

**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
JUNE 11, 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: Susan Domenget from Southland Voice, David Fazzini and George Schuitema.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 14, 2012 Board meeting and two Public Hearings. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Clerk Conner asked which Board members would be riding in the 4th of July parade.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Administrator Barber noted the presence of the new Southland Voice reporter.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

President Lohmann reported that the next Beautification Commission meeting is this Thursday to put a planter in Depot Park. Planting is done at the library.

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Trustee Szymanski reported that there are flyers in the mailboxes announcing this weekend's Lions Club beef roast and 4th of July festival activities. Trustee Kuhlman announced that car raffle tickets were sold over the weekend at a car show in Peotone.

There was nothing to report on the Ehlers Commission.

Trustee Kypuros reported on the recent Youth Commission picnic. The Youth Commission is encouraging participation in the 4th of July Kiddie Parade, and also the Splash Valley trip on July 13th. The next meeting is scheduled for June 20th.

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 the report of financial activity in the prior month. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Treasurer Collins said he looked into the debit card issue for the Youth Commission. United Bank would be the best one to use for this. It does not have transaction fees as long as we stay below 25 transactions per month. The users would need to be signers on the account and each person would have their own debit card. Daily limits can be established and restrictions made as to when money can be withdrawn from the account. Treasurer Collins suggested putting a \$500 daily limit in the account and replenish the balance on a monthly basis. According to Treasurer Collins, another option is setting up a petty cash account. The Treasurer would replenish petty cash amount as it is being used. Trustee Cleary is concerned as to how this will work if the commission ends up having their own treasurer in the future as proposed in Title 2 code revisions. Trustee Kypuros explained how this would work and said that the treasurer of each commission would hold the money and issue the money after the chair of the commission authorizes the expenditures. Treasurer Collins indicated that the petty cash option makes the most sense. After some discussion, Trustee Szymanski made a motion to allow each commission to have a \$500 petty cash account and authorize the treasurer to set up the rules for the account. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

Treasurer Collins asked permission to report the 4th of July Commission checks written in June and July in a different format due to the large volume of checks written during these months. He would like to do the checks in a check register format instead of the spreadsheet format. There were no objections to his request.

Variance reports for the end of the fiscal year 2011/2012 were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totalling \$86,913.96 to be paid was available for review. Trustee Szymanski made a correction to the bill list to change the amount to Jake the Striper from \$12,000 to \$1,200. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills in the total amount of \$86,913.96 including the one correction. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1161 - An Ordinance increasing the maximum number of Youth Commissioners from eight (8) to twelve (12) and setting the minimum number to seven (7). Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1161. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board continued discussion on the future of commission finances as part of the comprehensive amendment to Title 2. Trustee Cleary noted the need to edit Title 2 to reflect changes made above relating to petty cash for commissions.

Administrator Barber asked if the Board wants to move towards having individual commissions to have their own treasurer or have the Village treasurer to handle commission finances. This takes up a lot of the Village treasurer's time. Trustee Szymanski said he would like to see a treasurer within each commission which reports back to the Village treasurer. Trustee Kypuros suggested the treasurer of each commission meet with the Finance chair once or twice per year as an additional control. Administrator Barber suggested that the elected official on the commission provide a detailed monthly report to be provided to the Board. It was discussed to have Treasurer Collins provide a template to each commission treasurer for them to follow for their monthly report and have each commission treasurer provide a monthly report to the Village treasurer that he can include with his monthly report to the Board. These reports will be provided to the Village on a monthly basis. Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the attorney to draft the amendments to Title 2 as discussed. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A letter from Comcast was provided in the packet advising the Village of some of the rate changes they are planning.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the June 2nd bike rodeo. Approximately 40 children participated. Two bikes were given away that were donated by Buddys and Goldie's Auto Body. Participants received

ribbons and prizes also. Trustee Kuhlman commended Linda Krug for her work on this.

ORDINANCE #1162 - An Ordinance amending the code pertaining to part-time police officers. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1162. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that the mosquito spraying will begin on June 21st.

The new squad car has been placed into service. Chief Weissgerber reported that the old squad, a motorcycle and a pickup truck will be sold by sealed bid, and that the information on the vehicles is on the Village website. Bids will be opened Friday, June 15th.

Trustee Kuhlman asked if the picture of Officer Hawkins receiving the lifesaving award was ever in the Beecher Herald. It was not believed so.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Trustee Szymanski stated that the road study by HR Green and the financing plan options discussed by the Committee were provided for information only at this time. The matter will be considered further this fall.

Trustee Szymanski recommended waiting to do crack sealing until next year. The Board discussed whether to use Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds or public infrastructure money. Administrator Barber noted that there were concerns about whether what was done last year was done correctly.

Paint striping is scheduled to begin this week.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the street sign and pole replacement should be completed before Friday. The Village has received many compliments from residents on how the signs look.

The Board considered a sidewalk replacement program or plan for the future. Trustee Szymanski asked for some input on how we would decide which sidewalks to repair if we decide to do a program. This. There are many sidewalks that need repair and only so much money to get it done. Trustee Szymanski said the committee did not feel any cost should be incurred by the resident since they are our sidewalks. Some discussion followed as to why not to do a 50/50 program. Sidewalks would only be replaced in areas that the residents can afford to do it and not necessarily where it is needed most. Administrator Barber noted problems with having to also replace some driveways due to the pitch when sidewalks are replaced. Many Board members felt the need to replace some sidewalks due to liability issues. The \$12,000 budgeted will not buy a lot of sidewalk replacement. The Board also discussed replacing current 4 foot wide sidewalks with 5 foot wide sidewalks. Trustee Szymanski proposed only replacing with current size. Trustee Szymanski asked if anyone has ideas, to forward them to Administrator Barber.

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Trustee Szymanski reported that a road study done on Hodges Street pertaining to possibly closing the railroad crossing at that location was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Szymanski referred to a letter in the packet regarding the Pine Street flooding issue.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to authorize the letting of bids for the replacement of watermain on Maxwell Street from Indiana Avenue to Penfield Street for bid opening on November 15th and bid award at the December Board meeting. Trustee Cleary 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 a proposal to bid spec and observe the replacement of watermain on Maxwell Street from Indiana Avenue to Penfield Street from Baxter and Woodman in the amount of \$18,500. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that Public Works has installed the park equipment at Water Tower Park. While performing the work they hit an old foundation in the park which slowed down the job. The old timbers around the edge of the old playground need to be replaced for safety purposes. Trustee Wehling stated that an additional \$2,000 may be needed to install a proper border. The park is not quite done yet but should be completed soon.

An update was provided on the Centennial memorial. The project has been completed and the insurance company has paid its full share of the cost of the repairs.

A newsletter ad sales update was provided.

The Board discussed a request for a cancer memorial to be located in Depot Park. Trustee Wehling talked to Dean Bettenhausen. He has a passion to put a memorial up in Beecher. Trustee Wehling suggested to Mr. Bettenhausen that this type of memorial would need its own place since the current memorial area is pretty full. They looked at areas in the north end of Firemens Park near the parking lot that Trustee Wehling felt would be a good place for the cancer memorial. The location is right next to the walking path where the cancer walk is held, and there is currently nothing in this area. Mr. Bettenhausen may put in \$15,000 for a monument and offered to help with ongoing maintenance.

gc

Trustee Wehling asked for input from the Board on the location. It was the consensus to authorize Dean Bettenhausen to move forward with his plan to construct a cancer memorial monument in the north end of Firemen's Park.

President Lohmann noted the Welcome to Beecher sign at the south end of town looks bad and needs to be maintained. Something should be done before the 4th. Administrator Barber noted that the Chamber owns the welcome signs and is not sure of the status of them.

Trustee Wehling also noted that he has received requests to put softball signs back up at the north end of town. The signs were put up on private property and the property owner took them down. Another location needs to be found or get the property owners permission to put the signs back up.

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 Ahrendt reported on the May 31st Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting. The PZC discussed monument signs, pole signs and a 60-day time limit for temporary signs. Trustee Cleary asked if pole signs or monument signs are better for visibility reasons. The Board discussed PZC's reasons for wanting monument signs instead of pole signs.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve payment of bills from The Preserve at Cardinal Creek and Nantucket Cove Escrow Accounts for mowing to BMS Lawn Care (Nantucket) in the total amount of \$870, and \$120 (The Preserves) to Jim Pratl to water seed. 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 a workshop regarding the Illiana Expressway. They received figures on traffic to travel on the different routes. CMAP gave population forecasts for Will County. Forecasts indicate the population and employment in Will County will double by the year 2040. Public hearings are to be held in July and August. The B3-Green route is favored.

President Lohmann reported on applying for the Governor's Hometown Awards and that we can only list accomplishments done in 2011. 2012 may be better for activities as far as the Youth Commission but the commission was created in 2011. Some discussion followed. The Village can still apply for all three if the Board wishes. The commissions would each have to provide a presentation to the State. It was the consensus of the Board to apply for the award for the Veterans Memorial only this year.

Administrator Barber reported on his meeting with Mike Margraff concerning an intergovernmental agreement with the Villages of Peotone and Monee to create a cable commission to oversee Comcast channel 4. The control of programming could not be agreed upon. Three towns would allow WPAL to operate the channel through a contractual agreement and can set forth programming rules, etc. It was discussed if this is something we want to get involved with since it isn't our fight. President Lohmann said he would like to work together with the other communities on these common issues. ORDINANCE #1163 - An Ordinance authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Villages of Peotone and Monee to create a cable commission to oversee Comcast channel 4. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1163. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (1) Trustee Kypuros. Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber noted that ComEd is doing tree trimming in town this week and doing some major cutting.

Administrator Barber reminded the Board that the July 9th meeting will be only to pay bills and consider urgent matters as previously discussed.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:


Janett Conner
Village Clerk