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**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
APRIL 28, 2014 -- 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 and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

GUESTS: Karen Smith from Northwest Indiana Times and Southland Voice, George Schuitema and Mike Hansen.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the April 14, 2014 Board meeting. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Kuhlman 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) There were no objections to Beecher Lions Club's request to hold Candy Day in the Village on May 3rd. 3) There were no objections to the Proclamation declaring May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Beecher.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Joliet Attorney Mike Hansen, who serves as an ombudsman for the Illiana Expressway assisting property owners with any questions, concerns, etc. regarding acquisition of property for the Illiana was present. He explained that he is being paid for through a grant from the State of Illinois. He provided information on Illiana Expressway land acquisition and explained the timeline for the Illiana and how he works with property owners on this project. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2016 and be completed in 2018. He also holds office hours

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at Washington Township to be available to answer questions. Mr. Hansen provided his phone number and offered to answer any questions the Board or any residents may have.

A public hearing was held at 7:12 p.m. to consider a budget for Fiscal Year 2014/2015.

RESOLUTION #2014-04 - A Resolution adopting a budget for Fiscal Year 2014/2015. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2014-04. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed the Appropriation Ordinance. Trustee Cleary noted that \$390,000 was put in the appropriation for the 625 Dixie project but Administrator Barber said that amount can be reduced to \$270,000. The Administrator initially had included the amount of the purchase of the building in the total which has already been paid for but the full amount was left in the appropriation in case overall costs exceed estimates. Either way the vote has to come back before the Board before additional funds can be spent. After some discussion it was decided to change the amount in the appropriation for the 625 Dixie Highway project to \$270,000 as shown in the budget.

ORDINANCE#1210 - An Ordinance of appropriation for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 with the change to reduce the amount of the 625 Dixie Highway appropriation item to \$270,000. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1210 with the change. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2014-05 - A Resolution authorizing the appropriation of Motor Fuel Tax funds for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 according to the proposed budget. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2014-05. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2014-06 - A Resolution adopting a revised Personnel Manual for Village employees. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2014-06. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2014-07 - A Resolution adopting a revised Job Description Manual of the Village. Trustee Cleary made a motion to adopt Resolution #2014-07. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary reported that Will County has released the Village tax rates for 2013, collectible in 2014. The Village's tax rate went up from .6459 to .7012 to cover the loss of 7.9% of assessed value in the Village, so it's possible that residents' taxes may go up even though the Village froze our tax levy in 2012.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that he needs to get with the Attorney on the Park Rules Ordinance update.

Superintendent Cowger reported that port-a-johns are out and Public Works will soon begin to mow Welton Stedt Park. Ag lime has been delivered.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the electrical connections (junction boxes) for the scoreboards in Firemen's Park have been installed. Poles will be picked up this week. Everything should be installed by the end of the week and the ComEd hookup will be the only thing left to do.

Administrator Barber noted that a pole in Firemen's Park was found to be broken due to the wind earlier in the day, and the pole is being replaced.

Superintendent Cowger reported that grading and adding limestone to the paths in Lion's Park will be the next project after Firemen's and Welton Stedt Parks.

The Village received five bids for the roof replacement project for 625 Dixie Highway. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a bid award for replacement of the roof on the building at 625 Dixie Highway to the lowest bidder, Langlois Roofing, in the amount of \$32,905. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Meyer, Kypuros, Wehling and President Szymanski.
NAYS: (2) Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman.
Motion Carried.

An update was provided by Trustee Wehling on the 625 Dixie Highway project. Mike Stanula reported that a number of prints have been sold and he anticipates receiving several bids on the project this time. Bids will be opened on May 22nd and considered by the Board on May 28th.

The Board considered a plan for relocation and reconstruction of buildings in Firemen's Park. Drawings were provided to the Board and Trustee Wehling explained the plan. Beecher Recreation would like to relocate the concession stand from Firemen's #1 to a spot west of the picnic area by the bathrooms so it can be centrally-located in the Park. The beer stand would be torn down and a larger picnic pavilion would take its place which could be used year-round by the public. Currently, the building remains locked up since it is used for storage. A two-car garage would be built northeast of the new beer stand and Beecher Recreation and the Fourth of July Commission would

each have a bay for storage of equipment and materials. Beecher Recreation and the Fourth of July Commission have approved this plan. Plans have also been approved by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Questions were asked about the electrical connections, garage doors on the storage building and other issues pertaining to the plan. Construction is planned for sometime after the Tractor's for a Cure event on July 12th. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a plan for the relocation and reconstruction of buildings in Firemen's Park. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

Trustee Ahrendt reported that the Planning, Building and Zoning Committee met to discuss the Fence Ordinance and Architectural Code. The Committee agrees that the Village needs to change the solid fence with a pool concept, but there is a difference of opinion on how to replace the current ordinance. A proposal was received from Teska Associates to help with an architectural code, but the fee was considered too high and was not budgeted. A scaled down proposal was requested that would only cover commercial property along Dixie Highway.

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting for April was cancelled. Next meeting is scheduled for May 22nd.

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.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion authorizing the Chief of Police to place orders for two squad cars in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Chief Weissgerber provided a school safety and security update. He has met with daycare centers and preschools. Trustee Kuhlman reported that a crisis management review meeting is being scheduled for June with local public safety officials and school district administration.

Chief Weissgerber reported we haven't yet moved to Nixle Engage so there is nothing new on this. The Chief said he did a Nixle presentation at the Senior breakfast. As a result an additional 26 people enrolled in the basic Nixle program. The Chief believes Nixle Engage will provide better technology and reach more people once implemented. A presentation will be made to the Chamber of Commerce once it's launched.

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Trustee Kuhlman stated that the Fourth of July Commission has received the 2014 Chevy Camaro and said tickets should be available for sale on Tuesday.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

Superintendent Cowger provided a summary of his annual report. He provided information on staff, stone, road salt, the Elm Street watermain project and Prairie Avenue watermain projects that have been completed, progress on restorations from winter and other watermain projects, etc. Administrator Barber asked about meter installations last year, the costs and what old water meters still need to be replaced. Trustee Kypuros said even though there have been some cuts in the budget the Committee is looking into determining which meters we need to focus on replacing since funds are limited.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the valves in the water system are now on GPS and disk. Public Works can go to the M.E. Simpson website to look at locations of valves. A report was also provided on which valves need to be replaced. Maps will also now be available in the Public Works trucks for use when Public Works employees are on the street.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the Prairie Avenue watermain. The new main and service lines have been installed and restoration of the road and parkways still needs to be done.

Superintendent Cowger provided a report on the Elm Street watermain replacement restoration. This restoration will be done soon.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the Miller Street force main televising. The contractor has cancelled on Superintendent Cowger three times so far, so he is waiting for the company to come out to do the televising.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the installation of variable drives in the booster station by Austgen Electric in the amount of \$16,593. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the acceptance of a bid for the completion of thermoplastic paint striping of all Village streets by Superior Road Striping of Melrose Park in the amount of \$21,844.07. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the harsh winter took a toll on Village roads. Crack sealing will have to be done this Fall to save some of the newer roads. \$20,000 has been budgeted. Trustee Kuhlman commented on gapping cracks in the roads since the winter and what can be done to protect these

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roads. Trustee Kypuros said priority will be to protect newer streets in the Village as well as some of the older roads. Some discussion followed.

An update was provided on repairs to lift stations and the sewer plant.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Meyer provided an update on the Bernard Welding sewer connection. The property owners along the route have given permission to survey but do not wish to annex or sign an annexation agreement at this time.

Trustee Meyer reported that the Smartphone app has been designed and approval has gone to Apple and Google, which could take approximately three weeks. The app will then move to testing to work out any problems before it is released to the public.

The Spring newsletter was mailed the previous week.

The Intergovernmental meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 29th. A discussion of TIF districts is on the agenda.

The Board discussed an incentive package for new home construction in the Village considering incentives to be given to the actual buyer of property. The Committee proposed the incentive would be \$2,500 to the new homeowner of any new home construction from Water and Sewer Capital Fund upon proof of closure on a new home, with a cap of 100 units or \$250,000. The Committee recommended approval of this incentive. Trustee Kypuros asked about subdivisions that have waivers and if they would get money back. This incentive was not recommended to apply to those who have used waivers. Trustee Kypuros felt it might be construed as some kind of favoritism. Since those with waivers never paid any tap in fees they would not be eligible for this incentive. Trustee Ahrendt asked about those that have already prepaid for tap in fees. Some discussion followed. The matter was referred back to the Committee for further review.


The Comcast Annual Cable TV report was provided in the packet for review.

ComEd sent a letter to the Village explaining their proposed rate increase. Trustee Wehling commented that he felt the Village has been losing power more often lately and some Board members agreed. The Board discussed that it may be mainly due to recent high winds.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski stated that the Illiana Expressway ombudsman provided an Illiana report at the beginning of the meeting so he had nothing further on this issue.

President Szymanski reported that the Eastern Will County Mayors had an opportunity to meet with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) officials to discuss concerns with Senate Bill 20 and the continued development of airport plans.



President Szymanski reported on the Will County Governmental League (WCGL) Lobby Day that he and Administrator Barber attended. They met with Senator Cullerton and other officials. Some of the pending legislation and its effects on local governments was discussed with state officials. They also met with Governor Quinn and had a chance to speak to him.

It was also reported that President Szymanski, Administrator Barber and Clerk Conner will be attending the Illinois Municipal League (IML) lobby day in Springfield on April 30th.

Board members were asked if they would like to attend the South Suburban Mayors and Managers meeting on May 15th in Steger, and to let Administrator Barber know if they wish to go.

A report was provided on the Eastcom Board meeting.

Administrator Barber reported that a kickoff meeting on the Route #1/#394 project will be held next week. A consultant has been hired and will also meet next week. The project is on its way and a public hearing should be held in the fall.

President Szymanski noted that former Village President Paul Lohmann visited Germany last year. Some people he met came to visit Paul the previous week and President Szymanski was proud to give them Quasquicentennial books and pins to take back to Germany and were glad they were able to visit.

The Board again discussed the dates and times for Village Board meetings. There have been some discussions about the 6:30 p.m. meeting time and moving the regular full meeting to the second meeting of the month due to issues with the paying of bills. At the meeting on March 10th a motion was passed to move the first meeting of the month to 6:30 p.m. in April and May just to approve bills to get us through a transition period to moving payment of the bills to the second meeting of the month. Then a motion passed to cancel the first meeting of the month in June, July and August. Since that time President Szymanski was approached by three trustees and the Village Clerk with some concerns about this change. After many discussions with staff it was not realized how labor intensive it was to make this change, and how much effort it would take to accommodate the change. President Szymanski recommended holding two meetings per month with the first meeting having a short agenda for paying bills and providing commission reports and limited committee reports and have the second meeting of the month with a full agenda for considering all other business of the Board. President Szymanski felt staff would be going through a lot of work to change something that doesn't need to change since we will probably need to return to two meetings a month eventually. Trustee Meyer commented that after going in to the Village Hall she saw staff working hard to try and accommodate changing the way bills would be paid and felt it didn't necessarily need to be changed. Trustee Wehling said staff was trying to make it work but once you get down to it there was a lot of work required to make the change. Trustee Meyer made a motion to reinstate the first meetings of the month in June, July and August. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

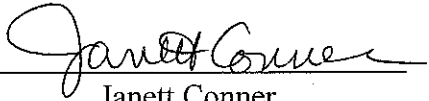
NAYS: (1) Trustee Cleary.

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 Wehling seconded the motion.
AYES: (6) Trustees Cleary, Ahrendt, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk

**PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 28, 2014**

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER, ILLINOIS HELD AT THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CENTER, 30200 TOWN CENTER ROAD, BEECHER, ILLINOIS BEGINNING AT 7:12 P.M. ON APRIL 28, 2014.

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 and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

GUESTS: Karen Smith from Northwest Indiana Times and Southland Voice, George Schuitema and Mike Hansen.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to open a public hearing at 7:12 p.m. to consider a budget for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 beginning May 1, 2014 and ending April 30, 2015. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber provided a presentation on the budget for Fiscal Year 2014/2015, explaining highlights of this year's budget and the budget process. The Board and audience were asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

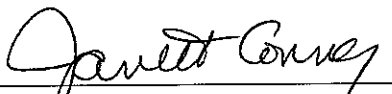
Trustee Cleary made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:22 p.m. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner, Village Clerk