

**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
MARCH 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, Bob Howard, J.R. Delgado, Chris Szymanski, Matt Lohmann, Phil Serviss (arrived at 8:00 p.m.), Tom Agema, Representative Elgie Sims (arrived at 7:50 p.m.) and Kim Koutsky.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the February 11, 2013 Board meeting. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Szymanski 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.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Bob Howard, Will County Board member and Washington Township Supervisor commended President Lohmann and Administrator Barber for coming to the Will County Board meeting and he clarified the purpose of the meeting pertaining to the airport as being a vote for governance of the board for the airport. Mr. Howard said with President Lohmann's term coming to a close he wanted him to know he recognized that President Lohmann cares about people and earned his respect in working with him over the years, even though they haven't always agreed. President Lohmann asked about taking of the land for the airport. Mr. Howard said the Will County Board opposes eminent domain, land banking, etc. There was further discussion regarding the airport and ALNAC. Video gaming in the unincorporated areas was also discussed. Mr. Howard said

he is waiting for an opinion on whether it is legally allowed in unincorporated areas, but it is occurring now.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

There was nothing new to report on the Beautification Commission.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that the Fourth of July Commission has chosen a raffle vehicle for this year's festival. Six bids were received and opened. A 2013 Chevy Camaro from Dralle Chevy in the amount of \$23,854 was approved with some additional buyer incentives coming off that amount. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to award a bid for the purchase of a 2013 Chevy Camaro from Dralle Chevrolet in an amount not to exceed \$23,854. Trustee Wehling 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 Ehler's Commission.

Trustee Kypuros reported that 168 people attended the Daddy-Daughter dance and 171 attended the Mom-Son dance. Both events were a success. A Youth Commission fundraiser will be held on April 13th.

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. Treasurer Collins reported that he has been soliciting proposals from banks for the refinancing of the water tank loan and a copy of letters that were delivered to the banks was included for review. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's 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 January were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totalling \$146,833.87 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: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1177 - An Ordinance amending Title #7 of the municipal code. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1177. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

Q

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A budget preparation update was provided. Trustee Cleary reported that he met with President Lohmann, Administrator Barber and Department heads on March 2nd to review the budget draft. The General Fund is balanced and the Water and Sewer Funds require the use of some reserve cash to complete some major improvements required on the water system and at the sewer plant. Trustee Cleary asked everyone to review the budget before the workshop and provide any comments at the meeting. The budget workshop is scheduled for Monday, March 25th at 6:00 p.m.

The Village has locked in electric rates with Constellation through NIMEC for \$0.04244 per kwh from May 15, 2013 through May 15, 2014.

The Board considered a resolution authorizing a line item transfer in the amount of \$4,500 to address rapid deployment issues relating to school safety. A copy of the resolution and report outlining the need to purchase some equipment for improved rapid deployment techniques was provided in the packet for review. President Lohmann asked when the ammunition would be received. Due to there being a waiting period on it, it will probably not be received until the next fiscal year.

RESOLUTION #2013-05- A Resolution authorizing a line item transfer in the amount of \$4,500 to address rapid deployment issues. Trustee Cleary made a motion adopting Resolution #2013-05. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary reported that the Governor has proposed in his budget to take 20% of local income tax revenue. This would cost the Village \$81,500 in General Fund revenue. A report from the Will County Governmental League was provided for review. Administrator Barber said the Governor may change the amount he wants to take. Trustee Szymanski suggested putting this information in the Village newsletter to inform residents what is going on and how it could affect the Village.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the February 3rd and February 17th rapid deployment trainings relating to school security issues. The Police Department is in the process of getting supplies for the rapid deployment training and to be prepared for the future.

Chief Weissgerber reported that "No Parking" signs have been put up on Dutch American Way and he spoke to all business owners on Dutch American Way about this. Problems still need to be worked out with semis backing in to docks from that street.

C. STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

Trustee Szymanski made a motion to award a bid to Iroquois Paving in the amount of \$219,782.89 for the repairs to the Cardinal Creek Boulevard bridge (\$73,592.96 from the MGM Escrow Account), and the 2013 road resurfacing program (\$146,189.93 from Public Infrastructure Account). Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann asked why they are taking bushes out in that area because he felt the roots stabilize the ground to prevent erosion. The job engineer will be asked that question.

Trustee Szymanski reported on the Cardinal Creek Boulevard bridge inspection report. Two items the engineers want the Village to address is rip-rapping between the wingwalls and the creek bed for erosion control and removing brush growing along the wingwalls with roots which can push the walls out. In the future, the Village may also have to pressure grout the seams in the bridge where there is water penetration and rust.

An Emerald Ash Borer update was provided. Administrator Barber reported that the Village has 284 Ash trees in the parkways. Trustee Szymanski reported the Village needs to monitor the health of these trees because the Ash Borer could become a big impact on the budget. Fortunately, most diseased trees can be taken down by Public Works. Staff is putting together an informational packet for residents who wish to save trees by injection.

The Board considered authorizing the replacement of street name signs in The Preserves at Cardinal Creek Subdivision. The existing signs appear to be decalced onto the faceplate and are peeling off. The new signs would be placed onto the existing poles. President Lohmann said the existing poles aren't as high as the newer poles which makes the signs easier to reach for vandalism, etc. Trustee Szymanski made a motion authorizing the replacement of street name signs in The Preserves at Cardinal Creek Subdivision to federal standards using escrow funds in the amount of \$1,870.52. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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 January and February were provided in the packet for review.

An update was provided on the Maxwell Street watermain project. All services have been connected and the new main is in service. Restoration will occur when the weather improves.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the operator of record for the sewer plant has been changed to John Sweedo of Baxter and Woodman, who is working on establishing procedures and protocols for the operation of the plant. Public Works Superintendent Cowger reported that he met with Mr. Sweedo earlier in the day, and stated that he will be here Tuesday to start working on changes he plans to make. Mr. Sweedo will provide the Board with a monthly report.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve a proposal from ME Simpson to leak detect the entire Village (except The Preserve at Cardinal Creek and Nantucket Cove, which were done last year) within the next 60 days at a cost not to exceed \$9,125. Motion seconded by Trustee Szymanski.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The proposal involves leak detection of 45 miles of main and more miles of service lines. Hydrants and valves will also be checked for leaks.

E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that it makes sense to make the Cancer Memorial Commission a Commission under the Village umbrella since the memorial is being built on Village property. Administrator Barber asked how many Commissioners there would be in order to draft the Ordinance. According to Trustee Wehling, officers on the Commission would be Dean Bettenhausen, Scott Wehling, Christine Szymanski and Barbara Hodgett. After some discussion it was decided to have the attorney draft an ordinance to establish a Commission with no more than 11 members. President Lohmann asked if this has anything to do with the Tractors for A Cure fundraiser, and it was stated that it was a separate event and entity. Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing the Village Attorney to draft an Ordinance establishing a Cancer Memorial Commission. Trustee Kypuros 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 Firemen's Park (Brian Jones) bench installation.

Chief Weissgerber reported that he doesn't have the information yet for the regulation signage for Village Parks.

Trustee Wehling provided a newsletter update. The newsletter is scheduled for mailing on April 10th. Articles will include information on the new refuse contract and rates, mosquito control program and ash borer information. An article will be added regarding the new Cancer Memorial Commission recently formed, and a photo of what the memorial will look like.

F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Trustee Ahrendt provided a report on the February 28th Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) workshop. Administrator Barber said there was very little discussion regarding Dutch American's silo because questions were answered previously. Many questions were asked regarding the Durante fence issue. PZC member Koutsky reported that the petitioner provided photos and signatures from neighbors. The petitioner wants a solid fence for privacy and needs 6' height because of the landscape of his yard. Mr. Durante was told he was facing a difficult variance but has extenuating circumstances, and will be considered at the public hearing. Mr. Durante wishes to continue with the hearing process. PZC member Schuitema noted that the full PZC Board was not present at that meeting.

The Building Department monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

An update was provided on the U.I.C. graduate research project on Village capital and operations needs in 2033. A copy of the report was provided in the packet for review.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lohmann met with State Representative Sims a few weeks ago and Representative Sims asked for more information on some issues. A copy of the Village's response to his request was provided in the packet for review. Representative Sims and State Senator Trotter share the same office at 75th and State in Chicago and they wish to hold office hours periodically at the Beecher Village Hall. They have tentatively selected April 24th for their first round of office hours. Residents will be advised when an exact date and time have been arranged. Trustees can also come in and meet with them during these times.

President Lohmann introduced State Representative Elgie Sims to the Board. Mr. Sims explained the area he represents, and reported that he had a good discussion at a previous meeting with President Lohmann and Administrator Barber. Mr. Sims provided a report on the committee he chairs and what he is working on in Springfield. President Lohmann asked about proposed airport legislation. Mr. Sims reported that he supports local control of the airport and that the full language has not yet been drafted. President Lohmann said the Village would like to have seats on the airport authority locally. It was also noted the Calumet Corridor study being done that the Village is being asked to participate in. It is important that we get this study done in case the airport is built and we need eastern access point.

Trustee Cleary asked Representative Sims about the Governor's plan to take from the local government distributive fund (LGDF) and Mr. Sims' thoughts. Mr. Sims indicated he would oppose taking money from the local governments, and discussed the State being behind on paying their bills. It was also discussed that the State is borrowing against our sales tax fund too, which needs to be watched. Trustee Szymanski said it is a constant threat that the State wants to take from LGDF which

AC

makes it hard for the Village to budget. The State pension crisis, Illiana Expressway, streamlining the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) system and the EPA loan process were also discussed. Audience members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Much discussion followed.

Tom Agema from Homewood Disposal reported that new garbage containers would start getting delivered to residents on March 25th. Information will be provided with each cart along with a recycling calendar.

ORDINANCE #1178 - An Ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a ten-year contract with Homewood Disposal for the collection of municipal refuse. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1178. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1179 - An Ordinance establishing refuse rates effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2022. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1179. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Lohmann stated that Union Pacific Railroad issues from the Southfield Knoll Townhome Association and Steve Popovich have been addressed.

President Lohmann provided an Illiana Expressway update. He will be attending a stakeholders' meeting on March 14th in Peotone. Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has met with all the property owners along this corridor to discuss issues. Trustee Wehling asked if Indiana is progressing as quickly as Illinois. It was unknown.

President Lohmann provided a South Suburban Airport update. The Iron Ring Mayors group may change with the upcoming elections. The State is still buying ground for the airport but the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) has not moved forward with the Master Plan. President Lohmann attended a Will County Board meeting where the County's position on the airport was debated.

President Lohmann reported that IDOT has sent the Village a letter of response to comments we submitted about Route #1 at a public hearing last fall.

The Village has been asked to participate in a corridor study. The South Suburban Mayors and Managers have obtained a \$350,000 grant to conduct a north-south corridor study based on a draft scope which was enclosed in the packet for review. Trustee Kypuros made a motion of participation in a Corridor Study of the I-394/Route #1 corridor from I-80 to the Kankakee County Line. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed a request from a concerned citizen for an architectural review board due to the appearance of some homes being constructed in the Village. This Board would review building permits and plans and decide if they meet the aesthetic desires of the community. Trustee Cleary said if a house is being built to stipulations agreed to by the Board when development was approved the architectural review board wouldn't be able to change anything. All building permits would have to be approved by architectural review board before building permit could be issued. Currently these home plans are being approved by the homeowner's associations of subdivisions. Nothing would be able to be done about existing subdivisions. Resident Phil Serviss commented on the need to entice people to make homes look more interesting, fit into the subdivision and he wants to stop the "vinyl box" onslaught. Architectural guidelines were established when developments were approved and went through the PZC and Village Board at that time. It was noted that the owner of the home in question is going to make some changes to the home. If established, the Architectural Review Committee could look at plans and make sure plans fit within the development plans. Trustee Kypuros said everyone's opinion is different as to what they like and it seems like another layer of government. Trustee Szymanski recommended to table the issue for further discussion because with the upcoming election Village Board members may change and opinions on this would change. Trustee Kypuros asked Phil Serviss to come up with a checklist of things he recommend the Village should look for. It was the consensus of the Board to wait to discuss the matter again at the next meeting.

H. NEW BUSINESS

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 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk