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**MINUTES OF A STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP MEETING OF
THE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF
BEECHER HELD AT THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CENTER,
30200 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, BEECHER, ILLINOIS
SEPTEMBER 23, 2013 -- 6:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner and Administrator Robert Barber.

GUESTS: A reporter from the Southland Voice.

An outline of the Strategic Plan was provided to all Board members. Below are the items discussed by the Board based on responses to a survey sent to all Board members meant to achieve a consensus on areas of policy and determine a list of goals, objectives and implementation strategies for various issues of concern which have arisen over the years.

I. WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM NEEDS AND METHODS TO ACHIEVE THEM

A. SEWER PLANT REHAB AND EXPANSION: \$6 MILLION

1. EXPAND TRUNK MAIN SIZE
2. MECHANIZE GRADE SCHOOL LIFT STATION

Consensus of the Board to initiate sales tax referendum possibly sooner than later in order to build up equity for the Debt Fund.

B. REPLACING WATER MAINS

1. PENFIELD STREET: \$600,000
2. WATER MASTER PLAN WILL IDENTIFY OTHER AREAS BASED ON # OF BREAKS, SIZE OF MAIN AND FEED POINT ISSUES

Consensus of the Board to apply for federal funds for the rehabilitation of Penfield Street from Gould to Dixie. (STP Program). Also, do not raise any rates at this time. Pursue other financing options.

II. EXPANSION AND RELOCATION OF THE VILLAGE HALL

- A. LOCATION
- B. BUY VS. LEASE VS. BORROW VS. PAY CASH

Consensus of Board to discuss this item at next workshop in October.

III. THE OLD DOWNTOWN

DEFINITION OF HISTORIC DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION AREA:

The consensus of the Board was to identify the old downtown as follows:

- Reed from Penfield to Hodges
- Gould from Indiana to Hodges
- Penfield from Gould to Woodward

- A. WHAT TYPE OF COMMITMENT DO WE WANT TO MAKE?
- B. THE USE OF TIF DISTRICTS
- C. DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE
- D. FACADE GRANTS
- E. RAIL VIEWING PLATFORM (\$25,000?)
- F. STREETSCAPES
- G. FESTIVALS OR EVENTS
- H. COMMUTER RAIL
- I. DOES THE OLD DOWNTOWN PROVIDE ANY EQUITY TO THE COMMUNITY?
IS IT TOO LATE?

Consensus of Board:

-Have new Village Planners do a study for revitalizing the downtown and study the possibility for a TIF and the options for festivals, streetscapes, themes or other special events/opportunities.

-Educate the Board members on the logistics and possibility of a TIF District.

-Concept of a rail viewing platform appears feasible subject to cost. The concept is favored at this time.

-The Village Board agrees that it may be too late to save the existing buildings. Reinvestment may require new structures.

-If the option of commuter rail avails itself to the Village, the Board is willing to reevaluate it's position.

IV. VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

A. FIVE YEAR BUILDING PERMIT NUMBERS

Consensus of the Board to estimated number of building permits to be issued in the next five years:

9 in 2014

12 in 2015

15 in 2016

18 in 2017

21 in 2018

Due to the late hour it was decided that discussion on the Strategic Plan will be continued at the next workshop meeting to be held on October 28, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

President Szymanski asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk