

**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
JANUARY 14, 2013 -- 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 Ahrendt, Szymanski, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
ABSENT: Trustee Cleary.

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

GUESTS: Andrew Kriz from the Beecher Herald, Andrew Ahrendt, Nick Gaik, John Goggins, Jr., Jason Hollis, Carl Ruzich, Anthony Lucito, Robert McCarthy, Dave Flores, Anthony Messana, Michael and Deneen Rivas, Joe McLaughlin and George Schuitema.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the December 10, 2012 Board meeting. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees 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) RESOLUTION #2013-01 - A Resolution acknowledging the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitor's Bureau as our Convention and Visitor's Bureau of record for the year. This is a standard Resolution that is done annually. 3) A copy was provided of the Certification of Ballot for the April 9, 2013 election setting forth the names of all candidates running for Village election in the order that they will appear on the ballot.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Joe McLaughlin and Michael Rivas representing the Hunter's Chase Homeowner's Association (HOA) addressed the Board. Mr. Rivas said Mr. Phillippe has failed to turn the HOA over to the homeowners as required in the Subdivision Covenants. According to the Hunter's Chase homeowners, Mr. Phillippe has told them that he will not turn over the HOA, required documents and bank accounts over to them until they purchase insurance and agree to maintain the two ponds and monument wall on both his commercial lots and the common areas and indicated he will

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raise their dues until they do so. It was discussed that the HOA is supposed to be responsible for maintenance of monument signs, ponds and parks on Lots 1 through 58 and lot 61 and all other lots added as areas for common use. However, the monument sign and ponds in question are located on private property owned by Mr. Phillippe and not in common areas as agreed to in the subdivision covenants. The monument sign was supposed to be located west of and adjoining Lot 3 of the West Phase of the Planned Unit Development but is located on Lots 59 and 60 which is owned by Phillippe and not in a common area. It was discussed that the homeowners should not be responsible for maintaining private property, only common property. Trustee Szymanski said Phillippe should maintain the monument because it is on his property. Deneen Rivas said that in their covenants and bylaws they are not allowed to build or maintain anything that is not on common property. President Lohmann also noted a drainage easement on the lot where the monument is located. It appears the monument was erected without prior approval of the Village as required in the ordinance. Trustee Kypuros asked about why no building permit was required for the monument sign to require specifics pertaining to footings, etc. Staff indicated a permit is not required for this type of monument. It was also noted that the monument to the west of adjoining Lot 3 has never been put in.

Michael Rivas asked that the Village Board support the Hunters Chase homeowners in getting this matter resolved and asked for a letter in support of the HOA being turned over to the homeowners in compliance with ordinance 974, Declaration of Covenants and their bylaws. Attorney Tim Kuiper indicated that this is an issue between builder and homeowners and not a Village issue. He recommended the residents retain an attorney to address these issues. Trustee Kypuros asked the attorney if the Village can do a letter of support. The Attorney said yes but it would have no legal standing. Trustee Kypuros asked for a consensus to authorize a letter in support of the Homeowner's Association to ask Phillippe to turn over the common areas to them. The consensus of the Board agreed to authorize the attorney to send a letter of support of the Hunter's Chase HOA to Bob Phillippe asking him to turn Lot 61 over to the HOA.

Artie VanBaren requested referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) for an I-1 Zoning variance for the building of a silo for the storage of sugar at the site of Dutch American Foods, 1369 Dutch American Way. He indicated that one neighbor has an issue with the way the silo looks and he will discuss these concerns with that neighbor. The same neighbor also has some concerns about the parking of semi trucks on Dutch American Way. VanBaren indicated he is working with the neighbor and Police Chief on that issue. He also addressed specific questions regarding location of the silo, how it will be used, etc. This silo should also help with the parking issue with the semi trucks. There were no objections to referral of Mr. VanBaren to the PZC for consideration of the Zoning Variance request. VanBaren was asked to provide the PZC with a picture rendering of where the silo will be located on the property and how it will look.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

President Lohmann reported on the Beautification Commission. The baskets have been sent out to be planted with this year's flowers. They should arrive to be installed by Public Works in early May. The Housewalk was a success, and it netted approximately \$3,200.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that the Fourth of July Commission approved the car bid specifications. The Committee will notify several dealers of the 2013 bid specifications.

Trustee Wehling reported that the next meeting of the Ehler's Commission is supposed to be the first Thursday in February but he will need to check on the date because of possible conflicts.

Trustee Kypuros reported that on Monday, January 21st a Youth Commission open bowling event will be held at Striker's Bowling Alley. Daddy-Daughter and Mom-Son dance dates were provided.

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 Szymanski made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and the report of financial activity in the prior month. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

A list of bills totalling \$185,221.11 to be paid was available for review. Administrator Barber summarized some of the items on the bill list added since the list was emailed on Friday. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2013-02 - A Resolution adopting a five-year financial plan for the Village of Beecher, for fiscal years 2013-2017. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-02. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2013-03 - A Resolution adopting a revised Personnel Manual for employees. Trustee Szymanski made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-03. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber reported that the Personnel Manual was last changed three years ago. No substantial changes were made.

Administrator Barber reported that the budget process is in full swing and it is on schedule.

Administrator Barber asked the Board to review the changes made by the attorney on Title #6 and action will be considered at the February meeting. Many changes were made to the solicitation ordinance and regulations relating to recreational fire pits were added. Administrator Barber also said the ordinance change to allow the Police Chief to hire part-time officers is something to look at. Chief Weissgerber said it would streamline the process but there were concerns expressed that the Board should be a part of the process and provide consent to the hiring of part-time officers. After some discussion it was decided to change the ordinance to allow the Chief to hire part-time officers with the consent of the Village Board.

All Department annual reports for 2012 will be provided to the Board by the February meeting.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber provided an update on the Chevy Suburban that was donated by the Beecher Fire Department. The Police Department will spend \$4,300 to add additional equipment. Goldie's Auto Body will paint the body at no charge as a donation to the Police Department.

The annual Animal Control report from the Beecher Veterinary Clinic was provided in the packet for review. Chief Weissgerber reported that the bill was less than last year since the Veterinarian implemented a system to determine where animals are coming from so we are only paying for those that are brought in from the Village residents.

The Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA) Plan is currently being reviewed for an update. This plan was last updated in 2009.

An update was provided on community security. Trustee Kuhlman deferred this subject to Chief Weissgerber and it was reported that this is something the Police Department continues to do every year. School and Police Department emergency response plans go hand in hand and the two entities meet annually to go over these plans together.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The Board discussed a proposal to conduct a 2013 road repair/resurfacing program in 2013. Trustee Szymanski explained that the committee met and discussed this program and came up with recommendations on what needs to be done. If costs come in higher than anticipated the list of what needs to be done has been prioritized to determine what will be done first. Administrator Barber said he can do a short term loan from another fund to pay for the project and get everything done. Trustee Kypuros explained what costs are included in these amounts and the timing of bidding out the project. The following motions were then made pertaining to the road repair/resurfacing project:

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Trustee Szymanski made a motion approving a road replacement program for 2013 based on the findings of the 2012 HR Green street resurfacing priority ranking report, including the repairs to the Cardinal Creek Boulevard bridge which will be paid using MGM escrow funds. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion approving a proposal from HR Green to conduct Phase II and III engineering for both the bridge and the 2013 road resurfacing program in the amount of \$19,529. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to let bids on February 5, 2013 for a March 4, 2013 bid opening and March 11, 2013 bid award consideration. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the Village Treasurer to pay off the 2006 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) loan on May 1, 2013 using \$95,000 in MFT Funds and \$78,000 in Infrastructure funds. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the drafting of MFT resolutions in order to complete this plan. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

The Board discussed joint purchase of fuel by the Intergovernmental Fuel Committee. Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the approval of a bid for the joint purchase of fuel by the Intergovernmental Fuel Committee through February, 2014, at a price of \$3.302 per gallon for unleaded and \$3.687 per gallon for diesel. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

A report was provided on other actions of the Fuel Committee. In 2012 the pumps and computer system were replaced and a new key card system is now being used. The cost of the new system was

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approximately \$27,000. President Lohmann asked if someone participating in the fuel system decides to no longer participate are they entitled to receive money back from that fund? Administrator Barber indicated that he didn't think so.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

The Water Billing Register for November and December was provided in the packet for review.

The Water Billing Register and pumping report for 2012 was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Kypuros reported that there may be a possible leak in the water system based on the water loss ratio. Superintendent Cowger also reported that due to extensive flushing and water main breaks, these may be part of the problem with the water loss ratio numbers. Leak detection will be conducted this year to see if there could be a problem. President Lohmann also noted that the Fire Department is going to be asked to submit a monthly report on water usage to try and better track unmetered water. Trustee Kypuros said leak detection needs to be conducted on the roads we are going to be paving before spending money to pave them and to make that a priority.

Trustee Ahrendt asked how many water meters were replaced last year. This number will be provided in the annual report at the next meeting.

A Maxwell Street watermain update was provided. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for January 18th. Administrator Barber said that the letter went out today to affected residents. Work is scheduled to begin the week of January 21st.

There were no objections to adding the discussion on the future of wastewater plant operations to the agenda of the workshop meeting to be held on January 28th. There is a need to discuss the future of the position if Bill Merritt does not return to work.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

There was nothing new to report on the Fire District building.

Trustee Wehling reported that the Cancer Memorial Committee met last Thursday. It will be called the "Ribbon of Hope" memorial, with the ribbon being 14' wide and 35' high. It will be a cancer memorial garden within Firemen's Park. Details will continue to be worked out. There are no funds to start with so fundraising will have to be conducted. Trustee Wehling provided an artists rendering of the memorial. Bricks will be sold around the garden as a fundraiser, similar to the Veteran's Memorial. There will be internal lighting in the base of the ribbon and recessed lighting in the top of the ribbon. Trustee Kuhlman asked about vandalism concerns. The next meeting is scheduled for January 31st at the Washington Township Center.

The Spring newsletter will be mailed in April, after the municipal elections. Articles will include an update on our refuse contract renewal, an article on the ash borer, in addition to regular spring articles. The Board is to let Clerk Conner know of any other topics they wish to be included.

Locations were picked out with Bobbie Ann Jones and Trustee Wehling for two memorial park benches. The benches will be 6' in length. It was suggested to get benches with arm rests as a possible deterrent to skateboarders using them. One bench will be in Firemen's 2 field along the third base line and on Firemen's 1 between the 3rd baseline, dugout and bleachers. A donation was also discussed for marking the field numbers possibly on the backstops. Mrs. Jones would pay for the benches and Public Works would install them.

Trustee Wehling explained that the Village Parks have been assigned addresses by the 9-1-1 Center in the event that there is a 9-1-1 call to one of the those locations.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Trustee Ahrendt reported that a special Village Board meeting to discuss amendments to the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to digital signs is scheduled for Monday, January 28th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center. The PZC will be invited to this meeting.

The Building Department monthly report and annual 2012 report were provided in the packet for review.

The Code Enforcement monthly report and annual 2012 report were provided in the packet for review.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

An Intergovernmental Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center. The School District will provide a presentation on curriculum and a round table discussion will be held. Results of the January 28th Illiana Expressway meeting may also be discussed.

An update was provided on the Eastcom Board of Directors. After much debate, the formula for determining rates has been changed to a fixed fee for all entities with the remainder of the cost being distributed 50% by population and 50% by number of calls. This will reduce Beecher Police Department's rate by \$11,900 for the coming year. The Eastcom Board also adopted a new health insurance plan for the dispatchers saving about \$21,000 in costs.

President Lohmann reported that the Village has received final offers from the two vendors involved in the refuse contract negotiations. Another proposal was received today. More information will be provided in February.

President Lohmann reported that the State has bought approximately 200 more acres for the South Suburban Airport.

An update was provided on the Illiana Expressway. Meetings will be held on January 28th at the Township Center to discuss the local impact of the Illiana Expressway.

The code review has finally been completed.

Trustee Szymanski made a motion approving Tim Guare of Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick and Kohn as the Village's labor legal counsel for collective bargaining. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Kypuros requested an executive session be held to discuss the retirement of an employee.

There being no further business to be discussed in regular session, Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss the retirement of an employee at 8:40 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to return to regular session at 8:51 p.m. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees 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 Kypuros made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk