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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
FEBRUARY 11, 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 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: Andrew Kriz from the Beecher Herald, Andrew Ahrendt, George Schuitema, Kim Koutsky, Rita Lacchina from CASA, and Hank Potts.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 14, 2013 Board meeting. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Cleary.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 28, 2013 Workshop meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction: Page 3, line 5, "the engineering firms only have Class I operators and". Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 30, 2013 Intergovernmental Committee meeting. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Kuhlman, Wehling and President Lohmann.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (3) Trustees Cleary, Szymanski and Kypuros.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) There were no objections to a Proclamation recognizing the month of February as Boy Scouts of America month.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Rita Lacchina representing CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Will County provided a presentation on the services CASA provides through volunteers who provide advocacy and mentoring for those children who have been abused or neglected. CASA is looking for financial support for their program from local municipalities and townships and asked the Village to donate to their program. They are also looking for volunteers to recruit to help these children. President Lohmann said we used to have a grant program in the past for these types of organizations but no longer have it in the budget. Ms. Lacchina also wanted to provide a message locally that this service is being provided. Trustee Cleary suggested that we post their information on the Village website and President Lohmann said we could make copies of flyers to provide awareness.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

There was nothing to report for the Beautification Commission.

Trustee Szymanski reported that car bids went out, and will be opened February 28th. It was noted that the Village received tax money on pull tabs and jar games from the festival. Questions were asked on how these tax amounts are allocated.

There was nothing to report for the Ehler's Commission.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the bowling event went well with over 250 kids in attendance. Saturday, February 16th is the Daddy/Daughter Dance and March 19th is the Mom/Son Dance. A fundraiser is scheduled for April 13th at the Amvet Hall with a live band and refreshments.

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. It was noted that mowing fees collected are going into the Builder's Escrow account and mowing fees will be paid out of that account. Treasurer Collins also informed the Board that he does not plan to continue as Village Treasurer after the end of President Lohmann's term. Trustee Cleary made a motion approving the Treasurer's report and the report of financial activity in the prior month. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

A list of bills totalling \$85,510.29 to be paid was available for review. 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 Board considered an ordinance amending Title #6 of the Beecher Village Code. A copy of the new ordinance was provided in a separate packet for review. Administrator Barber noted the changes made to the ordinance. Chief Weissgerber is still reworking the dog ordinance pertaining to dangerous and vicious dogs and that will be updated later.

ORDINANCE #1173 - An Ordinance amending Title #6 of the Beecher Village Code. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1173. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The budget process has begun. A first draft of the budget has been completed and submitted to President Lohmann. This draft will be reviewed by the Finance Chair with the department heads on March 2nd at 7:00 a.m. After this review, the budget will be made ready for the workshop on March 25th.

RESOLUTION #2013-04 - A resolution of participation in the State of Illinois Federal Surplus Property Program. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-04. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary summarized the process of getting proposals for the refinancing of the 2002 water tank/booster station loan. Trustee Kypuros asked how many banks would be solicited. The two local banks and some outside of Beecher will be solicited, according to Treasurer Collins. Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the Village Treasurer to solicit proposals for the refinancing of the 2002 water tank/booster station loan. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Comcast annual report for 2012 was provided in the packet for review.

The Village Attorney completed the re-draft of Title #7 of the Village Code and a copy was provided to the Board for review.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber provided a report on the 2012 Police Department Annual Report and the information that was included for comparison. The Chief is looking at the fine structure because the Village is not receiving as much in fines. This is because the court is assessing less fines and giving more community service but it is still costing Villages money to enforce the law. His Chief's Association will bring this to the attention of the Chief Judge. Chief Weissgerber is happy with the crime index for Beecher and said the crime numbers are down. President Lohmann asked how much court costs escalated in the last ten years and was concerned with what it was attributed to. Chief said he needs to look into it to answer President Lohmann's question. Trustee Kypuros asked questions about the annual fuel report and how officers share vehicles and the high fuel costs on the Expedition. The Expedition has lower fuel economy than some of the other cars and perhaps it could be used less.

Chief Weissgerber explained problems with all the trucks coming into Dutch American Foods now that they have ten working docks. There can be ten trucks waiting there at a time which makes it difficult to make it down the street. After talking to adjoining property owners, it was proposed to implement one hour parking on the west side of Dutch American Way and banning parking on the east side of the road. Administrator Barber suggested providing the documents from Chief Weissgerber pertaining to the parking issues to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) for their upcoming hearing. Trustee Cleary recommended providing Chief Weissgerber's memo regarding the new parking restrictions to the other businesses that are affected. Trustee Ahrendt suggested to have the businesses recommend that the drivers go to the Monee Truckstop so they don't park for periods of time on Dutch American Way. After some discussion Trustee Kuhlman made a motion amending the parking regulations on Dutch American Way. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that Beecher continues its concern for the safety of schools and daycare facilities. Two field training exercises were held in the last month and more are scheduled, according to Chief Weissgerber. Trustee Kuhlman felt it was important that parents are kept updated on this matter.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

The 2012 Public Works Department Annual Report was provided in the packet for review. Superintendent Cowger addressed Trustee Ahrendt's question from last meeting regarding the meter replacement program. Approximately 80 meters were replaced in 2012. Public Works mostly concentrated on replacing the larger meters to have more effect.

Bids will be let on the road project in the coming week. Bids will be opened on March 5th and will be reviewed by the Board at the March meeting.

Women's Welfare Club spring banners are scheduled to go up the last week in March. The flower baskets have been ordered and planted and are growing at Woldhuis greenhouse.

D. SEWER AND WATER COMMITTEE

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

An update was provided on the Maxwell Street watermain replacement project. The new main has been connected and the service lines are being transitioned over to the new pipe. Superintendent Cowger reported that they are doing pressure testing and chlorinating. The main may go on-line Friday or Monday.

The Board considered a proposal from Baxter and Woodman to provide a licensed operator at the wastewater treatment plant. Administrator Barber explained that the contract would begin on March 1st. It would actually be a 14 month contract. Trustee Cleary said he would like an end date for the contract in the motion. After some discussion Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve a proposal from Baxter and Woodman to provide a licensed operator at the wastewater treatment plant per Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requirements at a monthly fee not to exceed \$3,750 effective March 1, 2013 and to be reviewed annually. 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

Trustee Wehling reported on the Ribbon of Hope Cancer Awareness Garden. Drawings that were previously provided are currently being revised. A drawing of the proposed memorial and an article will go in the newspaper to inform residents of the project and let people know they will be looking for donations of money, time and materials for the memorial. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28th. President Lohmann wanted to clarify the size of the ribbon as discussed at the last meeting. Trustee Wehling said the ribbon would be approximately twelve feet high and four or five feet wide. The size has not yet been finalized. An exercise station in the park will need to be relocated according to Administrator Barber.

Trustee Wehling provided an update on the Brian Jones memorial benches for Firemen's Park. The benches will be ordered this week and they will be delivered, since they are being constructed in Highland, Florida.

Chief Weissgerber is still checking into an address for Welton Stedt Park, as to whether it should have its own address or utilize the school address on the sign.

The Board was reminded to provide any information for the spring newsletter to Clerk Conner. Administrator Barber noted to put an article regarding the change in refuse program. Trustee Szymanski suggested an article regarding the ash borer.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Board considered an Ordinance amending the Zoning Code pertaining to digital signs. Administrator Barber said he was asked if the Village could enforce the regulations pertaining to the flashing of the signs on existing signs such as in Beecher Plaza. Staff can write them a letter asking them to comply with the new regulations but it is not believed it can be enforced due to their special use already having been approved.

ORDINANCE #1174 - An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code pertaining to digital signs. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion approving Ordinance #1174. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Cleary.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1175 - An Ordinance authorizing a boundary agreement with the Village of Grant Park (County Line). A copy of the agreement was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion approving Ordinance #1175. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1176 - An Ordinance authorizing a boundary agreement with the Village of Peotone (Crawford Avenue or Peotone/Beecher School District line). A copy of the agreement was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion approving Ordinance #1176. 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 Ahrendt noted that the Building Escrow Account balance is increasing due to collections on grass cutting on foreclosed properties. Administrator Barber noted that money is put into that account so that grass cutting bills can be directly paid out of this account and not out of the budget because bills are getting paid from years ago and it's difficult to budget for these mowing expenses.

The PZC is scheduled to meet on February 28th. Items on the agenda include workshop discussions on a request for a variance for a silo exceeding maximum height for Dutch American Foods and a request for a fence (Durante) exceeding the maximum height in Hunter's Chase Subdivision. Trustee Ahrendt asked some questions regarding the request. Mr. Durante plans to put in the fence before the pool, according to Administrator Barber.

A copy of the letter of support from the Village Attorney for the Homeowner's Association (HOA) position on maintenance responsibilities in Hunter's Chase Subdivision was provided in the packet for review. President Lohmann talked with Mr. Lotton. Mr. Lotton indicated he will meet with the HOA and Mr. Rivas and concurred that the monuments are on his property. President Lohmann believed that the issue will get resolved.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann noted a consensus was obtained at the workshop meeting to approve a 10 year agreement with Homewood/Star Disposal but since that time some Board members have changed their mind. Trustee Kypuros said he discussed this issue with some residents and found that there was support for the proposal to include yardwaste disposal in the contract as previously discussed. He said 75-80% of those he talked to would use the yardwaste if included in the proposal for approximately \$2 more per month so he has changed his mind and would prefer the proposal to include yardwaste in the contract. Trustee Szymanski said he did not support the consensus completely at the workshop meeting for the same reason, and wondered if the majority of the residents would use the service if offered. Trustee Wehling had concerns about the quality of service if switching to Allied because we have been very happy with Star's service. This contract will lock us in for ten years and wondered what would happen if we didn't like the service of the new company. Administrator Barber checked references in Grant Park and Crete and they are happy with Allied's service. President Lohmann also spoke to someone in another town who was happy with Allied. Trustee Kuhlman noted that we have a ten-year track record with Star. The Board discussed if the contract could be terminated with cause. President Lohmann noted that the yardwaste option would eliminate Public Works having to pick up branches and save the Village money. Trustee Cleary was concerned about residents on fixed incomes who will be paying for but not using the yardwaste portion of the service. Trustee Cleary said he discussed the issue with residents in different areas of town and the majority of them did not want to pay for the yardwaste option in their rate. Administrator Barber explained the actual costs for the contract and what the increase would be. The Allied rate includes yardwaste and the Star rate does not. President Lohmann said the Board needs to look at what is best for the entire community. President Lohmann is also concerned about the costs to get rid of yardwaste in the future and the benefit of cost savings to the Village with Public Works not collecting leaves and branches. Leaf pickup will increase in the coming years due to the young trees growing in the new subdivisions. Trustee Wehling was concerned that the bins to be provided by the refuse company may not be big enough for all of the leaves in some areas of the old part of town. President Lohmann still recommended Allied as being the best proposal, but noted that the wording on the contract must say that if we are not happy with the service that we can break the contract. After much discussion Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the Village Attorney to draft a ten-year agreement with Allied Waste with the yardwaste option. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

AYES: (2) Trustees Szymanski and Kypuros.

NAYS: (4) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Kuhlman and Wehling.

Motion failed.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to authorize the Village Attorney to draft a ten-year agreement with Homewood/Star Disposal with Option 1 proposed in the packet as discussed. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Kypuros.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber explained the refuse rates over the ten years of the refuse contract and the hedging of rates by using reserves in the Refuse Funds to minimize the initial impact to the residents. Administrator Barber said he will attempt to get local businesses to charge the same rate for yardwaste bags as the Village Hall. The Homewood/Star Disposal Option 1 rate will be \$15.25 per billing in the first year and \$20.50 in the final year. Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the Attorney to draft an Ordinance establishing refuse rates for the residents of the Village for the next ten years. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There was nothing new to report on the Intergovernmental meeting held January 30th.
There was nothing new to report on the Illiana Expressway or South Suburban Airport.

An update was provided on the wounded warrior home. According to Administrator Barber, the home will be dedicated on March 8th, and since there will not be another Board meeting before then asked if the Board felt the Village should do something. No action was taken.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Kypuros said he contacted the Chamber of Commerce regarding their sign by Beecher Manor to put a Youth Commission event on it. The Youth Commission was unable to advertise because it doesn't pay fees to the sign as required by the Chamber of Commerce. Trustee Kypuros felt it would be advantageous for the Village and all commissions to buy into this sign to advertise events, dog tags, hydrant flushing, etc., and asked if the Village would be willing to do this. Administrator Barber asked if the Village bought in if all commissions could use the sign and would that limit how much other organizations could advertise their events. Trustee Kypuros indicated that if the Village doesn't want to do this the Youth Commission would be willing to buy into it on their own. Concerns were expressed about the Village dominating the sign with all their announcements and events. Consensus of the Board decided to not have the Village buy into the sign and recommended the Youth Commission buy their own spot.

There being no further business, President Lohmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Cleary 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 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk