



**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  
AUGUST 12, 2013 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Szymanski called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Kim Koutsky, Deputy Treasurer Nelson Collins and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

**GUESTS:** Paul Lohmann, George Schuitema and Billy Holzer.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the July 15, 2013 Board meeting. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

**ABSTAIN:** (1) Trustee Kypuros.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** 1) A report on tax income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) There were no objections from the Board to a Proclamation declaring September 19<sup>th</sup> as Drive 4 Pledges Day raising awareness about texting and driving dangers as requested by the Illinois Municipal League (IML).

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:**

William Holzer of 140 Bald Eagle Lane in The Preserves at Cardinal Creek Subdivision was present. Mr. Holzer was looking into funding for completing the playground in his subdivision and asking about why road work was done in this subdivision and residents were not informed about this. President Szymanski explained that some members from the Preserve's Homeowner's Association

(HOA) came to a meeting previously asking for park improvements, a gazebo, park equipment, etc. At that meeting the members of the HOA were asked to prioritize what improvements they want and then come back to the Village Board so it can be determined if the Village can help them with those improvements. They were also informed that insurance would be the HOA's responsibility. Mr. Holzer said that he estimated a cost of \$30,000 to put in park equipment. President Szymanski gave Mr. Holzer a copy of a letter from an attorney setting forth what is needed from their HOA. They still need to make a list of what they want for their park, prioritize the items and submit it to the Village for consideration. The Village was basically waiting to hear from the HOA to decide how to proceed. Trustee Cleary explained the reason the bridge repairs were needed. Mr. Holzer was referred back to his HOA.

## **REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS**

Trustee Ahrendt reported that the Beautification Commission met the previous week and elected new officers. Meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month at the Village Hall. The Commission is preparing for the Holiday Housewalk.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that the 2013 Fourth of July celebration was one of the most successful festivals ever had, mostly due to the weather, estimating \$25,000 ahead of proceeds from last year. The next meeting is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Trustee Kypuros reported on the Beecher Youth Commission water park trip held the previous Friday. The next upcoming event is the August 17<sup>th</sup> Movie in the Park.

Trustee Wehling reported that the Ribbon of Hope Commission is coming up with a letter or brochure to send out to potential sponsors to raise funds to get this project off the ground. Donations are needed from both the corporate side and individuals.

## **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. A detailed report of Fourth of July activity was also provided. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and the report of financial activity in the prior month. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the preceding month were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totalling \$82,992.15 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary reported on the Utility Billing Technician/Administrative Assistant position. The job description is being modified to eliminate code enforcement duties, but additional financial and office duties will be assigned. Advertising for candidates has begun, and the six best candidates will be interviewed on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Cleary provided a report on amending Title 2 of the Village Code. There are some discrepancies from past practice and the current ordinance. Treasurer Koutsky and Deputy Treasurer Collins are working on a draft ordinance which will document the current standard practice and tighten up some loose ends. Staff will sit down with Treasurer Koutsky and Deputy Treasurer Collins to try and work out the details.

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

Trustee Wehling reported that a committee meeting will be held to decide how to proceed on the "Lite the Park" Campaign. It will take some time to raise funds to replace the lights at Firemen's #1 so the old lighting system will have to be used for another year. Trustee Cleary suggested going after corporate sponsors for funding part of this project.

Trustee Wehling reported that there are no set rules or guidelines for special events in public parks or an ordinance requiring some type of permit to be allowed to use the park for large gatherings. The Village needs to look at this issue further and set up rules. A meeting needs to be set up in the next month. Administrator Barber noted that if someone goes in the park and uses the stage or sets something else up on the grounds, if we don't have any formal rules set up it could be difficult to control or enforce any conflicts. However, if they try to use the power there it would be something we could enforce.

### **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 Ahrendt reported that Administrator Barber is handling weeds and property maintenance code violations, and Chief Weissgerber is handling contractor's license infractions, RVs and trailers in driveways, and abandoned vehicles.

Trustee Ahrendt provided an update on Dollar General. Dollar General has added glass to the front of their building, and brick bump-outs to the facade. Trustee Wehling clarified that Dollar General added glass that would total 6 panes of glass total in their design.

Trustee Ahrendt provided an update on hiring a new planning consultant.

A Committee meeting will be held in the coming month to review the fence ordinance pertaining to privacy fences around pools, the temporary sign ordinance, and the process of appearing before the Board prior to a meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) as a requirement for a zoning change.

The next PZC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

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

Chief Weissgerber reported on the new tornado siren. The first test was on the first Tuesday in August. During the first test only one siren went off. During the second test two sirens went off and during the third test all three sirens went off. Radio frequency issues were being experienced that day. The sirens will be assessed again next month when tested. Trustee Cleary expressed concerns regarding the impact of weather on the sirens going off during bad weather, if these radio frequency issues may have anything to do with the weather, and if this could be a problem in the future.

Trustee Kuhlman reported that school security planning is continuing.

#### **E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

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

Superintendent Cowger reported that he is sitting down with Administrator Barber on Thursday to discuss ordering a new mini-dump.

A report was provided on the status of trees in the Village pertaining to the Ash Borer and Maple Scourge. Superintendent Cowger said younger trees in newer subdivisions are dying. The older trees are still doing okay, but it will only be a matter of time. Superintendent Cowger explained what the Maple Scourge looks like. Superintendent Cowger said trees in the new subdivisions have been neglected and need to be trimmed properly to improve their health. However, some residents have an issue with the Village trimming their trees so Public Works employees are hesitant to trim trees. Trustee Kypuros suggested informing residents when we are planning to trim trees. Trustee Cleary suggested educating residents on how trees need to be maintained. Trustee Kypuros recommended notices be posted on residents' doors prior to tree trimming so they are aware we are trimming and why we are doing it. He will work on a notice letter that can be posted prior to trimming.

#### **F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Meyer reported on the first Economic Development and Community Relations Committee meeting. It was a lengthy 3 hour meeting. Questions were discussed regarding implementing a Facebook page and FOIA and Open Meetings Act implications. Twitter and updating the website were also discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>. The Committee needs to wait until the strategic planning process before moving forward with some of these things.

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A meeting will be held with the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitor's Bureau on Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

RESOLUTION #2013-16 - A Resolution of participation in the Illiana Corridor Council. This resolution binds the Village to a \$6,250 local match, but \$30,000 will be returned to assist in amending the Village's Comprehensive Plan. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-16. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski reported on the Illiana meeting he attended earlier in the day. CMAP will be coming out with a letter not supporting the Illiana Expressway. CMAP controls the money for the land acquisition process for the project. The Will County Governmental League (WCGL) is asking the Village to write a letter supporting the Illiana. There were no objections from the Board to sending a letter of support for the Illiana Expressway.

President Szymanski provided an update on the South Suburban Airport. The Iron Ring Mayors have been meeting regularly to discuss the impacts of Senate Bill 20 and the need to resurrect the Development District legislation which was drafted in 2008 and now needs to be tweaked. An executive summary of the bill which staff is checking with the compatibility of SB20 was provided in the packet for review. For example, the Village may not be able to assess taxes or fees on the airport property which will significantly impact our ability to generate some revenue. It is not understood what can and cannot happen on the airport property.

The agenda for the August 29<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Committee meeting was provided in the packet for review.

An update was provided on the Strategic Planning process. Workshops will begin in October to discuss the results of the Trustees'/Staff surveys, and formulate a list of goals, objectives and policy positions.

Trustee Cleary made a motion approving the terms of the PZC members and PZC secretary. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veteran's Day, as a legal Village holiday. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski explained the proposal for employees to be able to re-purchase sick time at 100% over the accrued cap rate of 240 hours. This was in response to a meeting with the Public Works Department who had an issue with the current 50% reimbursement policy. It was felt that this will help encourage employees not to take time off just because they feel they will lose it when they reach their cap. Trustee Cleary made a motion authorizing the re-purchase of sick time at 100% over the accrued cap rate of 240 hours. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski reported on his discussions with Public Works employees regarding procedures, benefits and compensation. Comp time maximums for non-union employees and how it is managed was also discussed.

There being no further business to be discussed in regular session, President Szymanski requested a closed session be held to discuss land acquisition and personnel relating to the hiring of a part-time officer for code enforcement work. Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:08 p.m. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 9:49 p.m. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner  
Village Clerk