

**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
MARCH 12, 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 and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

GUESTS: Andrew Ahrendt, Chuck Hoehn, Bill Voss, Chris Szymanski, Kim Koutsky, Dennis Koehn, Wayne Haser and Michael Peters.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the February 13, 2012 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, 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 reported she has received 75 emails from people who have signed a petition through the website change.org in opposition to construction of the Illiana Expressway. 3) Clerk Conner reminded the Board that dog tags are on sale at the Village Hall. After March 15th the cost will go from \$10 to \$15 each. 4) Star Disposal will begin picking up yardwaste bags on April 2nd.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Wayne Haser, 26634 Winfield of Monee, was present regarding the agenda item pertaining to WPAL. A copy of an email received by Clerk Conner from Nancy Mostert of Monee also pertaining to WPAL was provided to the Board. Mr. Haser expressed concerns set forth in the email letter about the intergovernmental agreement being proposed and said the Village of Monee's action on this agreement was not done properly. Mr. Haser asked the villages to table this for a while and take time to provide more information to residents and others involved. President

Lohmann agreed that he would like to table this for now and would like to hold a meeting with members of PAL. President Lohmann expressed concerns about liability issues with this channel. Administrator Barber went through the points in the letter and addressed the items of concern. The matter was tabled until a future meeting. Mr. Haser thanked the Board for open discussion regarding this matter.

President Lohmann provided his annual State of the Village address.

President Lohmann reported on the Beautification Commission meeting held February 16th. Each member has been assigned certain areas of town to work on. The Commission is getting bids for extending the path from the gazebo to the depot. Baskets have been ordered for this year.

A Fourth of July Commission meeting was held March 1st.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that nine bids were received for the raffle car. The lowest bid was recommended to be awarded. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion authorizing the purchase of a Fourth of July raffle car from Terry's Ford for a 2012 Ford Mustang in the amount of \$21,500.68 and authorize payment so the car can be picked up. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustees Cleary and Ahrendt asked questions regarding the car bids.

The next meeting for the Ehlers Commission is scheduled for May 3rd.

A Youth Commission meeting was held February 15th. Trustee Kypuros reported on the Daddy-Daughter dance and the Mom-Son sock hop that was held. The next meeting is scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month.

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 Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report in the amount of \$205,823.48 and report of financial activity for the prior month. 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 January were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totalling \$79,609.91 to be paid was available for review. 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, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber reported that a one-year agreement was secured at the rate of 3.785 cents per kwh for electric power supply at the wells and sewer plant which is about 50% less than what we are paying now.

A budget workshop is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 26th at the Washington Township Center.

Trustee Cleary recommended tabling until the next Board meeting consideration of an ordinance amending Title 1 of the Village Code per ad hoc code review committee recommendations so he has further time to review it. There were no objections from the Board.

An electric aggregation referendum video produced by the WCGL was shown to the Board.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

The Village participated in a statewide tornado drill on Tuesday, March 6th. All systems were found to be functioning.

Chief Weissgerber reported that he met with Dr. McKay about animal control and the increase in costs this year over previous years. This was due to double the amount of stray cats taken in this year. A new system is being put in place to provide better reporting on animals taken in by the vet to determine who is bringing them in and where the animals are being found.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the assembly held at the high school the previous week for liquor education training. The assembly went well and the kids seemed interested in the presentation. Other liquor education programs are being looked at. Trustee Kuhlman reported that the speaker was very good.

Chief Weissgerber reported that Officer Hopper was at the senior breakfast last weekend along with Will County States Attorney Jim Glasgow.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Board discussed a proposal to take core samples of selected streets in the Village as a supplement to the road study. Trustee Szymanski recommended moving forward and made a motion to approve a proposal to take 14 core samples of selected streets in the Village for \$1,680 by Chicago Testing Labs as a supplement to the road study. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski reported that he is still working on the Pine Street flooding matter, and is also looking to re-establish a waterway to help the flooding issue.

A new way-finding and street name sign was installed at Gould Street and Indiana Avenue. The wording is too small and hard to read. A sign should be installed on Dixie Highway in the next couple of weeks.

Trustee Szymanski tabled until the next meeting the discussion on the change of the Village logo.

Trustee Szymanski explained the road salt dilemma. Administrator Barber explained that the Village had to buy so much salt this winter because it is part of our contract but due to the mild winter we have too much salt and limited room to store it. Once the remaining 250 tons are ordered that are required by contract, we will fill all available space. We will need to order less next year.

Trustee Szymanski explained the pros and cons of thermoplastic striping versus paint striping of Village streets.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The water billing register for the months of January and February were provided in the packet for review. The pumped/billed ratio has dropped to 65% which is not acceptable based on past history. Staff is proposing a leak detection survey be conducted this summer, and is looking at the different possibilities as to why this may be occurring. Superintendent Cowger reported that there were instances in the last billing period where a lot of water was lost which may have had some effect on these numbers, but the loss ratio is still unacceptable.

Superintendent Cowger provided an update on the vactoring of the orbital trough at the Sewer Plant. It is being drained, valves will be replaced and it is on schedule for next week.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The special Winter newsletter was mailed the week of February 27th.

The Spring newsletter is scheduled to be mailed April 16th. Trustee Kypuros asked that a write-up be included for the Youth Commission's events that will be held over the summer, since school will be out then.

The equipment has been ordered for Water Tower Park, and staff is awaiting delivery.

An update was provided on the Centennial monument repair.

Trustee Wehling reported on the Village sponsorship of the High School boy's basketball game. It was a chaotic night because of all that was going on that night, but the event was a success. Trustee Wehling feels we should do it again next year, but on a night when not so much is going on. There should also be a sign stating that it is a Village-sponsored event.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION #2012-01 - A Resolution authorizing an application to the State of Illinois for a \$75,000 planning grant using Hurricane Ike relief funds to update the Village's land use plan. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adopt Resolution #2012-01. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a meeting on February 23rd to discuss the digital sign at Dejong Equipment. A hearing is scheduled for March 22nd.

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 three options for pursuing the completion of fine grading and seeding of the vacant lots in The Preserve at Cardinal Creek Subdivision. The three prices obtained were as follows:

1. Hamilton: \$2,500.00
2. Baxter & Woodman: declined to submit proposal due to time frame.
3. HR Green: \$30,460.00

A copy of each of these proposals was provided in the packet for review. There was a large disparity in estimated costs from the engineers and it was not sure what these costs are based on. Trustee Szymanski reported that some of the difference was due to having full-time onsite inspectors and the number of site inspections. Stan Smagala is refusing to cooperate until he gets a sign off letter to release lots, according to Administrator Barber. Trustee Wehling asked if we know what it will cost to do fine grading. Trustee Szymanski reported on bid costs to do fine grading/seeding of lots. President Lohmann felt the cost is not the same because the contractors are not comparing the same kind of work. Trustee Cleary said that you will get what you pay for and felt if the Village goes with the lower bid, we will get bare minimum service. There was a consensus that this work needs to be done. It was also questioned how the excavators came up with their figures. The need to get prices on grading and seeding of all four pods was discussed. Trustee Wehling commented why put a lot of money into this since this is only a temporary fix. The lots will be built on at some point. This will only be done as a temporary grade to the lots. Some concerns were expressed about giving Mr. Smagala a check and what guarantee the Village would have that he pays the excavator. After lengthy discussion, Trustee Kypuros made a motion to contract Hamilton engineering in the amount of \$3,500

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for engineering the fine grading and seeding of Pods 1,2,3,4 in The Preserve at Cardinal Creek Subdivision and also for engineering on the bridge failure on Cardinal Creek Drive. Motion seconded by Trustee Szymanski.

AYES: (3) Trustees Szymanski, Kypuros and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (4) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Wehling and President Lohmann.

Motion failed.

It was decided that President Lohmann will call Stan Smagala and tell him the grading and seeding needs to be done and that he is to arrange for the work and get reimbursed from the escrow account

The Board discussed the bridge on Cardinal Creek Drive. Trustee Cleary felt an engineer should be used for this since it is a bridge. Trustee Ahrendt agreed and made a motion to obtain three proposals from engineering firms for repair of the bridge on Cardinal Creek Drive. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

After lengthy discussion, Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing payment in the amount of \$5,012 from the MGM Development escrow account for bills as listed in the packet. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported that he and Administrator Barber attended the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau meeting the previous week about tourism and economic development. Pictures of the Veteran's Memorial were submitted that may go in their brochure to promote our community.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve payment to the Will County Center for Economic Development in the amount of \$1,000 as the Village's pledge for 2012. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Action on an ordinance for an intergovernmental agreement on the use of the Cable Channel 4 through the creation of a tri-town cable commission was tabled earlier in the meeting.

President Lohmann commented on an article in The Daily Journal about multiple FOIA requests to some municipalities.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Kuhlman commented that he received a lot of complaints from residents about the sound quality of our meetings on the recording that plays on cable television. Chief Weissgerber will look into fixing this.

Administrator Barber mentioned the supplemental appropriation ordinance that will need to be done at the April meeting. This will be discussed at the budget workshop.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk