

**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  
MAY 13, 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, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, and Attorney Tim Kuiper.

**GUESTS:** Andrew Kriz from the Beecher Herald, Andrew Ahrendt, George Schuitema, Joe Cook, Ken Hameister, Bill Voss, Robert Myers, Rich Eriks, Chris and Kathryn Szymanski, Jim and Barb Egelski, Kevin Bouchard, Joan Kuhlman, Jerry and Patty Meyer, Julie Cleary, Marilyn Rossler, Penny Zarris, Helen Grapenthien, David Watson, Julie and Zach Wehling, Sandy and Matt Lohmann, Kim Koutsky and Ray Robertson.

President Lohmann asked for consideration of the minutes of the April 22, 2013 Board meeting and Public Hearing. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. 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) A copy of the certified election results were provided in the packet for review. 3) Clerk Conner read aloud a letter from the Mayor of Dallas City congratulating President Lohmann on his retirement from office.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** State Representative Elgie Sims reported on the office hours he held at the Village Hall. He then thanked President Lohmann for his 28 years of service to the Village and read aloud and presented him with a State of Illinois House of Representatives Resolution #284 recognizing his accomplishments.

## REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

President Lohmann reported that the Beautification Commission met last Thursday. Planting will occur in the next two weeks and baskets will go up.

Trustee Szymanski reported that 2013 Chevy Camaro tickets are available for sale. Brochures for the festival will be available around June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Wehling noted that this is the last report for the Ehler's Commission. The group was decommissioned the previous week, after four years. Trustee Wehling thanked everyone on the committee and all who worked towards the memorial. Money is still being raised through brick sales which is being used to pay the continuing costs to maintain the memorial. President Lohmann said the Village still needs to advertise that bricks are for sale.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the Youth Commission will hold a talent show on June 1<sup>st</sup> and an "Amazing Race" will be featured on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two water park trips are planned for July.

Trustee Wehling reported on the Cancer Memorial Commission meeting held the previous week. The name needs to be changed to the Cancer Awareness Commission since this is not only a memorial but also for survivors. Attorney Kuiper will redraft the ordinance to correct the name. Bricks will also be available for sale for this as a fundraiser. There is \$3,150 in the account so far and the total project cost is expected to be approximately \$75,000. The Commission is looking for sponsors and volunteers, and hoping to break ground in July at the Tractors For a Cure event. The Commission is hoping to get electric to the site and do some ground moving.

### 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 Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A list of bills totalling \$140,966.45 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.

Treasurer Collins reported that the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) loan was paid off from MFT and Infrastructure Accounts.

ORDINANCE #1187 - An Ordinance authorizing the President, Clerk and Treasurer to sign documents pertaining to the refinancing of the 2002 water tank and booster station loan. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1187. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Szymanski.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Szymanski stated he abstained from voting because his wife is an employee of First National Bank of Grant Park.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the department is in Tier 2 of school security assessment. The public schools have been assessed at this time and a tabletop exercise with the schools is scheduled for the end of June.

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

Trustee Szymanski reported that the 2013 road resurfacing has been completed. A punch list has been compiled of what still needs to be done. He is happy with the work and restorations should be done in the next couple of weeks.

Trustee Szymanski reported that he would like to try and get the Pine Street flooding issue property owners together one more time to try and get this situation resolved.

Patriotic banners and flags are scheduled to go up the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Street sweeping was completed last week and all curbed streets were swept.

An update was provided on tree trimming. Since last year's work was not completed, Public Works will be working off of the 2012 list before beginning the 2013 list. Tree work will begin after the Fourth of July.

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

The Water and Sewer Department monthly reports were included in the packet for review. Trustee Cleary asked if Superintendent Cowger has been looking at the amount of chemicals being used at each well. More chemicals are being used at well #5. Superintendent Cowger explained why there was a difference in chemicals at the different wells.

The water billing register for the months of March and April were provided in the packet for review.

Restoration work from the Maxwell Street watermain project has been completed and still needs some touch up work. Staff will review the restorations.

Leak detection was conducted by ME Simpson. Superintendent Cowger reported that the hydrant on Maxwell Street was leaking and will be repaired. As far as water loss, Superintendent Cowger noted that there was hydrant flushing and a watermain replacement which may affect this ratio. President Lohmann asked where the leaks are: hydrant at Beatty Lumber, Maxwell Street, nursing home hydrant, leak at Indiana Avenue and Catalpa Street. There was some discussion about the pumped versus billed ratio.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the valve turning should be completed in approximately two weeks.

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

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a proposal from Suburban Asphalt to crack seal and sealcoat the Firemen's Park walking path in the amount of \$3,435.00. Trustee Szymanski seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling reported that the Brian Jones memorial park benches were delivered last week. Superintendent Cowger will meet with Trustee Wehling to discuss moving an exercise station and other issues.

Administrator Barber reported that the address and name signage for the Village parks is ready to be ordered.

Chief Weissgerber reported on the sound problems in the Township meeting room. The room is not acoustically friendly. Chief Weissgerber has been using the microphone directly on the camera for now and it seems to be working better than the remote microphone was before. The sound system can be tapped into, but a microphone would need to be set up if someone from the audience speaks, otherwise it won't pick up their voice. The Township is working on a proposal to get new microphones. Chief Weissgerber will see if the new procedure works, since the sound seems better.

Administrator Barber reported that the University of Illinois at Chicago MPA students released a municipal services plan for the Village of Beecher.

#### **F. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

Trustee Ahrendt reported on the boundary agreement recording issue. Administrator Barber stated that he went to the Recorder's office and was able to get documents recorded so the State's Attorney's opinion is no longer needed. The issue has been resolved.

Trustee Ahrendt reported that the Planning and Zoning Committee (PZC) meeting for May 23<sup>rd</sup> was cancelled and until such time that all appointments have been made and there is an agenda to consider. Administrator Barber will bring a grant to the Board for consideration in June.

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. OUTGOING VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Lohmann reported that he, Trustee Szymanski and Administrator Barber attended meetings on the Illiana Expressway. Each community is doing corridor planning. Administrator Barber said questions were raised at the meeting about an interchange at Ashland Avenue from another town. The group is moving forward with studies. President Lohmann said there is now some consensus in Indiana pertaining to road closures which has been a problem in the past.

President Lohmann reported that the State is still buying property for the proposed South Suburban Airport.

President Lohmann reported that he could not attend the office hours held by State Representative Elgie Sims and State Senator Donne Trotter at the Village Hall. Administrator Barber reported that five or six guests attended and Representative Sims stayed busy.

### **H. ANY OTHER OLD BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE VILLAGE BOARD**

President Lohmann thanked Administrator Barber, Clerk Conner, Chief Weissgerber and Superintendent Cowger for their cooperation and dedication in the past, and thanked the citizens for the last 16 years as Village President and appreciate their support and understanding. President Lohmann also thanked his wife and family for their support.

### **I. OATH OF OFFICE AND PHOTOS OF OLD AND NEW BOARD**

Clerk Conner gave the Oath of Office to the newly elected President and Trustees and photos were taken with the old and new Board.

RESOLUTION# 2013-10 - A Resolution in recognition of Paul Lohmann's 28 years of service to the Village of Beecher as Trustee and Village President was read aloud. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Resolution #2013-10. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## J. INCOMING VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT

President Szymanski read aloud a list of 2013/2014 appointments as follows:

Mayor Pro Tem: Scott Wehling

Village Administrator, Zoning Administrator and Economic Development: Bob Barber

Village Clerk: Janett Conner

Chief of Police: Jeff Weissgerber

Public Works Superintendent: Harold "Bud" Cowger

Village Prosecutor: Tom Knuth

Village Corporate Counsel: Tim Kuiper, of the firm Austgen and Kuiper

Treasurer: Nelson Collins until June 10, 2013, Deputy Treasurer effective June 11, 2013.

Deputy Treasurer: Kim Koutsky June 10, 2013, Treasurer effective June 11, 2013.

Trustee Cleary made a motion and Trustee Ahrendt seconded to accept the list of appointments as presented.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski asked the liaisons to all Commissions to submit a list of who they want on their Commissions. He plans to complete all of his appointments at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. President Szymanski said he has to fill the vacant Trustee seat by June 10<sup>th</sup>, according to the Attorney, since the Board meeting date for July 8<sup>th</sup> has been changed to July 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Board considered amending the liquor code to provide an annual special event license per 4,000 population consisting of up to five one-day events at a fee of \$250. Symbol Ranch (El Consuelo) has continued to pursue a special event liquor license as agreed to in an annexation agreement. The State requires an annual license be issued by the Village and not five one-day event licenses as in the past. Owner of Symbol Ranch, Sal Llamas has indicated he will correct any legal issues and code violations found during and after last year's rodeo events. The liquor license is subject to these issues being resolved.

ORDINANCE #1188 - An Ordinance amending the Liquor Code to provide an annual special event license per 4,000 population consisting of up to five one-day events at a fee of \$250. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve Ordinance #1188. Trustee Wehling seconded them motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski reported on the Illinois Municipal League Lobby Day held on May 1<sup>st</sup>, attended by himself, Clerk Conner and Administrator Barber. President Szymanski met with Representatives Tom Cross, Katherine Cloonen and Gary Hanning and explained which bills were discussed with them.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to cancel the regular Village Board meetings for May 27, June 24, July 22 and August 26, 2013. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to move the July 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski reported that he would like to do something with the ballfield lights at Firemen's #1 field. A donation check of \$1,000 was received to help replace the lights in Firemen's Park. President Szymanski asked Trustee Wehling if he would chair a committee to raise funds to replace the lights. The goal would be to raise \$75,000-\$100,000. Trustee Wehling accepted and details will need to be worked out.

President Szymanski provided a summary of his goals for the Village in the coming years. He stated that it has been a pleasure working with the Village Board and staff over the last six years to be fiscally responsible and how everyone has worked together. President Szymanski said he plans to improve communications and working relationships with other governmental bodies, groups, associations, local businesses and the residents of Beecher. He commented on the many accomplishments of President Lohmann after his years on the Village Board and looks forward to a promising future.

There being no further business, President Szymanski asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

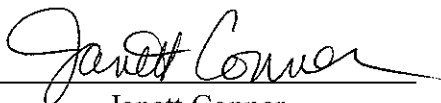
AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner  
Village Clerk