

**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
FEBRUARY 13, 2012 -- 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, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber and Attorney Tim Kuiper.

GUESTS: Andrew Ahrendt, Ed and Joan Ago, Deb Jones, Jack and Barb Jensen, Forrest Leigh, Stephanie Harms, Dan Drees and Carmen Pignatiello.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 9, 2012 Board meeting and January 30, 2012 Intergovernmental meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

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

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Jack Jensen representing the Preserve at Cardinal Creek Homeowner's Association (HOA) referenced a letter his HOA sent to the Village regarding remaining letter of credit money the Village has for completion of Cardinal Creek Subdivision. The HOA is requesting some of the money be used to complete unfinished items in the subdivision. The master plan for the subdivision included stamped concrete at the intersection of Cardinal Creek and Trim Creek (currently asphalt) and a gazebo. Instead of completion of these two items the HOA would like to exchange these improvements in the master plan with the following improvements instead:

- 1) Creation of small parks or tot lots in all three areas of subdivision
- 2) Tree removal and eventual replacement of dead trees in common areas of the subdivision
- 3) Repair of current lawn irrigation system
- 4) Replacement of pond aerators in three ponds

They would also like to see fine grading and seeding of undeveloped vacant lots for drainage reasons. Trustee Szymanski asked who maintains the parks once they are improved (if they are improved). Mr. Jensen would like to see the parks eventually maintained by the Village. Attorney Kuiper stated the HOA would be responsible for maintenance since they actually own the parks. President Lohmann asked who would police the park, who is liable and can access be denied? Attorney Kuiper said HOA is responsible through the covenants of the subdivision for the parks. The Attorney advised the HOA to also consider insurance costs if park equipment is put up because they would be responsible.

President Lohmann asked for consensus of the Board as to whether they would consider using the escrow funds for park equipment. Trustee Cleary was concerned about using the money for these other things in the event of problems with roads, etc. in the future. Trustee Szymanski wants to make sure all infrastructure is taken care of first, the HOA comes up with a plan for the insurance, etc. and maybe the exchange can be worked out. Trustee Wehling expressed concerns that the cost of equipping the parks can be very expensive. Mr. Jensen from the HOA indicated they just want to use the gazebo money for the park and will only ask for what the gazebo would be worth. Administrator Barber talked about some of the improvements that need to be done with the escrow funds first, such as repairing curbs, vactoring the sewers, etc. He felt there will be money left after needed improvements are done. Administrator Barber expressed concerns about the cost to HOA to maintain and pay on a monthly basis for the irrigation systems and if they can afford it. Attorney Kuiper advised that some of the things the HOA is requesting can be done with Letter of Credit money since they are public improvements. President Lohmann asked what the cost would be for a gazebo and stamped concrete. Attorney Kuiper recommended first to have the HOA look into insurance costs and maintenance and asked the HOA to get some figures together for costs of needed improvements and bring them back to the Village. They were also asked to prioritize their improvements. Administrator Barber asked for all the HOA's email addresses so he can keep everyone informed of progress.

Attorney Kuiper said Letter of Credit money can be used for grading and seeding the empty lots. Concerns were expressed about maintenance of property once it is seeded. Trustee Cleary asked who will water the seed and mow the empty lots. It was also questioned if the Village is going to get an engineer or just take bids for leveling and seeding the lots? It was decided the Village will get bids. Trustee Wehling made a motion to obtain three prices to fine grade and seed unbuilt lots in the Preserve at Cardinal Creek Subdivision. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The HOA will need to determine which trees are dead in the spring. Mr. Jensen was asked to mark the dead trees in red and Public Works will pull them out. Staff will work with the HOA on planting of new trees later this year.

The Sewer and Water Committee report was done immediately following the Finance Committee report so that Trustee Kypuros could leave the meeting early for work. 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. Treasurer Collins pointed out some duplicate check entries in his report which changed his ending balances. Trustee Cleary made a motion approving the Treasurer's Report and report of financial activity for January, 2012. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

A list of bills totalling \$144,373.14 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: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber provided an additional bill to be paid. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of a bill from the MGM escrow account in the amount of \$1,805.81 for regulatory street signs to Hall Signs. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary provided comments on the Village code and proposed changes. Attorney Kuiper explained some of the changes made to the code in Title 1 that were not clearly marked in the strike and switch copy due to differences in word processing programs. Administrator Barber noted a lot of changes to the job descriptions in the code to make them more consistent. This was just for discussion at this time. No action was taken.

Administrator Barber will get some draft letters to the editor for the newspaper for the Board to consider regarding the municipal aggregation of electric supply March 20th referendum.

Analog television on cable comes to an end on April 11th.

The Village is taking bids for water and sewer electric usage through NIMEC on February 16th. Administrator Barber reported that he believes the pricing will come in on a 3-year contract with a 30% savings.

gc

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

The Police Department annual report for 2012 was provided in the packet for review. Chief Weissgerber explained some aspects of the report and answered questions from the Board.

CPR recertifications are due for employees. Officer Roger Sipple will be conducting the training.

Information was provided in the packet for review for weather spotter training.

The annual report of the animal control officer was provided for review. Administrator Barber noted the cost went up this year \$1,200 over budget due to a lot of cats taken in by the veterinarian this year. Chief Weissgerber will meet with Doctor McKay and discuss why so many cats were brought in this year and to find out if they are being brought in by people who aren't residents of Beecher.

President Lohmann reported on a March 8th training that has been arranged for the High School on liquor education through the Illinois Liquor Control Commission. President Lohmann also wants to see if parents may be invited to the assembly.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Trustee Szymanski reported that work has been done on the road condition report. Some core sampling will probably have to be conducted.

Trustee Szymanski reported that he has met with the Farm Bureau, farmers and property owners regarding the Pine Street flooding situation, and is working towards a resolution.

The Beecher Fuel Committee held its annual meeting. Washington Township fuel is to be separate from the Highway Department since they have more equipment than when the fuel system was originally formed. A special meeting will be held on April 23rd to review a proposal for a new fuel system with an offsite computer control.

A new Village logo will be sewn on a garment and available for review at the next Board meeting.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The Water Department annual report was provided in the packet for review.

The Sewer Department annual report was provided in the packet for review.

The annual report on water pumped vs. water billed vs. water treated was provided in the packet for review.

The Public Works annual report for 2011 was provided in the packet for review.

An update was provided on the emergency repair to the Indiana Avenue watermain from Dunbar to Oak Park. Three lowest prices were obtained, the material was purchased so it was on hand and it was decided to proceed with the repair since it was going to take two weeks for coordination of the job. The main was replaced for a total project cost of \$36,652.90 which was lower than what was estimated. Trustee Cleary noted that the original motion stated that the main would be replaced "should the main rupture once again" and felt that the Board should have been informed prior to proceeding with the repair and this action violated the intent of the motion. President Lohmann said that Public Works may not have been able to get a crew in on the spur of the moment if the main had burst. Administrator Barber indicated he felt this was a better way to get the repairs done but the Board should have been notified.

The Board considered withdrawing from consideration of a loan from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for watermain replacement. Trustee Kypuros explained stipulations of the loan have changed a lot since the Village started this process and recommended walking away from pursuing the loan at this point. He recommended we pay as we go to get the work done. It would cost the Village a lot more to get the work done with all the stipulations that are being required. The design work has been done. After some discussion, Trustee Kypuros made a motion withdrawing from consideration of a loan from the IEPA for watermain replacement. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve payment to Baxter and Woodman in the amount of \$8,750 from the watermain replacement account as final payment on the IEPA loan application process. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed a proposal in the amount of \$18,500 from Baxter and Woodman to design bid specifications, complete a bid process and construction management services for the replacement of watermain on Maxwell Street from Penfield Street to Indiana Avenue for a December, 2012 bid letting. Trustee Kypuros discussed this with Superintendent Cowger and didn't feel the Village would be ready for this by December, 2012, so there is no need to pursue this at this time. There was some discussion on a four-way connection of main at the corner of Maxwell Street and Indiana Avenue and problems with this. This matter was tabled for further discussion at future meetings.

The broken arm in clarifier #1 at the sewer plant has been replaced.

Superintendent Cowger explained the need to clean out the #1 orbital oxidation ditch.

Superintendent Cowger explained the list of projects to rehab the sewer plant. The project list was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Kypuros provided a Youth Commission update. A Youth Commission budget was included in the packet for calendar year 2012. An open gym night will be held February 24th; a daddy-daughter dance is scheduled for February 18th; A mom-son dance is scheduled for March 8th.

Trustee Kypuros left at 8:36 p.m.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the winter and spring newsletters.

An update was provided on the Water Tower Park playground equipment.

The Board discussed the need to establish a coordination procedure for the use of Firemen's Park. The Village needs to get Beecher Recreation's schedule and when they plan to use the park. There may be a need to set aside a specific time period in the future for Beecher Recreation to use the park. Trustee Szymanski reported that the Lion's Club doesn't need the whole park for the Beef Roast now, so there shouldn't be a conflict with Beecher Recreation.

The centennial monument has been removed and will be rebuilt. The time capsule has been removed and is being stored.

Trustee Wehling reported on the Beecher High School half-time show for Friday, February 17th. There are a lot of events going on that night with Cheerbuddies and Senior Recognition night. The Village plans to raffle off some gift cards and a basketball. Since there is a limited time at this game, the tickets can be given out when the guests pay admission.

Trustee Wehling reported on the Ehlers Committee meeting. The Committee will continue for one more year to make sure maintenance and other projects are done. More lighting will be obtained for the monument. The next brick order will go in on March 1st.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Building Department monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Building Department annual report was provided in the packet for review.

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Code Enforcement annual report was provided in the packet for review.

The Board considered referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a request for a special use permit to construct a digital display board in front of DeJong Equipment, 383 S. Dixie Highway. The \$750 application fee has been paid and the application was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Cleary asked what direction the Village is going on these digital signs and felt the Village hasn't provided any clear guidance on what is acceptable on these types of signs. Administrator Barber suggested looking at all of these on a case by case basis so there aren't too many of these signs. There currently are no clear rules on these signs other than maximum size. Some discussion followed on the lack of criteria for DeJong or others who want this type of sign to follow. The Board discussed an existing sign along Route 1 that some felt is currently too bright. Trustee Wehling commented that what the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) decides will set a precedent for the future. Trustee Cleary argued that the Board needs to provide direction to the PZC of what they have to decide on. Administrator Barber recommended that the Village limit proximity of these types of signs to each other so there are not too many in a short span. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to refer a request to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a special use permit to construct a digital display board in front of DeJong Equipment, located at 383 South Dixie Highway. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski reported on the Fourth of July Commission. Car bids were sent out and bids are due by February 29th.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next Beautification meeting is scheduled for February 16th. The last meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

The Board considered a purchase of 57 hanging flower baskets for 2012. Administrator Barber said it was an unbudgeted item so it will be authorized by a line item transfer resolution. After some discussion, Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the purchase of 57 hanging flower baskets for 2012 in the amount of \$2,964. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Kuhlman, Wehling and President Lohmann.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (2) Trustees Cleary and Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

Public hearings for the Illiana Expressway will be held on February 22nd in Crown Point and February 23rd in Matteson.

President Lohmann reported that Crete wants out of dispatching and wants to find a new location for the dispatch center.

Results were provided of the January 30th Intergovernmental meeting.

The Board discussed merits of pursuing an underpass for Miller Street under the tracks between Reed and Gould Streets. President Lohmann also wants to know the Board's feelings on the future of old downtown Beecher. President Lohmann said because of the approved Illiana Expressway route location that the Village should update our Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Administrator Barber said there is federal grant money available for land use planning so this might be a good time to do it. The only requirement is that a chapter be included in the plan on flood control. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with updating the land use plan. The Board discussed having Don Thomas do the plan since he is our current planner.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Wehling reported the need to look at building a skate park again. He has received a letter from a resident asking for a community skate park.

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.

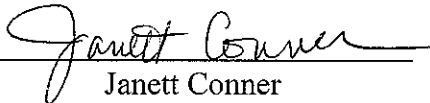
AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk