

**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  
AUGUST 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 and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

**GUESTS:** Susan Domenget from the Southland Voice, George Schuitema, Ernie Bleicher, Andrew Ahrendt, Chris Szymanski, Bill and Laura Voss, Chuck Hoehn, Phillip Serviss, Bob Bacon and John Rizzi.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the July 23, 2012 Board meeting. 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) There were no objections to a request from the Knights of Columbus to hold their Tootsie Roll drive on September 21-23 in Beecher with September 28-30 as back-up dates. 3) Clerk Conner announced petition and filing dates for the April 9, 2013 municipal election.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** None.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS**

President Lohmann reported that a planter was installed in Depot Park and filled with dirt. Flowers will be planted in it next year.

The next meeting of the Fourth of July Commission will be held August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Wehling reported that the Ehler's Commission is to continue on for one more year. He is also working on a presentation to be provided August 28<sup>th</sup> in Springfield for the Governor's Hometown Award. The Commission hired Memory Makers Company for \$175 to create a video presentation from photos and video from the dedication ceremony. Trustee Wehling is hoping to get 3-4 military service veterans to be there for the presentation in Springfield. Randy Schmidt is also continuing the path from the memorial to the gazebo.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the Youth Commission had a movie night on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> with approximately 200 people in attendance. The Friday night waterpark event was cancelled because the weather will be too cool. A circus will be held on August 31<sup>st</sup> in Firemen's Park. Clowns will be in town on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> to let people know the circus is coming to town. A camp out will be held in Firemen's Park on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**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, the report of financial activity in the prior month, and Fourth of July expenditures for the last 60 days. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion waiving the \$10,000 minimum balance requirement in the Park Improvement Fund. 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 June were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills for the previous month were provided for review. Administrator Barber added a bill from Austgen Electric for Well #4 work in the amount of \$7,557.56 which was submitted late. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills totalling \$112,851.72 plus \$7,557.56 to Austgen Electric totalling \$120,409.28. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber reported that the audit presentation will be provided at the first Board meeting in October.

Administrator Barber provided an update on electric aggregation. Letters notifying residents of their ability to opt out of the program should go out next week. Resident Bob Bacon asked if ComEd will raise their delivery charge once people switch to a new energy supplier. Administrator Barber noted that an increase can only be approved by the ICC and would apply to all ComEd customers.

ORDINANCE #1165 - An Ordinance amending Title 2 of the Village Code with an effective date of May 1, 2013. The changes were just received from the attorney last week. Administrator Barber explained that wording has been changed relating to each commission and the role of the Treasurer. There is also a need to determine who the Village liaison is to each commission as is specified in the new ordinance wording. The Board discussed the new petty cash account system in the ordinance. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1165 amending Title 2 of the Village Code with an effective date of May 1, 2013.. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber noted that a Trustee needs to be appointed to the Beautification Commission and a Trustee designated as a liaison on the Fourth of July Commission prior to this ordinance taking effect. Also, the Historic Preservation Commission has been placed in the ordinance for the time in the future when the current Historical Society disbands. The portion of the ordinance relating to the Historic Preservation Commission is not meant to take effect until that happens.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that he has been spraying for mosquitos every week, usually on Thursday night.

## **C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE**

Summer banners have been put up and will remain until the holiday decorations go up in November.

The tree trimming and removal program for 2012 will begin next week.

Trustee Szymanski provided an update on the ash borer. Administrator Barber said that none of our ash trees have the symptoms of ones in Peotone at this point. Peotone budgeted \$50,000 for cutting down diseased ash trees in their parkways.

Trustee Szymanski said he is to meet with his committee before the next meeting to discuss sidewalks and try and determine what needs to be replaced.

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

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

The Board discussed waiving the bid requirements due to emergency and a motion authorizing Layne Western to repair the pump and motor at Well #5 based on one of the options presented in the packet. Trustee Cleary commented that every time maintenance needs to be done on this type of pump it has to be pulled out of the ground and costs a lot of money. Trustee Cleary felt the Village should have put in a line shaft pump initially. Trustee Kypuros commented that yearly operating costs should end up about the same with the maintenance/repair schedule. Trustee Szymanski said to maybe replace the current pump with a line shaft pump in 10 years when it needs to be replaced. Trustee Cleary was looking for more information on the proposal for installing new wiring. After much discussion on the details of this, Trustee Kypuros made a motion waiving the bid requirements due to emergency and approving option #3 authorizing Layne Western to repair well #5 at a price of \$38,799 with all the costs from this repair project to be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Account.

Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Cleary.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt asked how the well #5 repairs would affect the water pressure in town because pressure at her house is not very good right now. Her pressure problem started mainly this summer. Administrator Barber explained problems with the water system relating to well #5 going down. The matter can be investigated further once the well is repaired.

Administrator Barber noted that a new account was created in the accounting system to track well repairs done this year since they were unbudgeted repairs and a supplemental appropriation may have to be done later in the fiscal year.

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

Letters were sent to residents around Hunter's Chase East pond advising them of the Village's intention to post "No Trespassing" signs for the pond itself. Superintendent Cowger ordered eight signs and will install them around the pond when they arrive.

Trustee Wehling said there was nothing new to report regarding the Tractors for a Cure memorial construction.

The Board continued discussion on new regulations for large events in Firemen's Park not sponsored by the Village. Trustee Szymanski explained that there was an assumption by Tractors for a Cure that they would be able to use Village equipment to move things around and when they were told that they couldn't members of the Fourth of July Commission helped to move things with Village equipment. There were also problems with who would close the park at night since no one from the Village was around at the end of the event. This is why Trustee Szymanski proposed having a Village

representative at events over 250 attendees at no expense to the Village or Fourth of July Commission in the future. Administrator Barber also noted that there have been problems with lights being left on all night in the park and other issues with smaller events. Non-Village sponsored events are the ones that need to be looked at. Trustee Wehling said he would look at park rules closer, draft more rules and consider it at a future meeting. Trustee Szymanski asked if there should be some type of display board where it can be posted in the park as to when park is being rented, etc., to avoid conflicts.

Trustee Wehling reported resident Bobbie Jones would like to donate park benches in Firemen's Park. Trustee Wehling got paperwork from her and will get more information and provide a recommendation to the Board at a later time. President Lohmann said there is a picnic table in the northwest corner of Lion's Park that he doesn't think anyone ever uses and asked if it could be placed where it would be used more. There were no objections to moving that picnic table to Firemen's or Water Tower Park.

**F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

The Board considered an ordinance amending the zoning code pertaining to digital signs. Trustee Ahrendt provided a report. Administrator Barber explained that rule #5 was the only dissension on the vote at the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting requiring a legal non-conforming sign or pole sign be upgraded to a monument sign. Trustee Wehling expressed concerns about businesses that wouldn't be able to do a monument sign because of visibility issues. Trustee Szymanski didn't think pole signs should be completely prohibited but could be regulated. Phil Serviss of PZC explained PZC's reasons for wanting monument signs. The Village Board was invited to the next PZC meeting to discuss what they want relating to the monument signs and sign ordinance amendments.

Phil Serviss also commented that the PZC discussed the old downtown area at their recent meeting, and asked the Board to find a way to help promote the area with signage pointing to the old downtown to help the business owners in that area. This matter can be discussed at the September PZC meeting, along with the previous item. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to refer the digital and temporary sign ordinances back to the PZC for the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting when Village Board members will be present. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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 Cleary asked if the Code Officer could be asked to check out the high weeds on empty lots on Bald Eagle in The Preserves at Cardinal Creek and Trustee Ahrendt noted high weeds on some empty lots in Prairie Crossings.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve payment of bills: \$18,500 from Nantucket Cove Escrow to Lange Excavating for backfilling curbs and low areas in sections of the subdivision; and \$1,560 to

Commonwealth Edison from MGM Escrow to settle an easement agreement for land under the substation for a sanitary sewer force main. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked if the Village is going to hire out the watermain repair in Nantucket Cove in the island area or if Public Works would do the job. It was the consensus of the Board that the work should be done by Public Works. Superintendent Cowger was asked to track repair time so it can be charged to the Escrow Account. Superintendent Cowger said it would be repaired by the next Board meeting.

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

President Lohmann reported on the Illiana Expressway hearings he attended and stated that it didn't appear that Indiana residents wanted the road at all. The survey the Village conducted about a year ago indicated that 63% of residents supported the expressway and preferred that it go south of town, which is the route the Village is supporting.

RESOLUTION #2012-08 - A Resolution of support for the B3 corridor for the Illiana Expressway. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2012-08. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann reported that he attended a meeting last Friday with Will County Labor and Business Coalition and our State Senator. The group talked about setting up an airport authority again, a Board of 11 members. President Lohmann said each iron ring community should have a vote on the airport authority, and felt development district legislation should go in at the same time as the airport authority.

An Intergovernmental meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center.

President Lohmann appointed Denis Tatgenhorst to the Tri-Town Cable Commission. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve President Lohmann's appointment. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann recommended cancelling the second meetings in October, November and December. This matter will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

## H. NEW BUSINESS

Resident Phil Serviss said he heard Bult Airport was extending the airport across Western. It was unknown if this was true or not.

Trustee Szymanski noted an exhibit in an Illiana Expressway report that Crete still plans to expand their planning jurisdiction area down to Beecher.

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

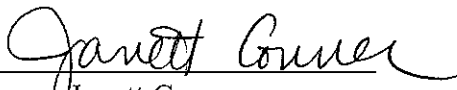
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk