

**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
NOVEMBER 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, Meyer (arrived at 7:17 p.m.), 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 and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

GUESTS: Colleen, Thomas and Fabienne Lentz, and George Schuitema.

In honor of Veteran's Day, President Szymanski thanked all veterans who served in the military.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 14, 2013 Board meeting and the October 28, 2013 Strategic Planning session. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Meyer.

Motion Carried.

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

Trustee Meyer arrived at 7:17 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Colleen Lentz was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by President Szymanski for her work on restoration of the Ohlendorf Gazebo on Reed Street. Ms. Lentz read aloud a thank you letter to the Board.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

President Szymanski reported on the upcoming housewalk. A Beautification Commission meeting is scheduled for November 13th and the Housewalk is scheduled for December 1st.

Trustee Kuhlman stated that there was nothing new to report for the Fourth of July Commission.

Trustee Kypuros reported that he hopes to start putting up the ice rink once leaves quit falling.

Trustee Wehling reported on the Ribbon of Hope Commission. So far \$7,320 has been raised for the cause. The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2014 at 6 p.m. The Commission did not have a quorum at their last meeting so there was nothing new to report. Trustee Wehling passed out a business card and flyer for the Ribbon of Hope that will be provided to businesses regarding sponsorship levels.

President Szymanski read a message to the residents of the Village regarding the purchase of 625 Dixie Highway. He explained the history and reasons for deciding to purchase the property as the new Village Hall and stated that a special newsletter will be sent to residents also explaining this and to keep residents informed. He said that the Village will not be borrowing any money or imposing any new taxes to pay for this. Existing Village funds will be used for the purchase and renovation of the property. President Szymanski also noted that there is some difference of opinion on the Board as to where the Village Hall should be located and if the Village should purchase this building. It was felt that this purchase would be an investment and could be sold for a profit in the future and the money be used to relocate the Village Hall back to the old downtown if the Board at that time desires to do so.

The Board considered an Ordinance authorizing the purchase of 625 Dixie Highway for a new Village Hall. Trustee Kuhlman stated that he doesn't believe this relocation of the Village Hall is good for the old downtown area and felt the entrance and exits on Dixie Highway are not safe for our residents. Trustee Kypuros voiced his support of this purchase as an opportunity for an investment for the future of the Village. Trustee Meyer spoke in support of the purchase as an investment and didn't think this would be detrimental for the old downtown or unsafe. Trustee Cleary spoke in support of this purchase and didn't feel it detrimental to the old downtown and not unsafe for Village residents. He said it is a good opportunity. President Szymanski said this is the third building that has been looked at in his tenure as a possible location for a Village Hall and the cheapest. President Szymanski said that Trustee Ahrendt couldn't be present because of a family emergency but has expressed that she would not vote in support of purchasing this building and he wanted everyone to be aware of her opinion on this. Attorney Kuiper commended the Village Board for being in the financial position to be able to afford this purchase without having to borrow the money. It was noted that five affirmative votes are required to approve this ordinance according to the Attorney.

ORDINANCE #1199 - An Ordinance authorizing the execution of a sale and purchase agreement with Beecher Properties, LLC for the purchase of real property commonly known as 625 Dixie

Highway in the amount of \$125,000 plus closing costs. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve Ordinance #1199. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

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 Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, 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 \$121,402.18 to be paid were 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 Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1200 - An Ordinance for the levying and assessing of taxes for Fiscal Year 2013/2014 collectible in 2014. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1200. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary reported that the auditor corrected the statement in the audit documents pertaining to collateralization of Village funds and filed the corrected audit with the State of Illinois.

Trustee Cleary reported that the Village is looking to go into a cooperative agreement with 14 other communities for a self-funded liability insurance pool. Administrator Barber explained that switching to this pool will not save us much money this year in premiums but this new pool will have lower deductibles and the coverage will be better. We will save money over time by being a part of a low risk pool where we could get some of our money back through self-funding.

ORDINANCE#1201 - An Ordinance authorizing the execution of an Illinois Municipal Insurance Cooperative Intergovernmental Agreement. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1201. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary reported that the Village's bond rating from Standard and Poors improved from A+ to A++.

RESOLUTION #2013-19 - A Resolution amending the Village investment policy. This amended policy allows the Village to have accounts in any financial institution having a facility within the corporate limits of the Village. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-19. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed creating a new Village Hall bank account. Money will be transferred into the account from General and O & M and only be used for the purchase and rehabilitation of the new Village Hall building.

RESOLUTION #2013-20 - A Resolution on the financing of the purchase and rehabilitation of 625 Dixie Highway as a new Village Hall. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-20. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2013-21 - A Resolution authorizing line item transfers in the budget to accommodate the new Police Union contract at no increase to the Village budget and to provide the transfers necessary for the purchase and rehabilitation of 625 Dixie Highway based on the financing plan outlined in the prior Resolution. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-21. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The changes to the Treasurer's Ordinance are awaiting a draft from the attorney.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling stated that he is working with Attorney Kuiper on updating the park rules Ordinance.

Trustee Wehling reported that there is \$1,911 in the "Light the Park" campaign fund.

Trustee Wehling reported that he spoke with one of the current Beecher Recreation Board members. They plan to elect new officers this week so he is waiting to set up a meeting once the new officers are elected.

The Board discussed the hiring of Michael Stanula to prepare plans and specifications and conduct a bid process for the rehabilitation of the new Village Hall. Administrator Barber noted that there

CP

is 3-phase electric in the building. It was unknown why. The Board discussed the process for supervising construction and who will be responsible for the different portions of the project, etc. Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing the hiring of Michael Stanula at a cost not to exceed \$1,200 for preparing plans and specifications and conducting a bid process for the rehabilitation of 625 Dixie Highway as a new Village Hall. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed producing a special newsletter explaining the Village Hall project. This will go out after a signed purchase agreement is received on advice of the Attorney.

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. It was noted that next month the Code Enforcement report will be included in the Police Department monthly report.

Administrator Barber provided a report on the results of the October 29th Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting. It was noted that most of the Board members were present at the meeting.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the Halloween patrols were quiet. There were no incidents to report. Trustee Cleary noted that he was glad we did not change the Trick or Treating date because of the weather, as some had requested. The weather held out and all went well.

Chief Weissgerber stated that new Code Enforcement Officer Aaron Dacorte couldn't attend tonight's meeting, but will attend December's Board meeting.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the School Safety and Security Report has been completed and available to Board members if they'd like to review it. Drills were also conducted at the schools in the last month. The Chief reported that there will be a meeting with neighboring departments on rapid deployment. Beecher is ahead of other area departments on this. Trustee Kuhlman commended the School District on their cooperation with this and the work the Police Department put into this.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

The Water Billing Register for the months of September and October were provided in the packet for review.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the new plow for the F800 has been ordered and we are awaiting delivery.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the valve turning program. 157 valves were turned. A full report will be available at the next Board meeting. Trustee Kypuros reported that a Public Works Committee meeting was held and it was decided that this valve turning be done on an annual basis for regular maintenance of the water system.

Superintendent Cowger reported that Fall hydrant flushing was conducted last week.

Superintendent Cowger reported that Floyd Burger handed out door hangers in Hunter's Chase for the tree trimming. Tree trimming has been completed. Stump removal and tree planting still needs to be done.

Superintendent Cowger reported that four sections of sidewalk need to be replaced, and should be completed in the next ten days.

Superintendent Cowger said he will try and make improvements to the Penfield and Gould Street drainage problems if he has time this year. Improvements would only be from the railroad tracks to Gould Street.

Trustee Kypuros reported that leaf collection will most likely continue into the first week of December.

Holiday banners and decorations are scheduled to go up the week of November 25th.

The last day for brush pickup will be Monday, December 2nd.

Superintendent Cowger reported that all service lines have been transferred over on Elm Street. The old watermain will be capped this week and then stone and restorations will be completed.

Trustee Kypuros reported on the Committee meeting held to discuss water and sewer SCADA system upgrades. The Committee agreed to a four-year plan to complete the upgrades, starting at the Sewer Plant.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the Committee will meet on Thursday, January 2nd at 6:30 p.m. to review the first draft of the Water and Sewer Master Plan. A full presentation will then be provided to the Board in January.

Superintendent Cowger has been instructed to obtain a firm proposal from Austgen Electric to install variable feed drives for the booster station. They are scheduled for installation next fiscal year and this proposal will be discussed at the January 2nd Public Works Committee meeting.

The Board considered the purchase of street name poles and signs. President Szymanski received a complaint that streets in Prairie Crossings South haven't had new signs installed. The Board considered adding this subdivision's signs to this purchase. It was discussed that there is a plan to switch over every street sign in the Village. This section was included in a later plan for sign replacement so it was decided not to add these signs to the order at this time. Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the purchase of 27 street name poles and 54 street name signs not to exceed \$17,500 using Motor Fuel Tax funds. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros announced that Superintendent Cowger received a Certificate of Achievement as a Public Works Supervisor and applauded him for his efforts and congratulated him on his accomplishment.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Meyer provided a report on a communications plan with residents using Code Spear, Nixle, Facebook and Twitter. Administrator Barber said Code Spear is to be controlled by FEMA. Chief Weissgerber reported that a newer expanded version called Nixle Engaged can be purchased at a cost of \$2,100 per year which will give more capabilities and he is also looking at Blackboard Connect. Trustee Meyer reported that she looked at Twitter but it seems to be for the younger generation and wouldn't reach enough people. Facebook seems to be capable of reaching more people. Attorney Kuiper provided an opinion that this would be a public forum. He suggested that Facebook could be set up to put information only on it but once comments are allowed, the Village can't censor comments because of Freedom of Speech issues. It could become a problem as to what could be posted on the site because the Village could not remove posts. The Board discussed many issues with having a Facebook page and how it could best be used to provide information to the community. All things put on the Facebook page must also be kept permanently for FOIA.

Trustee Meyer made a motion authorizing the payment of \$500 to become an Associate Member of the Chicago Southland Development Corporation. A letter was provided in the packet explaining this association. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Meyer provided a report on the re-initiation by the Beecher Chamber of Commerce of the welcome basket program. President Szymanski reported that the Village created a magnet of important phone numbers to be distributed to new residents in the basket.

Mike Hoffman, Village Planner, will provide a presentation on the use of tax increment finance districts (TIFs) at the December 9th Board meeting.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski provided an Illiana Expressway update. Last week he met with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) regarding final alignment of the Illiana Expressway. The overpasses and roads that will stay open remain the same as previously reported. President Szymanski reported that he testified at the MPO Committee and the project passed. However, there is still a chance that the Expressway may not be built.

President Szymanski provided an airport update. Will County has formed an ad hoc committee to address the airport issue. Eastern Will County towns were at a meeting and discussed options with the ad hoc group. He will keep informed on the project.

Reports were provided on the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Conference which was attended by President Szymanski, Trustee Meyer, Administrator Barber and Clerk Conner. President Szymanski reported that at a Mayors' session there was discussion on trains sitting behind houses in many communities. President Szymanski also stated that Beecher is in good shape in comparison with some towns concerning the cooperation of the Village Board.

The next Strategic Planning Workshop will be held on Monday, November 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington Township Center.

President Szymanski asked Board members what they would like included on the agenda for the next Intergovernmental meeting to be held on January 30, 2014. Trustee Cleary suggested that the Village Planner do a TIF presentation to the group, since taxing board members have changed since the last time this occurred. President Szymanski wants to see first how the meeting with the Village and PZC members regarding TIFs goes. Administrator Barber suggested having Will County EMA provide a presentation. Administrator Barber also suggested having a Public Officials Forum at one of the Intergovernmental meetings.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber reported that there was an eviction on Saddle Run today and a lot of items were put out on the lawn. If items are still there on Friday, Public Works will clean it up. Chief Weissgerber stated that he talked to the realtor and they will be putting a dumpster on the property this week. The resident that was evicted also took some of the fence panels down.

Administrator Barber reported that the I-394/Route 1 corridor study has begun. Work will begin in February, after consultants are hired.

Administrator Barber stated that the Attorney indicated that he would like to be present on the discussion with the referral process to the PZC because he would like to recommend that we change the process. Attorney Kuiper said there is some issue with the current process for referrals. The Village would have to change the Zoning Ordinance if we change the procedure. Trustee Kypuros said he would also like to look at the changing of variance costs. This matter will be referred to the Committee for discussion.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk