoming Intergovernmental Committee meeting on April 28th was discussed. President Lohmann asked about goals for the old downtown area. He reported there are property maintenance issues and code violations that are not being enforced in the old downtown. He would like to look for feedback from members of the Intergovernmental Committee on this. Some Board members felt this would not directly affect some of the other taxing bodies. If property owners don't invest in their own property, what can the Village do? Enforcement of code violations in the old downtown could lead to condemnation and cost the Village money. Some Trustees said they couldn't make the

Intergovernmental meeting and the Fire District can't attend the meeting either. It was decided to reschedule the meeting to May 23rd.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session to review minutes of past executive sessions for approval and release to the public at 8:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Trustee Szymanski.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return from executive session at 9:57 p.m. Motion seconded by Trustee Ahrendt.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve executive session minutes from September 13, 2010 through March 14, 2011. Motion seconded by Trustee Ahrendt.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2011-07 - A Resolution adopting a resolution releasing certain executive session minutes as approved by the Board. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Resolution #2011-07.

Motion seconded by Trustee Szymanski.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing destruction of closed session audio tapes from March 24, 2009 through October 12, 2009. Motion seconded by Trustee Kuhlman.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

President Lohmann asked for input on committee appointments when the new Trustee takes office. Board members indicated they would support whatever committee appointments President Lohmann decides to make.

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

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Gardner and Kuhlman.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk