

**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
OCTOBER 10, 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, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Ahrendt.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Treasurer Nelson Collins, Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber and Curt Dykstra and Jessica Betterton of Smith, Koelling, Dykstra and Ohm.

GUESTS: George Schuitema, Chris Szymanski, Dean and Linda Bettenhausen, Chuck Hoehn, Bill Voss, Patty Meyer and Guillermo Delgado.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the September 12, 2011 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Kypuros, 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 stated that the fall newsletter was mailed on Friday. So far, ten paper surveys and 27 online surveys have been completed.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Dean Bettenhausen was present to provide the Board with information on the "Tractors for a Cure" event he would like to hold on July 14, 2012 in Firemen's Park. Mr. Bettenhausen explained that he raised \$81,000 for cancer at his event this year and wants to continue with an event next year and use Firemen's Park instead of putting it on his property, which will make it easier for him. His organization is now incorporated and an official not-for-profit corporation. They plan to have live bands, movies, food, beer and other entertainment. Administrator Barber explained that if this event is successful that it could create interest in having more events like this in the park which the Village should regulate. Mr. Bettenhausen would like to use the food building where the grill is located and possibly the other portion of the building. He plans to have

Beecher Police at the beer garden for security and will also provide private security on the grounds. The event is planned for 4 p.m. to midnight. Bands will end at 11 p.m. and last call for beer would be at 11:30 p.m. Trustee Cleary expressed concerns about residents next to Firemen's Park and being considerate to them. The route for the tractor parade taking the tractors out of town was discussed. There were no objections from the Board to the event. Mr. Bettenhausen also said he plans to give the Village two trees as a gift. The trees will probably be put in Firemen's Park. Trustee Wehling made a motion approving a "Tractors for a Cure" event on Saturday, July 14, 2012 in Firemen's Park with conditions as stated. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

George Schuitema thanked President Lohmann on behalf of the Lion's Club for helping with the hearing bus a few weeks ago at the senior breakfast.

Chuck Hoehn announced that Trustee Szymanski was selected as Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Auditor Curt Dykstra was present and provided a report on the Fiscal Year 2010/2011 audit. Mr. Dykstra also provided a handout showing a five-year comparison of selected financial information. The Board was given an opportunity to ask questions of the auditor. The Board discussed some of the items in the audit and Management Letter. Trustee Cleary made a motion to accept the audit for Fiscal Year 2010/2011. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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 Cleary made a motion approving the Treasurer's report and actions taken by the Village Treasurer in the month of September. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the month of August were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totaling \$124,278.18 to be paid was available for review. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary reported that there were discussions between staff and himself as to how to pay off the OSLAD grant. There is currently no funding source for Parks. With General Fund's current reserves being at the highest point in the last four years it would be a good time to pay off the loan from General. The Board discussed the procedure with the bank for paying off the loan. There is also a provision for a \$10,000 set aside for playground equipment in Water Tower Park. Staff is not sure if \$10,000 will be enough but Trustee Wehling said he will try to make it work. Staff may have to draft a supplemental appropriation ordinance. Trustee Cleary made a motion approving the use of \$195,240 in the General Fund reserves to pay off the OSLAD loan for Firemen's Park on December 1, 2011. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered authorizing the drafting of a tax levy for 2011 collectible in 2012. Trustee Kypuros commented that the Village should make sacrifices and not levy anything additional this year, and go for a 0% increase in the levy. Board members were asked if they were willing to cut the budget for the less amount that will be collected this way. Trustee Cleary commented that the biggest debt to the Village is police protection. Trustee Szymanski brought up upcoming increases in the police contract, dispatching, etc. and how to find funds to do this if the Village doesn't levy the additional 2%. A motion was made by Trustee Cleary and seconded by Trustee Szymanski authorizing the drafting of a tax levy for 2011 collectible in 2012 at a value of 2%. After some discussion by the Board as to whether the Village should levy 0% or 2%, Trustee Cleary and Szymanski agreed to rescind this motion. There was then much discussion as to whether to approve a 2% or 0% increase in the tax levy. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize drafting of two tax levy ordinances, one for a 0% increase and one for a 2% increase to be considered for approval at the next meeting. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber provided a report on the increases in the costs of police dispatching. Charts were provided in the packet for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported partnering with the Illinois State Police on a teen driver initiative. Police officers will go to the high school, hand out pamphlets, discuss graduated driver's license program, cell phone usage, safety, etc. After educational materials are provided to the students, enforcement will follow. All materials will be provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The 2011 road repair program has been completed by Gallagher Asphalt to the satisfaction of the Engineer and the Village. All watermain patches were also completed.

An update was provided on the crack sealing program. Work is expected to be completed by November 15th.

Leaf collection will begin on Tuesday, October 11th.

Superintendent Cowger reported on tree trimming. A list of tree work for 2011 was provided in the packet for review.

Holiday snowflakes and banners are scheduled for installation the week of Thanksgiving.

Trustee Szymanski reported on the revised seven year road plan that was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Szymanski provided all Board members a copy of the disk which contained handouts given at the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Conference.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

Superintendent Cowger reported that the fall hydrant flushing went very well.

Superintendent Cowger reported that Public Works is finished installing meters this year. Trustee Cleary asked if there will be a measurable difference in water usage versus water loss with the replacement of the old meters.

Superintendent Cowger reported that SCADA system upgrades have been ordered and licensing has been signed.

Water tower power washing is scheduled for April, 2012.

Superintendent Cowger stated that the Oak Park watermain costing report will be completed for the next meeting.

Superintendent Cowger explained the need to replace the skimmer arm in clarifier #1 at the sewer treatment plant. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve a proposal of \$7,500 from DPS to replace the skimmer arm in clarifier #1 at the sewer treatment plant. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion. AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the Beecher Youth Commission. Trustee Kypuros reported on the Halloween Trick or Trunk event scheduled for October 22nd. There is a trip scheduled for October 21st for older kids to visit a haunted house in St. John. A 5K turkey trot run/walk will be held on November 19th. Christmas events are also being planned.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The fall newsletter was mailed on Friday and a survey link was put on the Village website for those who want to fill out their survey online.

Trustee Wehling reported that the Veteran's Memorial is being tweaked to make things function better. A new flagpole is being ordered for the American flag so that it is taller than the other poles. Bushes will be planted on the backside of the memorial. The Committee is looking into lighting the star at night. The light will shine towards the memorial and not towards the street. Trustee Cleary asked how far the bushes would be from the railroad tracks for visibility reasons relating to trains. The next Veteran's Memorial Committee meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2012. There is approximately \$16,000 in the bank for maintenance of the memorial.

The Board discussed playground equipment for Water Tower Park. As discussed earlier in the meeting, \$10,000 has been allocated to work with. Trustee Kypuros commented that the Youth Commission wants to get involved and would like to help if they can to get this project completed.

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 Wehling made a motion to approve payment of bills from developers MGM and Montalbano escrow accounts in the total amount of \$5,056.93. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There were no objections from the Board to staff's projections of new housing starts for consideration in the five-year financial plan.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann thanked the Board for their input and preferred routes for the Illiana Expressway. An Illiana Expressway workshop is scheduled for October 25th.

President Lohmann provided a report on the South Suburban airport.

According to President Lohmann, the issue of pension reform needs to be addressed.

Trustee Wehling made a motion cancelling the second regularly scheduled Board meetings for October, November and December. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed the need to have a workshop to discuss budget cuts relating to the tax levy. The Board agreed to hold a special workshop meeting on October 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall to discuss the tax levy only.

Administrator Barber explained the municipal aggregation of residential electric supply.

An update was provided on the Village Code review project.

An update was provided on PACE activities. Administrator Barber and President Lohmann recently met with representatives from PACE about implementing vanpools in the area to take people to work.

The Board considered a marketing opportunity with the Village being a sponsor at a home high school basketball game. President Lohmann suggested a free throw contest with the winners to receive gift cards the Village can get for free for points earned on the Village credit card. It was the consensus of the Board that this was a good idea. Trustee Wehling was asked to work on setting this up.

ORDINANCE #1148 - An Ordinance amending the liquor code to combine the special event licenses for beer and wine and to further define a bowling alley liquor license. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1148. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered an ordinance amending the liquor code pertaining to Class G licenses. President Lohmann explained that this is for the golf course only. This would give the golf course the ability to sell alcohol in the bar beginning at 8:00 a.m. This was requested by the golf course to get more business. Trustee Szymanski provided examples of why this could be beneficial.

ORDINANCE #1149 - An Ordinance amending the liquor code pertaining to Class G licenses (golf course). Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve Ordinance #1149. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

President Lohmann reported that he and Administrator Barber had a meeting that morning with Congressman Jackson and his aide. Mr. Jackson could be our new Congressman with redistricting and wanted to touch base with us and hear any concerns. They discussed the Illiana Expressway, federal regulations, shovel ready projects that we were denied funding for in the past, illegal immigration and the proposed third airport and the ALNAC plan.

Trustee Szymanski asked the Board to decide on what will be the Village's official logo for future use. It was the consensus of the Board to create an ad hoc committee including Trustee Szymanski and staff to look into options for the logo.

Trustee Szymanski commented about being selected as Citizen of the Year – that all he has done in the past has been done as a team and he said he “took one for the team” receiving the award.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk