

**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
DECEMBER 9, 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, Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger, Mike Hoffman of Teska Associates, and Code Enforcement Officer Aaron Dacorte.

GUESTS: Paul Lohmann, George Schuitema and Kevin Bouchard.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 12, 2013 Board meeting and November 18, 2013 Strategic Planning session. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: 1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided.
2) Clerk Conner announced that dog tags are now on sale at the Village Hall.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Trustee Ahrendt reported that the Holiday House Walk was a success, with approximately 200 people attending the event on December 1st. Raffle tickets were also sold at the Breakfast with Santa on December 8th.

There was nothing new to report on the Fourth of July Commission, according to Trustee Kuhlman.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the ice rink has been put up.

Trustee Wehling reported that the next Ribbon of Hope Commission meeting is scheduled for January 2nd.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: TIF DISTRICTS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS

Mike Hoffman of Teska Associates provided a presentation on TIF Districts, their applications and how they are being used in the State of Illinois. Board members asked questions of Mr. Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman said he couldn't advise if this would be best for Beecher until he does a study of possible TIF locations.

Trustee Kuhlman introduced new Code Enforcement Officer Aaron Dacorte to the Board.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to take a five minute recess at 8:00 p.m. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to return from recess at 8:05 p.m. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

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: (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 \$194,128.24 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 Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

******(See motion below)

ORDINANCE #1202 - An Ordinance of Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2013/2014 to provide for the purchase and remodeling of 625 Dixie Highway as a Village Hall and to provide for the transfer of funds from Public Infrastructure to General to pay off \$80,000 obligation. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1202. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered approving a Resolution for the processing of Commission payments. It was noted that this is the process we currently use but the Ribbon of Hope and Preservation Commissions were not included in the original Resolution.

RESOLUTION #2013-22 - A Resolution on the processing of Commission payments. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-22. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Village is waiting on the Attorney to complete the updated Treasurer Ordinance.

An update was provided on the five-year financial plan. The plan will be available for Board review in January.

Trustee Cleary discussed the possibility of changing the dates of Village Board meetings from the second and fourth Monday to the second and fourth Tuesday to allow Board members and residents to attend both the Village Board meetings and School Board meetings.

******(See motion above for Ordinance #1202)

President Szymanski stated that a 2/3 vote of the corporate authorities holding office is required to approve Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance #1202 so he asked that the Ordinance be reconsidered. Trustee Wehling made a motion to reconsider Ordinance #1202. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1202 - An Ordinance of Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2013/2014 to provide for the purchase and remodeling of 625 Dixie Highway as a Village Hall and to provide for the transfer of funds from Public Infrastructure to General to pay off \$80,000 obligation. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.



B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Village is waiting on the Attorney to complete the Ordinance on park rules.

Trustee Wehling provided a report on the meeting held with Mike Gaidar, new President of Beecher Recreation. Todd Kraus is the new Vice President. The group discussed: A new beer stand and possibly setting up a concession stand in the new beer stand; the need to come up with a building plan to make it a multi-use building so that it could be used for storage and concessions; the scheduling of teams by Beecher Recreation and other teams using the fields; the condition of Whelton Stedt Park and the possibility of getting a person to help bring the fields to at least practice condition; putting scoreboards in Firemen's 1; a temporary structure along Miller Street field only during ball season, and putting more outlets in Firemen's Park. More meetings will be held during the next year.

An update was provided on the purchase of 625 Dixie Highway. A contract has been signed and \$12,500 in earnest money has been delivered to Inland Bank. The closing is scheduled to occur prior to December 27th. A preliminary floor plan was emailed to all Board members.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to pay David A. Ring & Associates in the amount of \$1,700 for a survey of 625 Dixie Highway to be paid from the 625 Dixie Highway Account. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt asked why we are paying for this when we don't own the property yet. President Szymanski responded that we agreed to pay for the survey and it needs to be done before closing.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

Trustee Ahrendt reported that a Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) workshop is scheduled for Thursday, December 19th at 7:15 p.m. At this meeting, Casey's will present its site plan and traffic study to the PZC for review prior to public hearing scheduled for January 23rd. The Village has received a completed application for the special use permit.

Discussion on updating the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to fences was referred to the Committee and the recommendations can then be brought to the Board. Possible changes can then be referred to the PZC.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

Chief Weissgerber reported that he is continuing discussions with other Police Departments and Will County on school safety and security. More information should be available at the next meeting. Local daycare centers will be most likely to be contacted in the spring.

A report was provided on the effects from the high winds during the storm on November 17th. Beecher's warning sirens were activated by dispatch, however the Gould Street siren did not go off so Chief Weissgerber activated the sirens a second time and all sirens went off. It was believed to have occurred due to problems with the radio system being so overwhelmed with heavy radio traffic. It was noted that there is no "all clear" for the siren. Trustee Wehling said this should be put in the Village newsletter to let residents know. The matter could also be brought up at the next senior breakfast to inform seniors. The roofs on two houses were damaged by parkway trees in town in addition to a number of trees that came down. Clean up of all of the tree damage caused leaf pick up to be delayed by a week. The costs for clean up also has diverted some funds for tree removal for this year. Superintendent Cowger announced that Arnold's Tree Service will be in town on Tuesday to take down trees damaged by the storm.

Chief Weissgerber announced that there is no parking on Village streets after 2" snowfall now that we are in the winter season, and residents are not allowed to push their snow into the street.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

Several watermain breaks occurred recently: two on Penfield Street, one on Gould Street, one on Gould and Indiana, one on Woodward, and one on Penfield by the funeral home. Superintendent Cowger said he believes many of these breaks were attributed to the breaks on Gould Street and their location in the water system.

Brush pickup for this year occurred for the last time on Monday, December 2nd.

Leaf collection has been completed for the year.

Superintendent Cowger reported that he should have the new F800 plow by Wednesday.

New parkway trees have been delivered but still need to be planted.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the valve turning program. Five broken valves will need to be replaced.

An Elm Street watermain replacement update was provided.

Due to the recent storm cleanup, installation of holiday decorations was delayed. All decorations are now up.

Superintendent Cowger reported on sidewalk replacement. It is too late in the season and will have to be completed next year. The resident will be notified.

A Public Works Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 2nd at the Village Hall to review the first draft of the new water and sewer master plan.

The Board considered completion of an application for a Safe Routes to School grant. This is an 80/20 matching grant which is Motor Fuel Tax eligible. Trustee Kypuros explained other projects considered for this grant application and why this project was chosen. Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing payment in the amount of \$1,500 to Baxter and Woodman for the completion of an application for the Safe Routes to Schools grant. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The results of the December 3rd Committee meeting were provided by Trustee Kypuros. The replacement of the Miller Street lift station force main and the replacement of a pump and motor at the sewer plant wet well was discussed and direction was given. Manpower needs of the Department were also discussed in light of the many watermain breaks we have had and the storm damage that occurred. Trustee Kypuros commended President Szymanski, Administrator Barber and Washington Township Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer for helping Public Works by picking up brush during this time.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Meyer reported that she is looking into a smart phone application that is oriented for municipalities, local businesses and other community functions with a Facebook page option. The cost would be \$400 for set up and \$2,000 for annual maintenance. The Chamber could be approached to do this as a joint venture since Beecher businesses could be linked to this application. Trustee Meyer explained how these applications would work.

A message was sent through NIXLE after the sirens were sounded to notify residents of the pending storm on November 17th. However, it was not used to advise residents of a water shut-off in a neighborhood after two watermain breaks. This continues to be a work in progress. Chief Weissgerber explained how Nixle works and that there are other vendors that provide the same service which he will be looking at for price comparisons and capabilities.

Comcast announced rate increases effective January 1st. A letter was enclosed in the packet for review.

Action on a resolution adopting a four-year strategic plan was deferred until the next meeting to give Board members a chance to read it further.

The Board agreed it was a good idea to have the Planner provide a TIF presentation at the Intergovernmental Committee meeting in January.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski deferred an Illiana Expressway update to Administrator Barber. Will County has a half million in funds and the Corridor Council will decide how to spend the funds depending on County Board approval. The Village will be eligible to receive a local grant which will have to include planning for the Illiana Corridor which will help update the land use plan.

According to Administrator Barber, the RFP process is moving forward for the Illinois Route 394/Route #1 Corridor Council. This will go through the South Suburban Mayors and Managers.

There was no update on the South Suburban Airport.

President Szymanski provided results of the November 14th Will County Governmental League meeting. Issues discussed at the meeting included utility company delays during construction and development projects, collection of sales taxes due on construction materials and the South Suburban Purchasing Cooperative.

President Szymanski provided results of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus meeting held on November 22nd.

The Will County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) plans to update the four-year hazard mitigation plan. Donna Rooney has been assigned to rewrite the Village's disaster plan.

The results of last Friday's Fuel Committee meeting was provided. The Committee will be going out for bids for unleaded fuel which is currently being purchased on the open market.

A report was provided on a presentation by Sandra Thielman at the Township Board meeting pertaining to the Beecher Mausoleum. President Szymanski said that the Mausoleum is currently a private entity and Ms. Thielman is asking for help from local municipalities. Local municipalities are telling her that until it is no longer a private entity we can't do anything. Ms. Thielman can contract for police protection with the local municipality. Trustee Cleary noted that to get to the cemetery you have to access a private road which can be a problem during the winter due to road conditions. The matter needs to be discussed in detail with Chief Weissgerber. A legal opinion was provided by the Attorney.

The Board discussed an inquiry for a special liquor license to provide for video gaming in gas stations and convenience stores. Circle K is requesting consideration of a license that would allow the serving and consumption on premise of one glass of beer or wine so they can legally obtain a video gaming license. President Szymanski explained what they want to do, and told them he would probably not want to consider this at this time. President Szymanski asked for input from the Board. It was the consensus of the Board not to support this inquiry.

President Szymanski provided a report on trains parking south of the Indiana Avenue crossing, brush along the rail line impeding fence work, and the increased amount of train traffic. President Szymanski spoke to the railroad and they have indicated that they cannot change where they stage the trains because there is not enough room south of town. There are certain crossings that they can't

block including farmer's crossings. President Szymanski indicated that he would oppose residential development along the railroad tracks in the future without some kind of barrier to avoid these kinds of problems. It was mentioned that the trains never used to sit at the south end of town when those homes were built. There doesn't appear to be a solution to this problem at this time. There are also trees and brush that need to be cleaned out along the railroad and fencing that needs to be repaired. The railroad has offered to pay for at least a portion of the cost of removing trees.

President Szymanski wished the residents, staff and Village Board a happy holiday season.

President Szymanski requested an executive session be held to discuss land acquisition.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:12 p.m. to discuss land acquisition. Trustee Wehling 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 9:27 p.m. Trustee Kypuros 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 Kypuros 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 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk