

**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  
DECEMBER 12, 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, Kypuros, 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:** George Schuitema, Kim Koutsky, Mike Peters and Matt Rykiel.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 14, 2011 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections to page 4 by Trustee Szymanski and page 6 by Trustee Cleary. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** A report on income received since the last meeting was provided.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Trustees Cleary, Kuhlman and Administrator Barber previously met with the new owners of the old Knuth's Grocery Store building at the corner of Indiana Avenue and Dixie Highway to discuss the new hardware store they plan to open at that location. The store will be a "Do It Best Lumber" company. Trustee Kuhlman had been working for some time to get a hardware store to come to Beecher. The new owners are asking for some sales tax related incentives with the value tied to building improvements. Matt Rykiel representing the hardware store explained to the Board that he owns the Sauk Village hardware store and said that many services are provided there in addition to the products they sell. He also plans to provide similar services such as lawn mower and weed wacker repairs, window and screen repairs, etc. in Beecher in addition to the products they will sell. They need to make a lot of costly changes to the building to make it work as a hardware store and requested incentives to offset some of the costs.

The incentives set forth in the Board packet were:

Waive the fee for the demolition permit.

Waive the permit fees for renovation of the building and signage.

Waive the business license fee for the first year.

Provide a sales tax reimbursement to be capped in the amount of \$26,250.

Trustee Kypuros suggested one of the incentives be to require them to hire a certain percentage of Beecher residents. Mr. Rykiel said he intends to hire many Beecher residents but doesn't know if he can guarantee a percentage.

The Committee recommended approval of the incentive package as set forth in the Board packet. The Board also agreed to allow 10' x 10' lit signs on up to three sides of the building. After some discussion, Trustee Cleary made a motion to provide an incentive package to the Beecher hardware store located in the old Knuth Building (500 Indiana Avenue) for a total incentive package of \$27,950; \$26,250 of which is a sales tax reimbursement. The structure of the reimbursement for the first two years will be 100% and the following three years of year 3, 4 and 5, it will be 50% of the taxes that are collected. The cap of the sales tax reimbursement will be \$26,250. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was agreed between the Board and Mr. Rykiel that the sales tax reimbursements will be provided on an annual basis. Mr. Rykiel said he hopes to complete the buildout by January 1, 2012 and would like to open March 1<sup>st</sup> depending on how everything goes. Administrator Barber said the formal agreement will be drafted and voted upon at the next meeting. President Lohmann thanked Trustee Kuhlman for working diligently on this. Mr. Rykiel also thanked Trustee Kuhlman and said that this hardware store would not have come to Beecher without Trustee Kuhlman's assistance.

Committee reports were then done in reverse order as follows: Planning, Building and Zoning; Public Buildings and Properties; Sewer and Water; Streets and Alleys; Public Safety; and Finance and Administration. The minutes are listed in original agenda order for record keeping purposes.

**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. The OSLAD park loan has been paid off. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and account activity for the month of November, 2011. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the month of October were provided in the packet for review. A list of bills totalling \$125,096.96 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, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried. President Lohmann asked that department heads make sure employees sign tickets as to who picks up or places an order.

RESOLUTION #2011-12 - A resolution adopting a five-year financial plan for the Village for fiscal years 2012-2016. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2011-12. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber provided the budget preparation schedule for 2012.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to authorize a Public Hearing be held on Monday, April 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. for the proposed budget for fiscal year 2012. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Trustee Kypuros asked if Chief Weissgerber is familiar with HB1311 regulating sound devices and proposed using it to help fund Police Department raises. It was discussed that the Village already has a noise ordinance. Trustee Szymanski said the Board should not adopt something like this as a source of revenue. There was also discussion that the law is written broadly. Trustee Kypuros felt the bill was related to loud music on car stereos which can be a problem. Chief Weissgerber indicated this has not been a big issue and recommended only passing an ordinance to address a problem and not just to raise revenue.

## **C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE**

The crack sealing program has been completed.

The parkway tree plantings have been completed.

Superintendent Cowger reported that 72 loads of leaves were collected this year.

Trustee Szymanski reported on doing a study of Village streets not paved since 1996 to determine the priority of repair. Administrator Barber said even if the Village does a study this year, the improvements won't be completed next fiscal year. They could be done the following year. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve a proposal from HR Green in the amount of \$9,500 to conduct a study of Village streets. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed a change in the Village logo. Trustee Szymanski showed a stitched Village logo and explained the history on this. It was questioned if the Village would consider doing a logo contest? Staff wanted to be consistent with all Village logos since currently different logos are being used for different things. There were no objections to the design of the stitched logo. The Committee will figure out how to proceed.

#### **D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE**

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

The Board considered a proposal to treat leachate from the closed Goodenow landfill at our wastewater treatment plant. Administrator Barber reported he was approached again by Waste Management about this matter and they have indicated to him that the toxicity levels of the leachate have been reduced dramatically which was an issue when this request was denied in the past. President Lohmann said the Village should not have any capital outlay to do this. It should only be paid by those wanting to do this. Trustee Wehling voiced his opposition to this citing fears of causing future problems with our sewer plant. Trustee Szymanski asked what long term problems might be associated with this? The Board also discussed problems with trucking waste into the plant and the effect on residents in the neighborhood and on the streets. President Lohmann expressed concerns about the possible effect of the leachate on our sewer plant and equipment. Superintendent Cowger explained what the leachate is and where it comes from. Trustee Kuhlman voiced opposition to two semis per day going down Pasadena Avenue. Trustee Kypuros was willing to obtain more information on this. After much discussion the consensus of the Board was not to move forward on this because there weren't enough votes to get it approved.

Trustee Kypuros said it has been discussed with staff to move all commission reports to the end of the meeting instead of putting them under committee reports since the commission reports don't always fit with the committees they are reported under. An agenda item for Commission Reports will be added on the next Board meeting agenda.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the Turkey Trot had 42 runners and approximately seventy kids participate. The tree lighting ceremony went very well. The ice rink had been freezing well but due to weather the rink is not ready yet. Open gym night last week at the school went very well with approximately 64 kids in attendance. The Youth Commission hopes to host an open gym night once per month.

## **E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The Board discussed the results of the Fall, 2011 resident survey. Trustee Szymanski commented on snow plowing and how issues in the survey relating to this will be addressed this season. Administrator Barber reported that he came up with seven themes he found in the surveys including complaints relating to water quality, no consensus on what to do with the old downtown, property taxes, snow plowing and salting, code enforcement issues, (garbage can ordinance and weeds in empty lots), and costs of yard waste bags. The Board discussed the themes Administrator Barber raised. President Lohmann raised questions regarding the rules that the Village has regarding leaf pick up and other codes. This year leaves were put out after the leaf pick up deadline. How do we enforce this? Do we pick them up or not? It was discussed that some trees don't drop their leaves until late. It was the consensus of the Board that Public Works should continue picking up the leaves even after the deadline. The Code Enforcement Officer is to send letters to those whose leaves we pick up late reminding them of the deadline for future years.

Administrator Barber also said there will be a need to do a special newsletter to educate the residents about the upcoming electrical aggregation referendum and at that time the survey results can be provided to residents.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a proposal from Let's Go Play, Inc. in the amount of \$10,763 and authorization for payment of the same for the installation of playground equipment in Water Tower Park. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger reported that he will revisit the issue of a timer for Firemen's #1 lights at budget time because there is no money to get this fixed this budget year. Superintendent Cowger said he will see that the lights are turned on and off manually until they can be fixed. Administrator Barber asked if the police can turn off the lights at 10 p.m. and get people out of the park so Public Works doesn't have to come out. Chief Weissgerber will work with Superintendent Cowger on this.

The Board considered a request to move the Chamber of Commerce street dance from Reed Street to Firemen's Park on the third Saturday in June each year. Administrator Barber and Trustee Szymanski explained reasons for this. Trustee Szymanski also said the Lions Club is considering moving their Beef Roast to this same date. Some worries were expressed by Lions members because the Tractors for a Cure event might hurt the Lions Club since it is close to the same date. There were no objections to this request.

The Board discussed if the Village can conduct a half-time activity during the high school basketball game February 17<sup>th</sup> because there is also a "Cheerbuddies" show that night. The Village may need to change the date. Trustee Wehling will need to talk to Mr. Akerman about this matter.

## **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.

## **G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Lohmann provided an update on the Illiana Expressway and encouraged Trustees to go to one of the public meetings to be held and provide comments. A new map was provided for review.

President Lohmann provided a South Suburban airport update. He said that candidates are in disagreement over who should be in control of the airport.

The State legislative Fall veto session is coming to a close. Legislators are still working on pension reform and provided some incentives for businesses to stay in Illinois.

The code review process has begun. Staff has worked 4-6 hours so far trying to find ways to streamline the plan and has discussed parliamentary procedure to better follow the law as set forth in our ordinance. For example, to affix resolution or ordinance numbers and incorporate them into motions.

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, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk