

**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
JULY 15, 2013 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Szymanski called the meeting to order.

Clerk Conner administered the oath of office to new Trustee Marcy Meyer.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: President Szymanski and Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Kypuros.

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

GUESTS: George Schuitema, Patty Meyer, Paul Lohmann, Joe Reising, Neal Piggush, Jeff Kimbell, Roland Rosenboom, Tami Roskamp, Barb Hodgett, Jim and Jeanette O'Grady, Donna Barber, Karen Burgess, Chris Szymanski, Vicki Jacobson and Mike Stanula.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the June 10, 2013 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Meyer.

Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) There were no objections from the Board for the Knights of Columbus' request to conduct Tootsie Roll Days in Beecher on September 20-22, 2013. 3) Clerk Conner announced that the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Convention will be held October 17-20, 2013 and asked Board members to let her know if they plan to attend.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: The Board discussed authorizing a Plat of Resubdivision for the Reising Chevrolet dealership property. The owner wishes to divide this parcel into three separate lots:

one for the quonset huts, one for the dealership building and the third being the vacant parking lot to the north towards Miller Street. Reising would keep the quonset hut parcel for storage rentals, and the dealership building property would be sold for a Dollar General. The third parcel would also be sold in the future as a commercial lot. The concerns expressed regarding this resubdivision is ingress and egress to the parcels using the existing drives.

The petitioners were present and provided information on the project to the Board. Neal Piggush from Tyson Engineering addressed the ingress-egress easement and showed the schematic site plan for Dollar General Lot #2. Jeff Kimbell said his intent is to redevelop the property for Dollar General but does not directly represent Dollar General. Mr. Kimbell explained the new facade to be put on the building and some alterations to the building to make it work for Dollar General. Trustee Wehling commented on a photo rendering of the building and expressed concerns about lack of windows and asked if something else can be done to dress the building up to make it look better. Mr. Kimbell responded that Dollar General doesn't go out of its way to have more windows because of the need to utilize their space for products. Trustee Cleary also commented on the need for additional windows. Trustee Cleary also discussed the ingress-egress off of Miller Street and how congested it would be on Miller. Trustee Cleary said he felt that if a semi-truck tried to get into the property if the north lot is sold and occupied it would not work. Trustee Cleary expressed concern that the north lot would become land locked from access. Mr. Piggush felt a 40'-50' ingress-egress easement through Lot #2 would be adequate to address this issue. Joe Reising commented that posts currently on the north end of the property will be removed so he didn't feel the ingress-egress would be an issue. Mr. Kimbell said false deliveries have been done to test if it would work or not and it has worked fine. Lot #1 is only being purchased on the requirement of an easement through Lot #2. Administrator Barber asked if a brick bump out or something else could be constructed to break up the monotony of the front wall if they can't do more windows. President Szymanski commented that he would not like Dollar General to display merchandise in front of the building like other stores do except for periodic sidewalk sales. Mr. Kimbell felt it was unlikely that any product would be put out in front because of the parking configuration.

President Szymanski recommended approving the plat of resubdivision as is and authorize President Szymanski and Administrator Barber to negotiate these issues with Dollar General directly so the project is not held up. Trustee Ahrendt indicated she would like to see a new rendering of changes before approval. President Szymanski said staff is trying to work on a certain time line to get this done for them. After much discussion, Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to table the plat of resubdivision until the next meeting to obtain further information and see changes as proposed by the Board. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.

NAYS: (3) Trustees Cleary, Meyer and Wehling.

Motion failed.

Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the President and Clerk to sign a plat of resubdivision for the Reising Chevrolet dealership property contingent on more windows be put on the front of the building by the doors, some offset brick or different color brick to break up the look of the wall, common ingress and egress into Lot #1 to the north, material from Dollar General not to be displayed

outside daily and all issues to be evaluated based on a final discussion by the Village President, the Village representative for Planning and Zoning and the Village Administrator. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Cleary, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion carried.

Dr. Tami Roskamp of the Beecher School District provided a presentation on school safety and security at the Beecher Schools as a result of measures taken since the Sandy Hook incident. Dr. Roskamp explained that they have expanded school safety initiatives, are conducting regular trainings and drills with the school, Police Department and students, are upgrading cameras to a digital system and installing vestibules (sally ports) in the grade school and high school for safety. Dr. Roskamp thanked the Village, Fire Department and Washington Township for their partnerships to improve the safety of students, staff and the community and thanked them for partnering with her. Trustee Kuhlman also thanked everyone for their cooperation in this matter.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Trustee Ahrendt reported that all flowers have been planted and the Beautification Commission will meet in the next couple of weeks.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that the Fourth of July celebration went very well, probably due to good weather. Car tickets sold well and there were very few incidents concerning the police. Trustee Kuhlman thanked Public Works and all of those who helped with cleanup, and thanked everyone for a very successful Fourth of July celebration.

No Youth Commission report was provided.

Trustee Wehling reported that the Ribbon of Hope Commission held their groundbreaking last Saturday during the Tractors for a Cure event. The event had good attendance. The Commission is moving forward with the monument. Corporate sponsors are still needed to get this project moving. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 18th at 6:00 p.m.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review and Treasurer Koutsky was present to answer questions. Treasurer Koutsky asked the Board that if they have any suggestions for information they would like to see in his report that they should let him know. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and the report of financial activity for the prior month. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

A list of bills totalling \$203,409.34 to be paid was available for review. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Audit fieldwork is nearing completion and the Village is on target for audit presentation at the October meeting.

Trustee Cleary discussed the transition to Commission treasurers and said that any commissions that wants to have their own treasurer can do that but they must provide detailed information to the auditor each year as has been done in the past. He felt that it makes sense to have the Fourth of July Commission have their own treasurer. The Youth Commission will most likely keep using the Village Treasurer for now. Treasurer Koutsky provided a written report that he recommends the Fourth of July Commission to maintain its own treasurer to track funds and do record keeping but the other commissions should consider the options for having their own treasurer. They would need to keep their records in accordance with the Village Auditor's requirements and consider whether it would be best to continue to have the Village Treasurer continue handling their finances. Staff will review and decide if a change needs to be made to the ordinance to address the Village Treasurer staying as Treasurer of all commissions except Fourth of July.

RESOLUTION #2013-15 - A Resolution repealing the Streets and Alleys Committee and Sewer and Water Committee and creating the Public Works Committee and the Economic Development and Community Relations Committee. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-15. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

A report was provided in the packet showing energy used in the community.

RESOLUTION #2013-14 - A Resolution of appreciation and recognition to L. Nelson Collins for twelve years of service as Village Treasurer and his many years of service to the Beecher community. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-14. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

President Szymanski read aloud the Resolution to Mr. Collins and wished him well on his retirement.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to recess for cake and punch at 8:00 p.m. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling provided an update on park signage.

Trustee Wehling will schedule time for a safety check of Village facilities, which needs to be conducted for insurance purposes.

President Szymanski asked if Trustee Wehling would be willing to call a Committee meeting to discuss the Firemen's Park application process for use of the park, and also meet with Beecher Recreation and Fourth of July Commission. The meeting will be set up and posted. Trustee Cleary commented on an email from Julie Riechers about Beecher Recreation wanting to use the park after the Fourth of July. The Board also discussed the Tractors for a Cure event being held so close to the Fourth of July and tapping Village resources and residents.

C. 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.

Trustee Wehling reported on the June 27th PZC meeting since he attended in Trustee Ahrendt's absence. The PZC discussed the Dollar General store, the Village Planner position and the new Economic Development and Community Relations Committee on the Board. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan relating to the Illiana Expressway was also discussed.

An update was provided on the Village planning consultant. Don Thomas has retired as Village Planner effective July 1st. President Szymanski stated that he has some good prospects, and is waiting to hear back from one of the candidates.

Trustee Ahrendt reported on an ordinance providing staggered terms for PZC members. President Szymanski explained that he created shorter terms that are staggered. It was discussed how a PZC member could be removed since they will no longer be appointed annually.

ORDINANCE #1192 - An Ordinance providing for staggered terms of Planning and Zoning Commission members. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1192. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Ahrendt provided an update on the fence moratorium discussed at the last meeting. The Village Attorney has provided an opinion that solid fences, once erected by permit of the Village, become legal non-conforming uses if the pool is removed from the property. This takes care of those parcels having privacy fences after the pool is removed. However, the fence cannot be replaced with another privacy fence. Trustee Cleary asked about the recent approval of the Board of a solid fence subject to putting in a pool. Attorney Kuiper clarified that if the pool is put in and then taken down later, the fence can stay up as a legal non-conforming use, but the petitioner at the time was required to put in a pool within a certain period of time or the fence must come down. President Szymanski asked again why a privacy fence is triggered by putting in a pool and not allowed at any other time. He asked the Village Board to look at this issue again to see if the ordinance needs to be changed and would prefer that the committee hold a meeting and look closer at this, resolve some of these issues and provide a recommendation to the Village Board. Much discussion followed on whether solid fences should be allowed and why or why not. Trustee Cleary expressed safety concerns with privacy fences for Police officers.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the installation of a sidewalk east of 62 Bald Eagle Lane to Cardinal Creek Boulevard using MGM escrow funds. Cost is estimated to be under \$1,000. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion approving a proposal in the amount of \$4,970 from Suburban Sealcoat to make three hot patch repairs to streets in the Nantucket Cove Subdivision with the use of Nantucket escrow funds. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported that there were no incidents during the Fourth of July festival. Beecher Police Department had assistance from Steger ESDA for traffic control on the night of July 4th.

Superintendent Cowger reported that he sprayed for mosquitos the previous Thursday and that he was informed that Will County has an excess of mosquito tablets and he will be getting some from them. He urged residents not to allow standing water to control mosquito growth, and use mosquito spray with deet in the evenings.

The Board considered a proposal to replace the Gould Street siren after the motor froze up after the June tornado drill test. The Chief reported that the siren wasn't activating properly over the last few months, and after service was done to the sirens it was determined that the siren was defective and not reliable so it needed to be replaced. The Chief explained that the expense to repair the existing siren would not be cost effective. It was believed that it was hit by lightning when the well was struck. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve a proposal to replace the Gould Street siren at a cost of \$9,859 from Braniff Communications, with money coming from the Capital Equipment Improvement Contributions. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Trustee Cleary reported on the 2013 road resurfacing. All work has been completed.

An update was provided on the Maxwell Street watermain replacement project. The clay piles spoils have been spread in Nantucket Cove so the project is complete.

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

The Water and Sewer billing register for May and June were provided in the packet for review.

The Board discussed updating the water and sewer master plans covering the entire school District. In the past few months it was learned that Aqua Illinois is hoping to extend watermain into University Park, and just recently the city of Wilmington discussed the creation of a Joint Action Water Agency through intergovernmental agreements to run watermain along the Illiana Expressway to the state line. The Village needs to update the water and sewer master plans so we are prepared to address these types of proposals. Baxter and Woodman has provided a proposal in the amount of \$50,000 to update both plans. The Public Works Committee recommends funding for this item be taken from the \$39,900 budgeted for replacing the well casing on Well #3, and to budget for this project again next year. The remaining \$10,100 will come from the Water Department Materials Account. Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the update of the water and sewer master plans of the Village covering the entire Beecher School District. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the removal of Church Road from the Surface Transportation Plan (STP) and the inclusion of a total rehabilitation of Penfield Street from Dixie Highway to Gould Street as part of the STP. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

This would allow the Village to seek Federal funding for the rehab of this strategic arterial route.

Trustee Cleary reported on the Public Works Committee meeting held June 20th. Superintendent Cowger said he will begin safety meetings at the end of the week. Administrator Barber noted many parkway trees are dying due to the Ash Borer and some trees are getting Maple Scourge.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

No report was available for this newly-formed Committee.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski reported that Will County received a half million dollar grant which they are going to share with the communities affected by the Illiana Expressway for comprehensive land use planning. Wilmington came up with a plan to run a water line from Wilmington to Beecher. This could affect the Aqua Illinois plan to provide water to this area.

President Szymanski reported on the efforts to create a joint action water agency. A letter was provided in the packet from HR Green, Wilmington's Village Engineer. The proposal is to run a large watermain west to east from Wilmington to the state line along the B3 route for the Illiana Expressway. President Szymanski and Ms. Schneider from IDOT plan to sit down with the communities affected by the airport to give the Village a chance to express concerns about the development district and the impact to the communities.

An update was provided on the South Suburban Airport. Committees are being formed at the direction of the State.

An Intergovernmental Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 29th. Illiana Expressway representatives may attend the meeting and provide an update.

President Szymanski reported on the strategic planning process. Surveys were given to the Trustees with a return deadline of July 29th.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to go into executive session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss a contract with Teamsters #700 and consider employment agreements with the Village Administrator, Office Manager, Chief of Police and Superintendent of Public Works and to discuss pending litigation. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 10:09 p.m. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #1193 - An Ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an employment agreement with the Village Administrator. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1193. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #1194 - An Ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an employment agreement with the Office Manager. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1194. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #1195 - An Ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an employment agreement with the Chief of Police. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1195. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #1196 - An Ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an employment agreement with the Superintendent of Public Works. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1196. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Ahrendt asked about the new poles on Route #1 that are leaning. President Szymanski reported that he has emailed Scott Bertrand from ComEd and it has been checked out.

Trustee Ahrendt noted high grass along Route #1 north towards Goodenow Road. Staff will make a phone call to IDOT.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janett Conner
Village Clerk