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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  
OCTOBER 8, 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, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Ahrendt.

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

**GUESTS:** Andrew Kriz from the Beecher Herald, Janet Piepho, George Schuitema, Kim Koutsky, Dean Bettenhausen and Kent Heisner.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the September 10, 2012 Board meeting. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, 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 reported on the Clerk's training she attended in Springfield.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Janet Piepho was present and explained she recently purchased the property at 281 Orchard Lane and got a building permit to put on an addition. She also put up a brick wall in front of the property and planned to put an ornamental railing on top. She is on a corner lot and the wall/railing will not meet the current Zoning Ordinance pertaining to not allowing fences on side yards of corner lots. She wasn't aware of the ordinance regarding corner lots and didn't consider the railing to be a fence. Administrator Barber indicated the ordinance would clearly require a variance for this wall/railing. The fence/railing would be a total of 48" in height including the railing and concrete brick wall currently in place. Ms. Piepho showed pictures of the current brick wall and type of railing she wants to put in, and requested referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission

(PZC) for a fence variance. It was the consensus of the Board to refer Janet Piepho to the PZC for her variance request.

Dean Bettenhausen was present and thanked the Village for this year's Tractors for a Cure event and the help he received. He indicated he is willing to pay Bill Voss for his help in the park next year. The event raised \$40,500 this year, and he is working on next year's event. Mr. Bettenhausen asked permission to hold his event in Firemen's Park next year on July 13, 2013. He asked what could be bought for the kitchen since he has money in his budget and wanted to offer something to help the Village for using the park. The Board and staff will give it some thought and let Mr. Bettenhausen know. A beer-only liquor license was requested for 2013 with the same hours as this year. He said he still needs to figure out his parade route for next year and let the Village know. There were no objections to his request. The date has been placed on the park calendar for 2013.

Dean Bettenhausen provided an update on the Board that is being set up for the cancer memorial which will have representatives from the Village, Washington Township, an attorney, etc. He explained the tentative layout for the memorial and how he envisions it. Trustee Wehling is working with Mr. Bettenhausen on his plan. Trustee Wehling asked Superintendent Cowger not to plant any trees in that area.

Kent Heisner, Will County Board candidate, introduced himself to the Village Board. Mr. Heisner said he is asking local taxing bodies what they would like from their Will County Board members and what is currently lacking.

### **REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS**

President Lohmann reported on the Beautification meeting from last Thursday. The Housewalk is planned for the first Sunday in December.

Trustee Wehling reported that a brick order for the Veteran's Memorial just went in and the bricks will hopefully be installed before winter. Trustee Wehling reported that the memorial project did not make the final cut for the Governor's Hometown Award. The bollards for the memorial have come in and were installed.

Trustee Kypuros stated that the Youth Commission's Trunk or Treat event will be in the Beecher High School parking lot on October 27<sup>th</sup>. A trip to a haunted house is scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> for Junior High and High School children ages 15 and under. The Youth Commission will provide transportation. Attendees pay for their own tickets.

### **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: (5) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

A list of bills totalling \$135,683.64 to be paid was available for review. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Auditor Curt Dykstra provided a presentation on the Village audit for Fiscal Year 2011/2012, and congratulated the Board on their strong credit rating with Standard and Poors. Mr. Dykstra introduced Marcy Colberg to the Board and explained her partnership in their firm. Mr. Dykstra provided an overview of the audit and its meaning, reporting that the audit is unqualified. The Board was given an opportunity to ask questions. Trustee Cleary commented on collateralization of deposits and the need to determine if it is required by State statute. Staff will investigate and clarify if required under statute or by local policy. Trustee Cleary made a motion to accept the audit report for Fiscal Year ending April 30, 2012 and authorize the appropriate filings. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed the drafting of a tax levy for 2012 collectible in 2013. Administrator Barber explained that he discussed with President Lohmann a 0% tax levy increase and the impact on the budget. Administrator Barber provided two options for the Board to consider, 0% increase or 2% increase for comparison and answered questions on the reports provided. President Lohmann indicated that he would like to see a 0% tax levy increase, and felt the Village could do this using reserves. Trustee Szymanski said this was discussed in the past and he asked if we can afford to do this now. Administrator Barber indicated the Village would need to use reserves or make cuts if we go for a 0% tax levy increase. Trustee Kypuros agreed with President Lohmann and felt the Village should make cuts and not raise taxes but he doesn't think we should use surplus. Trustee Cleary supported budgeting conservatively since we don't know when we get our payments from the State and was concerned about the long lasting effects of a 0% increase. There were also concerns about the effect of contract negotiations for the police union next year. The Board discussed that revenues have been under forecasted in the past. There was much discussion on this matter. George Schuitema asked if the Village could do real estate tax rebates instead of 0% increase. Money can be given back in abatements if it is not needed. President Lohmann recommended a 0% levy increase by encumbering surplus from previous years, becoming more efficient, cutting waste and not cutting any personnel. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to authorize drafting a 0% tax levy increase for 2012 collectible in 2013. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

ORDINANCE #1166 - An Ordinance amending Title #3 of the Village Code. Trustee Cleary made a motion approving Ordinance #1166. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

Title #4 ordinance amendment will be considered further at the November meeting.

### **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Halloween trick-or-treat hours are set for 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the Village is done with the mosquito abatement program for this year.

Trustee Kuhlman said he has received several complaints that residents can't hear the recorded meetings on the cable channel. Chief Weissgerber is working with Mike Margraff from WPAL to fix the problem with the sound only coming out of one speaker.

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

The street name sign replacement program phase #2 has begun and should be completed by Thanksgiving.

The leaf collection program began earlier in the day due to a lot of leaves already out for pickup.

The Board considered a public sidewalk replacement policy. Trustee Szymanski is concerned about replacing sidewalks with markings for lot lines as discussed at last meeting since the accuracy couldn't be determined without surveys being done. Trustee Szymanski provided a written list of repair/replacement guidelines for review. This matter was provided for information and will be discussed further at a later time.

The Board considered a 10-year road resurfacing plan. Option A, to pay as we go and do a portion of the roadwork every two years, has been made part of the five-year plan. Trustee Szymanski recommended this be deferred for further discussion until January since pricing on asphalt is not currently available.

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

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

Since 2007 the Village has four water accounts in the system totalling \$1,538.35 listed as receivable in the general ledger but there is little hope of collecting these amounts because of residents who have moved away and not paid the bill. Administrator Barber explained the history on this. Trustee Kypuros made a motion declaring four old water accounts in the total amount of \$1,538.35 as uncollectible. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros reported that a less expensive option for repairs on Well #5 have been found. The Village can purchase a new 1000 gpm pump and motor that will work with the existing set up for \$30,948 which should last 10 years. The Committee decided this will be the best alternative. Trustee Kypuros thanked President Lohmann for his persistence on this matter. Trustee Cleary questioned if the new 100hp motor was inverter rated and cautioned that the documentation on the Franklin 50hp motor indicated that it was not inverter rated and would require low-pass filters to be installed if certain conditions were met and these included IGBT type VFD is used and the cable length is greater than 50 feet. The VFD that is installed uses IGBT technology and the expected cable length is greater than 100 feet so a filter would be required but this filter is not indicated in the expected cost to install the 100hp motor and was also not included in the cost to install the 50hp motor. There were additional discussions concerning what would need to be done to make the existing components that are already installed function with the new Franklin motor. Trustee Kypuros said Layne Western assured us that all pump installation would be done by manufacturer specifications based on the price given.

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

Clerk Conner emailed a copy of the Fall newsletter to all Board members the previous Friday and copies were available for review. According to Clerk Conner, selling ads seems to be a little easier since the newsletter is printed in color.

Trustee Wehling provided an update on the Fire Department proposal to build a garage behind the fire station. This is for information only at this time but the department will probably make it a larger building since the Fire District board has agreed to provide an offer to EASTCOM to build a 4,000 square foot dispatch center onto this building and lease it to EASTCOM. This may require the building to be relocated.

#### **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.

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The Board considered an ordinance amending the Zoning Code pertaining to temporary off-premise signs. Trustee Kypuros asked questions since he wasn't able to make the PZC meeting, asking if this applies to real estate signs and if those would still be allowed over weekends. The Board discussed what the difference is between types of signs. Administrator Barber said the plan is to continue to do what has been done in past and allow the off premise real estate signs on the weekends only. Trustee Wehling said he can have a representative from the Board of Realtors come out and explain rules for these real estate signs so the Board can better understand what we can legally do. Some discussion followed.

ORDINANCE #1167 - An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code pertaining to temporary off-premise signs with an effective date of January 1, 2013. Trustee Wehling made a motion to amend the Zoning Code pertaining to temporary off-premise signs then amended the motion to add the effective date of January 1, 2013. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The PZC will continue its discussion on the criteria for special use permits for L.E.D. signs at the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

To date, the Village has not received a formal application for the fence variance on Crooked Creek. The petitioner has until October 17<sup>th</sup> to submit the application for the October 25<sup>th</sup> PZC meeting.

**G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Lohmann reported that there will be a meeting October 9<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. at the Peotone Atrium regarding the Illiana Expressway.

A report was provided on the South Suburban Airport. There is pending legislation that is not in our best interest. We have not been given enough seats on the airport authority. A resolution is being drafted for Iron Ring towns. All Boards will consider this resolution in November.

Information was provided in the packet for a Will County Emergency Management Crisis Leadership Seminar for elected officials. The Board should let Administrator Barber know if they want to attend.

A meeting concerning the Village refuse contract will be held on Thursday. President Lohmann asked if anyone had suggestions on refuse contract services that can be negotiated to let him know. Perhaps options for yardwaste can be negotiated or a refuse container furnished by the refuse company.

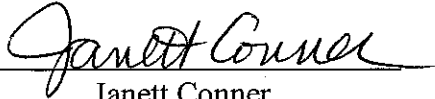
President Lohmann said Monee still hasn't designated a representative for the WPAL Commission.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janett Conner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Janett Conner  
Village Clerk