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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
SEPTEMBER 10, 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, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Szymanski.

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

GUESTS: George Schuitema, Kim Koutsky, Joe Durante and Judy Ogalla.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 13, 2012 Board meeting and August 29, 2012 Joint Taxing Body meeting. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, 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 announced that the Will County Land Use Department is holding a household hazardous waste collection day in Beecher and a tire collection day in Peotone. 3) Clerk Conner reminded Board members to complete their Open Meetings Act Training by the end of the year.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Judy Ogalla, Will County Board candidate, introduced herself to the Board.

Joe Durante, a resident from Fox Hound Trail, expressed his desire to put a pool and fence in his yard. After doing research on zoning he discovered the Village only allows 5' fences and Mr. Durante wants a 6' fence. He said he wants the higher fence because there is a large grade difference between his and the neighbor's yard so a 5' fence wouldn't give them much privacy. His neighbor also has a barking dog. Mr. Durante has talked to his neighbors and they indicated they would have no objections to this. He asked for the feeling of the Board as to whether he might be approved if he applies for a variance

before he pays the \$750 application fee. Administrator Barber noted that the variance needs to be based on specific hardship so as not to set precedent for the future for other people wanting to do the same. Mr. Durante is willing to pay \$750 fee if he thinks he has a good chance of being approved, but doesn't want to pay if he doesn't have to. Trustee Ahrendt had concerns about setting precedent. Much discussion followed regarding the variance process. Kim Koutsky said the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) would be looking for a true hardship and unique circumstances. Trustee Ahrendt asked that Administrator Barber look into how many other lots in Hunters Chase Subdivision have the same circumstances (large grade difference) so the potential for other similar requests can be considered. Board members wanted to hear the facts and consider the matter after hearing from PZC. Mr. Durante indicated that he is open to any Board members stopping by his house to look at the yard. Administrator Barber suggested to have Mr. Durante provide the Village with a \$750 check and full application for a variance. The check will be held and not cashed until after Mr. Durante can come to the next PZC meeting and discuss the matter with them before moving forward with the hearing process so he may be able to get a feel for how the PZC will consider his request.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Administrator Barber reported that approximately \$6,000 was lost this year between the proceeds from the 4th of July Festival and overall park expenses.

On behalf of the Ehlers Commission, Trustee Wehling provided the presentation he gave in Springfield for the Governor's Hometown Award. He explained how the presentation was given and the criteria for judging. Three Amvets accompanied Trustee Wehling to the presentation in full uniform and he wanted to thank them for coming: Roy Segert, US Army Veteran, Jim Gordon, US Army Veteran and Hank Martin, US Navy Veteran. A copy of the video will be sent to WPAL so it can be viewed by residents. Trustee Wehling indicated that if we get to the next level we will need to provide another presentation for the Governor's Cup Award. Staff will make copies of the DVD of the entire service as well as the presentation in case anyone wants one.

Trustee Kypuros reported that there will be a Youth Commission campout in Firemen's Park on September 15th. Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 27th with the location yet to be determined. October 29th is the tentative date for a trip to a haunted house.

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 approving the Treasurer's report and the report of financial activity in August. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the month of July were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totalling \$63,938.69 to be paid was available for review. Some changes were made to the list of bills reducing the original total. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as amended in the total amount of \$63,938.69. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided regarding electrical aggregation. Letters were sent out to residents the previous week. Trustee Cleary noted that ComEd doesn't produce power anymore. There will be no change in service or where resident's electric bills will come from.

Trustee Cleary asked Board members to provide Administrator Barber with any recommendations for the five-year financial plan.

Title 3 amendments were provided to the Board in a separate packet. This item will be on the agenda for the next meeting's consideration. Administrator Barber noted that the Board should focus on eight major points indicated on the cover memo if Trustees don't have time to read the entire title. Some discussion followed on possible changes to business licensing.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

The Board considered a petition from the residents of Hunter's Chase East for a three-way stop intersection at Rolling Pass and Skyview Lane. Chief Weissgerber explained the report in the packet including an aerial view of the intersection and said the data collected so far does not warrant a multi stop at that intersection at this time. Therefore he did not recommend a 3-way stop at this intersection. There is currently one stop sign. Reports show only 4 cars per hour in that area which does not warrant more signs. Chief Weissgerber will write a letter to all those who signed the petition asking for the stop sign to let them know results of the study and the Board's action. The letter will be signed by Public Safety Chair Kuhlman. Police will do special enforcement if speeding is an issue in that area. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to accept Chief Weissgerber's recommendation and deny the request to put 3-way stop at Rolling Pass and Skyview Lane. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger said the Village is doing everything possible to protect residents from West Nile Virus through the mosquito abatement program.

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held to discuss the hiring of two part-time officers.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Administrators of Monee, Peotone and Beecher are meeting to decide if there is any benefit in participating in a refuse contract renewal process collectively. Administrator Barber explained some of the issues that are being discussed by the different towns. Trustee Kypuros made a motion adopting a refuse contract renewal strategy and authorize the Village President to negotiate on behalf of the Village. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros reported on the sidewalk replacement program. Public works will be replacing poor and dangerous sections of sidewalk. Administrator Barber asked when the sidewalk torn out last week on Dunbar Street will be replaced. Public Works Superintendent Cowger is waiting for the area to settle. Trustee Wehling asked about marks in old sidewalks to identify property lines and whether those will be put back in. Trustee Cleary asked what happens when sidewalks to be replaced intersect with driveways and what are we doing with those. These questions will be asked of the Committee chair at the next meeting.

A report was provided on the street name sign pole replacement program.

Leaf collection begins Monday, October 15th.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion accepting a proposal from D.R.W. Services, Inc. in the amount of \$21,628.30 for the purchase and installation of a new fuel dispensing system, and authorizing a 50% down payment for the equipment. A copy of the proposal was enclosed in the packet for review. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion accepting a proposal in the amount of \$4,014.08 from A.T.S.I. to install a server and computer package for the Beecher Community fuel system. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered a 10-year road improvement plan for the Village. There was discussion on doing a loan on the ½% sales tax, banking the funds, economic trends and when to replace certain streets. The Committee will meet and look further at how often to do these road projects, what roads need to be fixed when and how to finance them.

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 July and August were provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Kypuros reported on the status of lightning damage to well #4. Superintendent Cowger said he had a meeting with ComEd about alternative protection. ComEd has replaced arrestors, which were probably undersized. Superintendent Cowger is waiting for a report from ComEd.

An update was provided on the Maxwell Street watermain.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve a proposal in the amount of \$14,635 from DPS Equipment Services to rebuild the clarifier #1 drive assembly. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger reported that two leaks in service lines in Nantucket Cove have been repaired. He will keep an eye on that area because he feels there could be more problems in the future. Leak detection will be conducted in Prairie Crossings. Staff suspects there may be a leak in that area.

The leak detection survey for The Preserves at Cardinal Creek and Nantucket Cove Subdivisions was provided in the packet for review. There was some discussion on the leaks and how much water was being lost everyday.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Board considered a request for use of Firemen's Park in 2013 for Tractors For A Cure. Dean Bettenhausen will be at the October 8th meeting to discuss this. Trustee Wehling reported that a meeting will be held to form a committee to discuss a cancer memorial.

The Fire Department wishes to build a garage behind the fire station, which will involve the use of some Village-owned park property. The area has been staked out. Trustee Wehling is concerned about how far it will stick out into Firemen's #1. Board members were asked to drive by the area and look at the proposed garage location. The Fire Department is proposing a two-story 40 x 30' building to store additional equipment. The Village will have to relocate the dumpster pad. More information will be forthcoming.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the picnic table has been removed from Lion's Park. It is at the sewer plant.

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 PZC meeting will be held on Thursday, September 27th and all Trustees were invited and encouraged to attend. Conditions for digital and temporary signs will be discussed.

The Village has been notified that it did not receive planning grant funds from Hurricane Ike.

The Board considered a request to amend the Village's Zoning Code to allow chickens as a special or permitted use in a residential district by Kim Coleman of 674 Indiana Avenue. The petitioner was not present. Committee Chair Ahrendt recommended denial of this request since there are diseases carried by these animals and she doesn't feel this is the proper area for this. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to deny the request to amend the Village's Zoning Code to allow chickens as a special or permitted use in a residential district. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve a payment from the Nantucket Cove Escrow Account to Homewood Disposal in the amount of \$338.28. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Results were provided from the August 29th Intergovernmental meeting.

President Lohmann reported that an Illiana Expressway update was provided at the Intergovernmental meeting.

An update was provided on the third regional airport. At a recent meeting, President Lohmann asked about what roads would be closed. Airport representatives indicated their plan to keep Will-Center, Offner, Ashland and Indiana Avenue roads open. Ashland would be upgraded and Eagle Lake would be a cargo entrance. Selling water to the airport was discussed. Aqua Illinois may try to run water to the airport and area towns would lose control over providing service to this area. The airport would be in the Kankakee watershed. Some discussion followed on the watersheds.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve a letter of support to Will County for a feasibility study of using the Goodenow Landfill for a solar-powered generating station as a pilot project. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion cancelling the second Board meetings of the month in October, November and December. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked if the Board wanted to hold an upcoming public officials forum, either in December, 2012, or in May or June, 2013. Trustee Kypuros supported holding a forum. Staff was authorized to set up a forum for the first meeting in June, 2013.

H. NEW BUSINESS

There being no further business to discuss in open session, Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:39 p.m. to discuss the hiring of two new part-time Police officers. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 9:54 p.m. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.


AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

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, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:


Janett Conner
Village Clerk