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**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 9, 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, Kuhlman and Wehling.
ABSENT: Trustee Kypuros.

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

GUESTS: Bill Hollahan, Nathan Dykstra, Jill Grosso, Mitch Darabaris and Kim Koutsky.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 12, 2012 Board meeting and March 26, 2012 budget workshop. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) There were no objections from the Board to a Proclamation declaring May, 2012 as Motorcycle Awareness Month in the Village of Beecher. 3) Clerk Conner reminded elected officials to fill out and return the Statement of Economic Interests form to the Will County Clerk by May 1st to avoid a late filing fee.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Clerk Conner swore in Michele LoSchiavo as a new part-time police officer and she was introduced to Board members.

The Board considered a motion authorizing a special use permit for a digital sign at DeJong Equipment, 383 South Dixie Highway. Trustee Cleary asked the petitioner about the level of light between day and night for this sign. Trustee Kuhlman expressed concerns about the sign's brightness at night. The petitioner said he would address any concerns that come up regarding these issues. After some discussion, Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing a special use permit for a digital sign at

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DeJong Equipment, 383 South Dixie Highway, noting the concerns that the Village has regarding lighting for both day and night and if there are any residents that have any issues that they will be addressed or the special use may be reconsidered. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman presented a Life-Safety Award to Officer Jamie Hawkins.

Jill Grosso, Library Director, introduced herself to the Board.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS:

President Lohmann reported that mulch and herbicide has been applied at Depot Park, and the Beautification Commission is working on extending the path. The Commission is looking for volunteers.

Trustee Szymanski reported that park preparation has begun in Firemen's Park for the 4th of July Festival. Car raffle tickets should be available soon. A Fourth of July meeting is scheduled for April 12th at Firemen's Grill.

Trustee Wehling reported that there is an Ehler's/Veteran's Commission meeting scheduled for April 12th at the Veteran's memorial. President Lohmann reported that the Amvets plan to hold a Memorial Day service at the old memorial.

No report was available for the Youth Commission.

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 and report of financial activity for March in the amount of \$184,318.98. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A list of bills totalling \$118,121.34 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: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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ORDINANCE #1153 - An Ordinance of supplemental appropriation for fiscal year 2011/2012. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1153. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion. AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2012-02 - A Resolution authorizing line item transfers for fiscal year 2011/2012. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2012-02. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion. AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

Results were provided from the March 26th budget workshop meeting.

Trustee Cleary explained the property tax levy for 2011, collectible in 2012.

RESOLUTION #2012-03 - A Resolution establishing new rules for the use of the Capital Equipment Sinking Fund Account (CESFA). Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2012-03. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion. AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

An update was provided on Title #1 revisions to the code book. Administrator Barber and Trustee Cleary are still working with the Attorney on changes. More time is needed to review this amendment. The matter was tabled.

The Board considered an ordinance adopting a comprehensive amendment to Title #2 of the Beecher Municipal Code. Trustee Cleary said a lot of things relating to Commissions is in this portion of the code. No action was taken at this time to give Board members more time to review.

Trustee Cleary reported that the electrical aggregation referendum passed. The Village will pass an intergovernmental agreement at the next meeting to join the Will Utility Aggregation Group (WUAG). Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing a public hearing on a plan of governance and proposed plan on aggregation of load for the May 14th Beecher Village Board meeting and at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18th for a regional public hearing at First National Bank of Grant Park. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion. AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

The annual report for 2011 as provided by Comcast was provided in the packet for review.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the Village has been removed as a defendant in the suit, Terry vs. Beecher Police Department.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize letting of bids for 2012 paint striping. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski reported that he is awaiting a report from the engineer concerning the crack sealing program for 2012.

An update was provided on way-finding signs. A way-finding sign was installed at the northwest corner of Dixie Highway and Penfield Street. The sign will be moved across the street on the east side of Dixie Highway on Cardinal Creek Golf Course property where an old church sign used to be. It is not easily seen where it is currently located. President Lohmann suggested getting permission in writing from Ron Lyon. Trustee Szymanski will talk to Ron Lyon about this. Administrator Barber also suggested to make sure not to put the sign in the state right-of-way.

Trustee Szymanski said it has been requested to put business names on the way-finding signs. His concerns about this included not being sure how to fairly implement this if other businesses want their names on these signs too, and if there are too many businesses on the sign the printing may be too small to read. Trustee Szymanski explained the history concerning the street sign replacement program. Pictures of the proposed signs were provided in the packet for review. There is some Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) money to do this. Because the Village has the MFT money to do this now, to get it done all at once, the Village may have to go out for bids and get an engineer which will cost more. It was discussed whether the project should be done in stages, in different fiscal years to avoid the additional cost of engineering. Possibly focus on putting in the new signs/poles on the main roads first and doing the other streets later. Public Works would install the signs. President Lohmann asked if the Village wants to stay with the same poles or purchase new ornamental poles. Some favored the more ornamental poles. The entire Board agreed to the more ornamental poles - 1st pole example in packet was preferred by the Board. Administrator Barber estimated the Village should be able to get 30 signs done at a time to comply with MFT requirements. The Streets and Alleys Committee will determine where the first signs will go. After much discussion, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to authorize payment to Brandon Industries at an amount not to exceed \$19,999 for the purchase of street poles and signs and ask for delivery by April 30, 2012 and authorize payment to be made out of this fiscal year. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Streets and Alleys Committee will determine where the first signs will go.

Trustee Szymanski requested to table discussion on the Village logo.

Street sweeping will begin next week.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

A water loss chart was provided in the packet for review.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported on the sewer plant grit removal project, which has been completed.

Administrator Barber reported on the insurance claim for the truck vs. hydrant. The Village was told it would be paid in full, but a check has not yet been received yet.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve payment for the purchase of a John Deere Gator TX 4 x 2 in the amount of \$6,617.40 from Shorewood Home and Auto. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The purchase of a Sensus Interrogator meter reader was discussed. The current equipment is obsolete, not working properly and parts are no longer available. The meter reader will be purchased with new budget money but needs to be ordered now since it will take 4-6 weeks to get and it is needed for meter reading the end of June. Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the purchase of a Sensus Interrogator meter reader in the amount of \$6,000. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A draft of the newsletter was emailed to Board members on Friday and went to the printer Monday.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the Water Tower Park equipment will not be put in until after the water tower is cleaned because they use bleach and it could damage the new equipment.

Work is scheduled for later this week on the Centennial monument reconstruction on Penfield Street.

Administrator Barber stated that safety inspections of all Village vehicles and facilities will be conducted this summer.

Trustee Szymanski reported that the Lion's Club approved the expense at their meeting to put a lime on the walking path at Lion's Club Park.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Board discussed off site signs and how it relates to temporary signs. The Board discussed the loop hole for being able to put temporary signs up for 30 days, take it down for a day, and put it back up again throughout the year. Trustee Wehling questioned some subdivision covenants that don't allow real estate signs on their own property and if we can address this issue in our ordinance. After some discussion, Trustee Ahrendt made a motion of referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) requesting a review of the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to digital signs and temporary signs. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the land use plan. The Hurricane IKE planning grant application has been submitted and the Village should know our status in about 60 days.

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 Ahrendt made a motion authorizing payments to The Preserve at Cardinal Creek, LLC from the MGM Escrow Account in the total amount of \$41,624.80 of which \$35,000 will be for fine grading and \$6,624.80 is to be paid for mulching, seeding and fertilizing of Units 1 and 2. The check for \$6,624.80 will be held until completion of mulching, seeding and fertilizing. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered engineering proposals for the repairs to the approaches of the Cardinal Creek Boulevard bridge. Administrator Barber explained the differences in the prices from the different engineers. It was questioned why the bridge was not registered by Baxter and Woodman when it was first done and if the Village needs to register it. Administrator Barber commented that he thought the bridge is not the problem, it is the approach that is the problem, but it is not an emergency. Maybe the Village should wait another year and see if it sinks more on the approaches. Superintendent Cowger recommended waiting a year. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to defer the proposals to repair the

approaches on Cardinal Creek bridge until next year. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (1) Trustee Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered a motion authorizing the watermain leak detection of all watermains in The Preserve at Cardinal Creek (MGM) and Nantucket Cove Subdivisions. Superintendent Cowger reported when he recently went out to the ring road in Nantucket Cove Subdivision he found an area where the ground was saturated with water and he opened a manhole in that area and found water running. Since no one lives in that area and it is a dead end area he has been observing the running water and determined we probably have a leak there. He recommended moving forward with the leak detection plan. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the watermain leak detection of all watermains in The Preserve at Cardinal Creek and Nantucket Cove subdivisions in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 and to televise any sanitary sewer line having excess flows not to exceed \$2,500 from the MGM and Nantucket Cove escrow accounts. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber reported he is getting estimates for grading and seeding pods 3 & 4 in The Preserve at Cardinal Creek (MGM) and asked the Board if they would like him to continue with this. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize work to proceed on this plan.

Trustee Szymanski reported on Pine Street flooding and said flooding by Walter Olson's property at the corner by the manhole, that the water is actually being dammed and has to go up before it reaches the natural waterway. A proposal has been received to get rid of the dam to a certain point so water will no longer have to rise to the level of the natural waterway. A cost was obtained to continue the natural waterway as recommended by the engineer and Soil and Water Conservation District. Administrator Barber reported the water in Church Road farm fields is being diverted into the Prairie Crossings' retention pond. There was much discussion regarding the details of this problem. Trustee Szymanski said the Village needs to go to the farmer with the proposal and get permission to get into his field to reestablish the waterway.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

An update was provided on the Cable Commission/WPAL. President Lohmann and Administrator Barber have met with Mike Margraff from WPAL to discuss the issues. Mr. Margraff still needs to meet with Peotone and Monee. The Board discussed that we need to be provided information on their finances to show where the money goes that we give them to operate the channel. President Lohmann would like to have some policies in place for this. President Lohmann recommended tabling this until other towns have had a chance to meet with WPAL.

President Lohmann reported on the state budget meeting hosted by Senator Donne Trotter.

President Lohmann indicated that he voiced some concerns during a recent visit at the Village Hall with Senator Donne Trotter.

The Village participated in strategic planning for the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitor's Bureau. President Lohmann reported the CSCVB is trying to find points of interest, attract national sporting events and tourism to the area.

The Board considered moving the July 9th meeting to a different date due to staff concerns that the meeting is too soon after the 4th of July to get the bills and agenda ready. After some consideration, it was decided to meet on July 9, 2012 to only pay bills. A regular meeting will be held on July 23rd.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to cancel the May 28th meeting of the Village Board due to the Memorial Day holiday. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered an application for Community Development Block Grant funds for the replacement of watermains on Maxwell Street. Administrator Barber explained that we are again eligible to apply for a grant and explained the eligible areas and asked if the Board believes this is a low mod area and if we want to bother our residents by asking for their income. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve an application for Community Development Block Grant funds for the replacement of watermains on Maxwell Street. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Review of prior closed session minutes for release to the public was deferred until the April 23rd meeting.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber said there is a problem that we are not getting information out to residents of what has been happening at our meetings since no reporters are present. He asked if we should start writing our own press releases. It was the consensus of the Board that this is a good idea. The Board discussed if schools have a program where journalism students could attend our meetings and report. Trustee Cleary recommended contacting Tami Roskamp. Trustee Szymanski expressed concerns of where articles in the paper are coming from since there haven't been any by-lines in many local stories lately. Staff will provide articles to the newspaper.

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


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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner

Janett Conner
Village Clerk