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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  
JULY 23, 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 and Kuhlman.

ABSENT: Trustee Wehling.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Lieutenant Rick Emerson, Treasurer Nelson Collins and Public Works Superintendent Harold "Bud" Cowger.

**GUESTS:** Susan Domenget from the Southland Voice, Kim Koutsky, Andrew Ahrendt and George Schuitema.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the June 11, 2012 and July 9, 2012 Board meetings. 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.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was given. 2) There were no objections to a Proclamation declaring July 23-29 as Accessibility Awareness Week in the Village of Beecher. 3) Clerk Conner reported that the Illinois Municipal League Conference will be held October 18-20 at the Hilton. Board members were advised to let her know if they would like to attend.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS**

President Lohmann provided a Beautification Commission report. He received a request from a boyscout who would like to build two new planters for the Penfield Street bridge for next year. No planters were put on the on the Penfield Street bridge this year because the planters rotted away. The Beautification Commission will supply materials. There were no objections to the boyscout's request.

Administrator Barber reported that attendance was down at the Fourth of July festival due to the heat and that the worst case scenario is that the festival broke even but the final numbers are not in yet.

Trustee Ahrendt reported that the next meeting of the Ehlers Commission will be held August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Veteran's Memorial.

Trustee Kypuros reported on the Youth Commission's Splash Valley water park outing -- 276 people attended. Scheduled upcoming events are as follows: August 11<sup>th</sup>- movie night at Firemen's Park; August 17<sup>th</sup> another waterpark trip is scheduled; August 31<sup>st</sup> -a circus is coming to town in conjunction with Beecher Recreation; and October 27<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date for Trunk or Treat.

**A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Variance reports for the previous month were included in the packet for review.

A report was provided in the packet stating Standard and Poors' credit rating for the Village effective 2012 through 2015.

Attorney Kuiper is still working on the wording of Title 2 and is recommending changing the effective date of the financial portions of the ordinance until the end of the fiscal year. There were no objections to this recommendation.

Administrator Barber reported electrical aggregation bids were opened the previous week and five bids were found to be qualified. First Energy was awarded the bid, which is 42% lower than the ComEd rate for power. Residents will receive notification in the mail. There will be no change to the customers in the billing other than the lower rate. Power is being purchased from 100% renewable energy sources. Residents may opt out at any time from this program with no penalty.


**B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

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

Lieutenant Emerson reported that there were only two arrests during the Fourth of July celebration. The festival crowd was quiet and appeared down due to the heat. Administrator Barber reported on complaints he received about firework debris landing in residents' yards on Catalpa Street. The firework display will be moved farther north and west next year to try and avoid the debris problem.

**C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE**

The Board continued discussion of a sidewalk replacement program. Trustee Szymanski reported that the Committee recommends moving forward with this program in the future and is looking for input from Board members on ways to finance it. Trustee Szymanski doesn't think residents should have to pay to replace the Village sidewalks. President Lohmann noted a section of sidewalk on Dunbar



Street that is heaved up and could be a liability. Only \$12,000 has been budgeted this year to do sidewalk replacement which will not get much done. Trustee Szymanski supported prioritizing and doing only the sections that need to be done the worst since funds are limited. The Board also discussed sidewalk widths and problems that would be created if making sidewalks the correct width with drainage, driveways, etc.

Trustee Szymanski reported that he went on site and met with Mr. Riemersma and the Muellers regarding the Pine Street flooding issue. The property owners will meet with Scott Lange to discuss what needs to be done on their properties.

Thirty-seven new street sign poles have been ordered. They will not arrive until October.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize drafting a letter to be sent to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) requesting flashing school speed zone signs on Route #1 from Hodges Street to Orchard Lane as requested by the Beecher School District.

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

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

The water billing register for the months of May and June were provided in the packet for review. Administrator Barber noted that the billed to pumped ratio increased to 81%.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the meter replacement program should be done by the end of September.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the hydrant painting has almost been completed.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that well #4 is back on line right now and seems to be running okay. Well #4 was struck by lightning on June 30<sup>th</sup>, causing over \$20,000 in damage.

Trustee Kypuros reported on the Well #5 pump and motor seizure that occurred on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Administrator Barber reported that Layne Western wants \$3,500 to provide a fact finding report on the cause for this. Administrator Barber felt that this was not necessary because it would not be covered by insurance anyway. Once the Village gets more information a decision will have to be made whether to replace the pump and motor or repair it. Administrator Barber also reported that costs will exceed \$20,000 which would require engineering unless we declare an emergency. Staff needs to look at the cost and options. Trustee Kypuros asked that a meeting be set up with Layne Western when he can attend.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion approving a contract with Gasvoda and Associates to rebuild the return activated sludge lift station at the Sewer Plant in the amount of \$15,750. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

Superintendent Cowger reported that more trim needs to be ordered for the area around the swing set in Water Tower Park.

Trustee Szymanski reported that he attended the Tractors for a Cure event and it seemed to go well. The cancer memorial will be discussed at the next meeting when Trustee Wehling is present.

The Trustees were asked for ideas for the Fall newsletter.

A proposed list of new rules for rental of Firemen's Park for major events was included in the packet for review. Administrator Barber reported that the rules were drafted after the Tractors for a Cure event. For future large events an official person should be designated to handle some of the issues that come up such as turning lights on and off, disabling alarms, moving picnic tables before and after the event, etc. Volunteers from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Commission did the work during Tractors for a Cure using the Village tractor but these things need to be planned for in the future. President Lohmann asked how anyone would know if the park is already rented if they wanted to use the park for a picnic, etc. It was asked under what circumstances each of these rules must be followed such as requiring police and who would be the employee responsible for being at the park for these kinds of events. This matter was tabled for further discussion when Trustee Wehling is present.

The Board discussed posting signs along Hunter's Chase East pond and Welton Stedt Park pond since these ponds have frontage owned by the Village and create a liability by drowning. This would also give the police authority to tell kids to leave if swimming or on the ice which has recently become a problem. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the posting of No Trespassing, No Fishing and No Swimming signs along Hunter's Chase East pond and the Welton Stedt Park pond. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board also discussed ponds owned by homeowner's associations (HOAs). These signs would only apply to Village-owned ponds. Trustee Cleary recommended contacting other property owners around the Hunter's Chase East pond to inform them about our concerns regarding safety. Administrator Barber will send a letter to the homeowners.

**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.

A Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

President Lohmann reported that public hearings regarding the Illiana Expressway will be held on July 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-8 p.m. at the Peotone High School and August 1<sup>st</sup> from 5-8 p.m. at the Lowell Middle School. Trustees were encouraged to attend the hearings and provide comments.

President Lohmann reported that the South Suburban Airport office released a statement that the Alternatives plan for the airport was approved by the FAA but he doesn't think they have a developer for the proposed airport yet.

President Lohmann reported that Trustee Wehling, Chairman of the Ehlers Commission has agreed to take the lead and provide the presentation to the State for the Governor's Hometown Award application.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to cancel the second regular Board meetings of the month in August and September. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed issues with the El Consuelo (Symbol) Ranch located at 744 West Church Road. President Lohmann explained that the Village has been battling with this for some time. There are problems with the Illinois Liquor Control Commission not wanting us to issue multiple individual special event liquor licenses for the rodeos and instead issue an annual license. This triggered additional requirements upon the ranch to comply with local and state codes pertaining to food, liquor and building codes. Code Enforcement Officer Riechers and the Building Inspector went to the Ranch a couple of weeks ago and inspected the property. There are building code violations that need to be addressed before the Ranch can hold another event. There are also issues with the annexation agreement which have never been resolved by the annexed party. The annexation agreement may need to be renegotiated. Lieutenant Emerson reported that the Police hasn't had any problems with his events but he recommended all servers be required to take BASSET training. There have been some parking issues and riding of horses on Church Road. The Ranch does provide their own security in addition to the Beecher Police providing officers at their events. There has also been no verification that sales tax is being paid on liquor sales occurring at the events. No more events will be allowed at the ranch this year. Sal Llamas will need to come to the Board to discuss these issues.

Administrator Barber reminded the Board that the meeting room has to be cleaned up for the next morning's 5:15 a.m. exercise class.

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

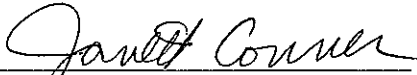
AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Jarett Conner, Village Clerk