

**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
OCTOBER 14, 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, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Ahrendt.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Kim Koutsky, Deputy Treasurer Nelson Collins, Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger, Lieutenant Rick Emerson, Officer Kris Hopper, Officer Roger Sipple, Officer Jamie Hawkins, Officer Ryan Hopkins, Donna Rooney, Auditor Marcie Kolberg, and Mike Hoffman of Teska Associates.

GUESTS: Gordon Wilson and Lisa Campbell.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the September 9, 2013 Board Meeting and September 23, 2013 Strategic Planning Workshop. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: A report on income received since the last meeting was provided.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Lisa Campbell (Marketing Director for Tractors For A Cure) thanked the Village, local residents and businesses for their support of this event. The organization is already planning their next event for July 12, 2014. Ms. Campbell also represents the American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay for Life in Peotone and is on their Planning Committee. ACS is looking for more participation in this event from the Village Board, Beecher Police and Beecher Fire. Their focus is to be on first responders. Ms. Campbell also asked for help from the Village on how to get the Beecher community more involved in this event by holding a planning meeting with her group. The first Tractors For A Cure winter benefit will be held on February 8, 2014.

Gordon Wilson thanked the Village Board and predecessors from a standpoint of knowledge of what is going on at the Village level, and applauded the Board for passing a balanced budget.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

In Trustee Ahrendt's absence, President Szymanski reported that the Housewalk will be held on December 1st, which will include 10 to 11 participants.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion approving a professional services agreement with Mad Bomber Productions in the amount of \$28,500 for a 2014 fireworks display. Administrator Barber explained the proposal that was provided in the packet and the reason for the change in fireworks vendors. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Fourth of July Commission Treasurer Nelson Collins provided a detailed report on the financial results of the 2013 Fourth of July celebration. It was the best year the festival ever had, netting approximately \$40,000 before taking out park expenses. After park expenses the festival netted \$28,000.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the next Beecher Youth Commission events are the haunted house trip on October 18th for Junior High children and the Trunk or Treat on October 26th with the location being changed to Firemen's Park parking lot.

Trustee Wehling reported on the Ribbon of Hope Commission. The meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 17th. Letters are being mailed asking for contributions.

Trustee Kuhlman provided Tactical Patrol Officer certifications to Officers Sipple, Hopkins, Hopper, Hawkins and Emerson.

New Utility Billing Technician Donna Rooney was introduced to the Board and welcomed as a new employee of the Village.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Auditor Marcie Kolberg was present and provided a report on the audit for Fiscal Year 2012/13. The Village received a qualified report which is the highest report the Village can receive. Ms. Kolberg went through the audit and answered questions from the Board. Trustee Cleary pointed out an error on page 16 of the report pertaining to collateralization of Village funds since the Village has passed a policy on this issue. The auditor will note this correction. Trust Cleary made a motion to accept the audit for Fiscal Year 2012/13 ending April 30, 2013, as presented. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

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. The Board discussed if the Treasurer should provide detail of all transactions that each Commission make in future reports. Wording for this can be included in the ordinance being drafted regarding the Commissions. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Report of Financial Activity in the prior month. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

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

A list of bills totalling \$191,823.43 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 Wehling seconded the motion.

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

RESOLUTION #2013-18 - A Resolution authorizing line item transfers in the Fiscal Year 2013/14 budget to cover expenses previously approved by the Village Board. A copy of the resolution was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-18. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

Changes to the Treasurer Ordinance was deferred until the November Board meeting.

Comcast notified the Village of substantial changes coming November 5, 2013. A copy of Comcast's letter was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Cleary provided a report on the Finance Committee meeting held to discuss refinancing of the 2002 water tank and booster station loan, sewer plan expansion and a ½% sales tax increase. All these matters are for information at this time.

Mike Hoffman, new Village planner from Teska Associates was introduced to the Board. Mr. Hoffman explained his experience and the planning services he will be providing to the Village. On Tuesday, October 29th, a workshop training session will be held with the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), and Board members were invited to attend. It was also discussed to conduct a TIF training session at the December Village Board meeting, and PZC members will be invited to attend. The Board supported doing this.

Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an engagement agreement for professional services with Teska Associates. A copy of the Agreement was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Village Attorney is drafting an Ordinance on rules for Village Parks. The Ordinance will be available at a future meeting.

Trustee Wehling reported on the "Lite the Park" campaign. Letters will be sent out to potential corporate sponsors to raise funds. An article will be in the Village newsletter, which will be mailed out in the next week.

Trustee Wehling provided an update on the Depot Museum building. President Szymanski said they are out of space and discussing what they want to do in the future. A list of projects will be drafted.

Trustee Wehling reported that a meeting will be held with Beecher Recreation and the Fourth of July Commission regarding a new concession stand, new car stand and storage issues.

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 provided a report on the September 26th PZC meeting. President Szymanski reported that the Committee discussed how items are referred to the PZC, and may need to find a way to streamline the process through Committee discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29th.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

ORDINANCE #1197 - An Ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an agreement with Teamsters Local 700 for a five-year collective bargaining agreement retroactive to May 1, 2013, and also agreeing to sign the addendum Appendix "A" pertaining to participating in the Teamsters health insurance plan. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1197. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed creating the position of permanent part-time police officer. Trustee Kuhlman provided a report. Chief Weissgerber explained the advantages to doing this. It is becoming more difficult for part-time officers to meet the 400 hour training requirements and other towns currently have permanent part-time officers for this reason. These officers would be eligible for IMRF but no other full-time benefits. It was agreed to implement this beginning January 1, 2014. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion creating the position of permanent part-time Police Officer and granting the Police Chief the authority to classify certain current part-time officers to the position of permanent part-time. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion granting holiday pay to any Police Department part-time employee scheduled or called out to work on a legal Village holiday. This would be effective immediately. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed an ordinance increasing the number of part-time Police officers on the roster from 12 to 15. Chief Weissgerber stated that there are currently 8, and wants to increase the number to have the ability to have 15 part-time officers. Chief Weissgerber plans to sanction two officers to work special duty. The Department continues to lose part-timers to other departments that hire them full-time.

ORDINANCE #1198 - An Ordinance increasing the number of part-time Police officers on the roster from 12 to 15. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1198. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.


Superintendent Cowger reported that he will spray for mosquitos two more times this year due to the warm weather, unless there is a hard frost.

Chief Weissgerber stated that he is still working on the school safety audit and it will be presented to the Board for review when completed. The Chief thanked the Village Board for their dedication to school safety and security in our community. The Chief still plans to extend this to private schools and preschools when this safety audit has been completed. Trustee Kuhlman also thanked the Board for their support in this matter.

Trustee Kuhlman requested a closed session be held to discuss the appointment of five part-time officer recruits.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

Superintendent Cowger reported that the hitch and plow for the F800 has been ordered and delivery should be by the second week in November. 

Trustee Kypuros provided the status of the winter salt supply.

Tree trimming and removals for 2013 are scheduled for completion by the end of this week, and all stumps should be ground and restored by Thanksgiving.

Status was provided on the parkway tree planting program. The Village has been contacted by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) if we would like any trees off of the airport property to replace dying ash trees in parkways. Superintendent Cowger reported that he will take a look at the trees and hand pick any we choose.

Leaf collection has begun and will continue until the week of Thanksgiving. The ending date will depend on how the season goes.

Superintendent Cowger reported that an area on Ash Street and on Route 1 will be included in the sidewalk replacement program for this year. Trustee Kypuros reported that Hack Funeral Home was very happy with the work done there.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the Elm Street watermain replacement project. Two pipes have been put in. This week gas lines and other service lines will be located. Installation of the main is anticipated within the next two weeks.

It was reported that the flooding problems at 1183 Ash Street seem to have been fixed. President Szymanski reported that he hasn't heard from the homeowner. It is believed that the sewer service line was overdug and compromised the trench of the storm sewer between the two properties. Superintendent Cowger also reported that when the plumbers put in the sanitary it was backfilled incorrectly. Trustee Kypuros stated that it was not Village water causing their problem. President Szymanski commended Superintendent Cowger for his work on this matter.

Trustee Kypuros provided the status of the clarifier tank painting at the sewer plant. This project will be deferred until next fiscal year. It will be best to do this project next summer. The sewer operator is going to focus on replacing two valves in the orbal pit.

Superintendent Cowger reported that communication for the Village SCADA system was found to have been knocked out of service. Temporary repairs included some hard wiring and reconfiguration to get it up and running until it can be upgraded. Estimated costs to upgrade should be available this week.

An ash borer update was provided. According to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Emerald Ash Borer has been found in the Village. We are not allowed to ship any wood outside of Will County. This designation may qualify us for grant funds.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign a two-year lease agreement with Lange Excavating for the storage of their large tractor in our old Public Works garage

in exchange for working on the Elm Street watermain project. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.
AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Fall newsletter is scheduled to be mailed this week.

Trustee Meyer reported that the Nixle application has been added to the Village and Police Department websites. Donna Rooney will be trained on website updates so information can be placed on website in a more timely manner. YouTube offers all Board meetings on video archived in the last year. The Committee will continue to discuss the policies regarding the use of Twitter and a website overhaul.

Trustee Meyer reported that the Union Pacific Railroad is willing to consider a lease of property for the rail viewing platform. We are continuing to negotiate the terms of a lease by possibly expanding our current lease on the east side of the tracks to include this parcel at no additional charge. It was noted that the current railroad lease includes Depot Park, Veteran's Memorial and Women's Club Park.

Trustee Meyer provided an update on new businesses in town. Bak-N-4-U opened October 1st at 759 Penfield Street. MJ's Coins opened on Gould Street this week. Dollar General plans to open November 1st at 722 Dixie Highway. President Szymanski has asked the Chamber to consider re-establishing ribbon cuttings for new businesses.

The Chamber of Commerce has formed a committee to provide welcome baskets to new residents. President Szymanski has agreed to deliver these baskets to about 50 new residents each year.

The Committee has received a proposal to provide economic development consulting services and has yet had the opportunity to discuss this proposal. It is not in the current budget and the strategic planning process of the Village Board is not yet complete. This matter is being put on hold for now.

Trustee Kuhlman asked about the trains staging behind the townhomes on Woodward Street. The railroad claims that the area has been marked as "no parking" but the trains are parking there anyway. Residents have been given phone numbers to call and complain, and are also reporting the matter to the Village. This issue is still trying to be resolved with Union Pacific Railroad, before moving on to the Federal Railway Administration.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski reported on the Illiana Expressway. Thursday, October 17th at 3 p.m. the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will take a vote whether or not to include the Illiana Expressway in their Go To 2040 Plan. Many mayors plan to attend in support of the project. It is rumored that the State plans to take other options to try and get this project completed. Governor Quinn is not happy with CMAP not supporting the project.

It was reported that the State has purchased 200 more acres for the South Suburban Airport.

Administrator Barber provided a short report on the Will County Governmental League (WCGL) legislative briefing.

President Szymanski also brought up discussion with residents regarding high taxes, feeling the only way to get true real estate tax relief is to revamp the taxing system which Toi Hutchinson seems interested in pursuing.

President Szymanski reported that met with State Representative Kate Cloonen a few weeks ago.

The next Strategic Plan Workshop is scheduled for Monday, October 28th at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington Township Center.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve President Szymanski's appointment of Jeanette Chose (replacing JR Delgado, who resigned due to time constraints) and Terry Kasput (replacing Missy Sippel, who resigned due to time constraints) to the Beecher Youth Commission. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve President Szymanski's appointment of Barb Hodgett (replacing Bob Howard who resigned due to personal reasons) on the Beecher Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to move the time of the Tuesday, November 12th Board meeting from 7 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. due to the exercise class at the Township Center. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:41 p.m. to discuss the appointment of five part-time Police Officer recruits. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to return to regular session at 8:57 p.m. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

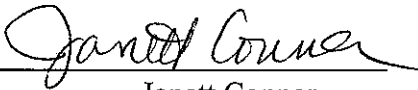
AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk