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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
DECEMBER 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, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

GUESTS: Andrew Kriz from the Beecher Herald, George Schuitema, Kim Koutsky and Janet Piepho.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 12, 2012 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction to the second paragraph of page 5 adding the words "the overhead power". Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, 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 announced that dog tags are now on sale at the Village Hall. 3) Clerk Conner announced the filing dates for the April 9, 2013 election.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

President Lohmann provided a report on the Holiday Housewalk. The event was very successful and a lot of people are interested in having their homes featured in the Housewalk next year. 2013 is scheduled to be the last year for the Housewalk.

There was nothing to report for the Fourth of July Commission or Ehler's Commission.

The Youth Commission had a float in the recent Festival of Lights parade. Trustee Kypuros reported on upcoming events for the Youth Commission: Zoo Lights trip to Lincoln Park Zoo on December

16th; Open bowling at Striker's Bowling Alley on January 21st; Daddy-Daughter Dance on February 16th; and Mom-Son Dance on March 9th.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

The Board considered an ordinance approving a variance for a front yard fence at 281 Orchard Lane. The Planning and Zoning Commission held a hearing and unanimously recommended the variance be granted with two conditions: that the wrought iron look of the fence as provided in the photos be used, and that the public walk on the vacant lot purchased to the north be installed within six months of the public walk being installed on the lot to the north. Petitioner Janet Piepho was present to address any questions. Trustee Cleary asked if a building permit was requested for the fence that was put up. Administrator Barber said no. Trustee Cleary asked since no building permit was obtained, how does the Village know the foundation is designed correctly for safety reasons? Trustee Cleary also asked for information on the hardship determination on this request and what made this a hardship. Janet Piepho said she didn't know she needed a building permit because the landscaper handled it and they thought it was just part of the landscaping so didn't think a permit was needed and responded that the only real hardship was because the wall was already put up. Also, she felt the wrought iron fence was more decoration than an actual fence. Ms. Piepho said that there is a footing underneath the wall. President Lohmann noted that this sets a precedent for future requests of this type. Ms. Piepho stated that it is not her intention to extend the wall/fence any farther into the adjoining lot which she and her husband also own. Administrator Barber noted that the attorney and planner defined this as a front yard fence by our ordinance.

ORDINANCE #1172 - An Ordinance approving a variance for a front yard fence at 281 Orchard Lane subject to the two conditions set forth by the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) as noted above. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve Ordinance #1172. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (1) Trustee Cleary

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered amending the Beecher Zoning Ordinance pertaining to special use permits for L.E.D. signs. The PZC recommended approval of the Ordinance by a vote of 5-2. Administrator Barber explained the many differences of opinion on the PZC on this Ordinance. Trustee Cleary expressed concerns about the possibility of flooding Route #1 with too many L.E.D. signs since he didn't feel the ordinance addressed density and felt that it should. Administrator Barber explained that the PZC felt this should be addressed on a case-by-case basis. The PZC had concerns that having specific requirements for density would not be fair since only those that apply for a permit first might be allowed to have a sign. It would not give all businesses the same opportunity to be considered for one of these signs. Trustee Kypuros asked how many of these requests have been looked at since 2009. There has been only one request since then. PZC member George Schuitema said he would look closely at each request and wouldn't allow these signs to be too close to each other. It was discussed that it is difficult to determine how to define density. President Lohmann asked if the matter

should be sent back to PZC for further consideration. Trustee Cleary expressed concerns with legal implications of regulating future requests. The Board discussed whether a density can be established without causing future problems. After much discussion, Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to table an amendment to the Beecher Zoning Ordinance pertaining to special use permits for L.E.D. signs and authorize a Village Board workshop to discuss this issue further. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review. Administrator Barber provided a report in the Treasurer's absence, and noted transfers made in November. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and report of financial activity in the prior month. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

A list of bills totalling \$185,012.37 to be paid was available for review. Administrator Barber explained some of the larger bills on the list. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The five-year financial plan for fiscal years 2013-2017 has been distributed and will be used to set up the budget for the next fiscal year. Administrator Barber said he would like the Board to review the plan and vote on the resolution at the January Board meeting.

A schedule has been developed for drafting a budget for fiscal year 2013/2014. Trustee Cleary will look at dates to see if they will work in order to meet and discuss the budget. The March 26th date for a workshop meeting listed in the packet should read March 25th.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to move the time of the regular Village Board meeting on March 25, 2013 from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the purposes of holding a budget workshop. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber noted that any candidates for office will be given a packet and invited to the workshop meeting.

The Attorney is not ready with Title #6 revisions of the Village Code yet. It will be considered at the next meeting.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve a proposal from Smith, Koelling, Dykstra, and Ohm to complete the Village's audit for a period of three years including 2013-2015. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Comcast notified the Village of price increases effective January 1, 2013.

The Village received initial estimates of health insurance premiums for fiscal year 2013/2014. Administrator Barber reported that he is getting rates early because Gallagher is planning ahead to comply with new health care law. The premium increase for July 1, 2013 is being estimated at 5%.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the Beecher Fire District donated a 1999 Suburban to the Police Department. It is in good condition and has lower miles than half the cars in our fleet. It is on a truck chassis so it may be used as a command vehicle. The Police Department is looking to have it repainted. There is a need to replace a radio, but the Police Department can keep much of the equipment that came with the vehicle. The Chief plans on eliminating one of the current cars when putting this vehicle in rotation.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Leaf collection has been completed for 2012.

The holiday decorations are all put up.

A report was provided on snow removal and ice control. Public Works is one driver short.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

The Water Department monthly report will be provided at next month's meeting. Trustee Cleary asked about the water billed/pumped report. It will also be provided next month after the next water billing has been done.

The Sewer Department monthly report was included in the packet for review.

The Board considered a bid award for the Maxwell Street watermain replacement project. Eleven bids were received and the lowest bidder was Brandt Builders. Trustee Cleary asked since this bid amount is less than the engineer estimate does all information comply with engineer's specifications in the bid. Trustee Cleary is concerned why the bid was so much less than the engineer's estimate, and asked if the details were reviewed to make sure all detail of the scope of the project is included in the lowest bid. Administrator Barber explained that the engineer provided a spreadsheet to compare specifications and this project is simpler than the last project we had a problem with. Brandt Builders has also done other projects for Beecher and we have never had any problems with their work. Trustee Kypuros felt that the bid came in lower due to the time of year. Trustee Szymanski discussed to have the engineer provide a letter in the future with more specific wording that complies with all bid specifications to clarify this. After some discussion, Trustee Kypuros made a motion to award a bid for the Maxwell Street watermain replacement to Brandt Builders in the amount of \$98,373. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros provided an update on sewer plant repairs. Approximately 474,000 gallons of liquid sludge were hauled out of the plant the previous week.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve a proposal from Baxter and Woodman Engineers to renew the five-year operating permit for the sewer treatment plant at a cost not to exceed \$12,000. Trustee Szymanski 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

Administrator Barber and President Lohmann talked to Fire Chief Lagesse. The Fire Department is still looking at various locations for their new building so there was nothing new to report.

The ice rink has been put up in Firemen's Park.

Trustee Wehling has a Tractors for a Cure memorial meeting set up in January to discuss ideas for the cancer memorial. Things are going well and he has an enthusiastic committee.

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.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann reported that airport legislation is not going anywhere since Congressman Jackson resigned, so it probably won't move anywhere until after the election. A meeting was held last weekend with the State Senator but nothing was resolved.

An update was provided on the Illiana Expressway. President Lohmann reported that survey stakes and crews are out working.

President Lohmann suggested providing an update on the Tractors for a Cure memorial and the Fire District building at the next Intergovernmental Committee meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion changing the date of the Intergovernmental Meeting from Tuesday, January 29th to Wednesday, January 30th. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt asked that a workshop meeting be scheduled in lieu of one of the second regular meetings in January or February to discuss the L.E.D. sign ordinance. Trustee Cleary made a motion cancelling the second regular meeting of the month in February and authorizing a workshop meeting to discuss L.E.D. signs on January 28th. The PZC will be invited to attend. 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 met with Homewood Disposal and Allied Waste, trying to work out a refuse contract to save residents money.

An Eastcom Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 3rd, to discuss health insurance rates and the new fee structure.

Administrator Barber explained that the Village will participate in a 20-year municipal services planning project.

President Lohmann requested a closed session be held to discuss non-union employee compensation for fiscal year 2013/2014.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber noted that a fire out in the country earlier in the day and the Fire Department hooking onto the hydrants in town caused the water to be stirred up, which generated water complaints in the Village.

There being no further business to discuss in regular session, Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:17 p.m. to discuss non-union employee salaries for fiscal year 2013/2014. Village staff was asked to leave since their salaries were being discussed. Trustee Ahrendt was appointed as Clerk Pro-Tem to take minutes of the executive session. 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 to return to regular session at 8:30 p.m. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, 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 Szymanski seconded the motion.

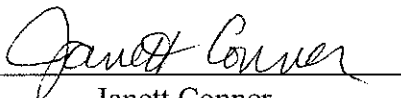
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk