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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
JUNE 23, 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, 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 and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

GUESTS: Karen Smith from the Southland Voice and Northwest Indiana Times and George Schuitema.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 28, 2014 and June 9, 2014 Board meetings. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Kypuros.

Motion Carried.

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

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Board considered extending the agreement for municipal aggregation of electric for three more years. The current aggregation rate is \$0.0483 per kwh and the current market rate is \$0.07022 per kwh. It is hoped the bid process will result in a lower rate than ComEd's current rate. Trustee Cleary made a motion to extend the intergovernmental agreement for municipal aggregation of electric for three more years. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A

ORDINANCE #1211 - An Ordinance establishing the prevailing wage for Fiscal year 2014/2015. Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve Ordinance #1211. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion. AYES: (5) Trustees Cleary, Meyer, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Wehling. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Superintendent Cowger reported on Welton Stedt Park. Limestone has been put down and the park is being mowed. Weather hasn't cooperated for further improvements so outfields and other needed work may not be completed until Fall.

An update was provided on the Firemen's Park scoreboard. ComEd is providing the electrical connections for the scoreboards at no charge. Superintendent Cowger stated that he still has to pull wires since ComEd isn't doing that. Beecher Recreation has been using Village generators so they can use the scoreboards. Cable will have to also be purchased.

Superintendent Cowger stated that the light pole on Fairway Drive still has not been fixed.

An update was provided on the 625 Dixie Highway project. The remodeling contractor, JDK Construction, has begun work inside and the roofer has also begun his work. Deadline for completion of the remodeling is September 15th, at which time all of the furnishings, technology and the phone system will have to be ordered. Estimated move-in is November 1st. Public Works will have to paint the area around the top of the building brown, according to Administrator Barber. The ceramic tile in the entry way also needs to be replaced and ceiling will need to be dropped under the drive-up canopy.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$5,000.00 to JDK Construction for demolition, cement removal and plumbing at the 625 Dixie Highway project. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Kuhlman.

Motion Carried.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

An update was provided on the status of old downtown buildings. President Szymanski stated that Administrator Barber is to send a letter to the Buchmeiers to get a date when improvements will be done on their building. A deadline for this may need to be set. President Szymanski stated that he is waiting for any action on the old Wehmhoeffer building since some progress is being made, according to architect.

President Szymanski stated that there has been some discussion about an art fair possibly being held on Reed Street.

Administrator Barber provided a report on the results of the Route #394/Route #1 open house at Glenwoodie Golf Course, stating that mainly information gathering is being done at this time. The first presentation showed a slide that the golf course was vacated so this was brought to their attention and was changed for the second meeting.

Trustee Wehling reported that the Village has been advised that it is going to receive a \$39,000 land planning grant but has not received the paperwork yet. As a result, the June Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting has been cancelled.

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.

There was nothing new to report on Nixle Engage.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the bike rodeo was attended by approximately 38 kids and went well. It looked like parents have been vigilant in teaching their children bike safety. Two bikes were given away.

A meeting was held with staff from the School District, Fire District, Police and Public Works Departments on crisis management in the schools.


Public Works has been spraying for mosquitoes every Thursday night. All larvaciding has been done. Additional spraying will be done the week of 4th of July. Trustee Cleary asked who is doing the spraying. Public Works employees Strba and Zellner are alternating doing the sprayings.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

Superintendent Cowger reported on the variable speed drive installation at the booster station. It has been installed but there have been problems the last three weeks so Kamp Synergy will be coming to work on this.

Superintendent Cowger reported that the water tower overflowed a couple of weekends ago and again on the previous Saturday night. Exact cause has not yet been determined. It may have been due to a power glitch or storms. Superintendent Cowger did not get any alarms that the tower was overflowing. He explained how the SCADA system works and how the tower overflowed. He is working with Kamp Synergy with this problem to try and work out some possible programming issues and figure out why the system seems to have locked up.



Superintendent Cowger also reported that he got a low pressure alarm for the storage tank that weekend. He climbed the tank and it was filling. He thinks lightning may have damaged something to cause the problems. Superintendent Cowger also reported that a watermain break occurred earlier in that day.

Thermoplastic striping of Village streets has been completed. This should last five years. Board members agreed that it looks good and is better than the painting done previously.

An update on snow plow and watermain repair restorations was provided. All restorations have been completed except Elm Street and at the corner of Melrose and Prairie where curb work still needs to be done. Rain has delayed the restorations on Elm Street.

Work is almost complete in Hunter's Chase for the street name sign replacement. Administrator Barber commented that street signs do not have "Drive, Lane or Street" and heard comments regarding this. This was consistently done through the Village.

A copy of the MS4 Storm Water Discharge Permit was provided in the packet for review.

A report was provided on water loss in the Village's water system due to concerns about the amount of water being pumped but not billed. Superintendent Cowger said he is working on calibrating meters on the wells. Well #3 and #5 meters were tested and found to be accurate. Superintendent Cowger is working with Utility Billing Technician Donna Rooney on going over the meter changeovers and making a list of meters to look at.

A copy of the Village's water bill appeal procedure now in place was provided in the packet for review. This process was developed to help the Committee handle customers who claim to have meters that are over reading. Residents seemed appreciative on how these requests were handled. Staff is waiting on a report from Simpson regarding the last meter that was tested.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Bernard Welding sewage issue. Engineering on the new pumping line is now underway to determine a project cost.

Trustee Meyer provided a report on the Smartphone application launch. The Committee has established policies for the use of the app by community groups wishing to utilize the app. The app now needs to be promoted within the community to encourage its use. Trustee Meyer said she may decorate a car for the 4th of July parade to promote the app.

Clerk Conner reported that Webfoot Designs has begun to redesign the Village website. They have provided staff with a general layout and look for the site and she is working with Trustee Meyer on this.

A report was provided on the Intergovernmental meeting held on May 30th. TIF districts were discussed.

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The Board discussed a recommendation by the Committee to establish incentives for new single family housing construction. It was also asked if the Garden Home lots are for sale again. The Village has been approached as to incentives for these lots. The Attorney has provided an opinion that it would not be legal to give a rebate to homeowners as an incentive, so the Village could only offer to developer a reduction of water and sewer tap-in fees. The Committee discussed a 50% reduction of sewer and water tap-in fees only. Trustees Cleary and Kypuros expressed concerns regarding the reduction of fees. The Board wishes to find a way to spur growth and get these empty lots filled by offering incentives. Some felt we need to look at the overall impacts before deciding and discuss the matter further. The Board also discussed architectural review of permits for these lots. Committee felt that would be good to provide incentives. The Board had no problems with deferral of water and sewer tap-in fees but some concerns were expressed about providing any rebates. The Public Works Committee will set a meeting with the Economic Development Committee and discuss this further. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve a deferral of water and sewer tap-in fees until time of certificate of occupancy is issued for a period of 24 months or the first 50 building permits for new housing units, whichever occurs first. Trustee Cleary seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Board considered an Ordinance increasing the number of members on the Beautification Commission. President Szymanski explained the reason to increase the size of the Commission to be able to continue with the housewalk. The new appointees are members of the Women's Club who wish to continue with the housewalk since the Beautification Commission didn't desire to continue running the event. This way the housewalks will continue with Women's Club members and Beautification members and still be under the Village's insurance.

ORDINANCE #1212 - An Ordinance increasing the number of members on the Beautification Commission from eight to twelve. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve Ordinance #1212. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski provided an overview of his annual appointments. Some corrections were made to the Youth Commission members. President Szymanski made his annual appointments for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 as follows:

Village President Pro-Tem: Scott Wehling

Finance and Administration Committee

Chair: Brian Cleary

Co-Chair: Marcy Meyer

Public Safety Committee
Chair: Ron Kuhlman
Co-Chair: Gayle Ahrendt

Public Works Committee
Chair: Jonathan Kypuros
Co-Chair: Brian Cleary

Economic Development and Community Relations Committee
Chair: Marcy Meyer
Co-Chair: Ron Kuhlman

Public Buildings and Properties, Parks and Recreation
Chair: Scott Wehling
Co-Chair: Jonathan Kypuros

Planning, Building and Zoning
Chair: Gayle Ahrendt
Co-Chair: Scott Wehling

ESDA Coordinator: Chief Jeff Weissgerber
Deputy ESDA Coordinator: Robert Barber
Village Administrator, Zoning Administrator and Economic Development: Robert Barber
Village Clerk: Janett Conner
Chief of Police: Jeff Weissgerber
Public Works Supt.: Harold "Bud" Cowger
Building Department Services: Independent Inspection Services, Inc.
Village Prosecutor: Tom Knuth
Village Corporate Counsel: Tim Kuiper, Austgen and Kuiper, P.C.
Village Treasurer: Kim Koutsky
Deputy Treasurer: Nelson Collins
Code Enforcement Officer: Police Officer Aaron Dacorte, under the supervision of the
Chief of Police
IML Delegate: Greg Szymanski

EASTCOM Board of Directors
Member: Greg Szymanski
Alternate: Robert Barber

Planning and Zoning Commission Secretary: Patty Meyer

Joint Fuel Committee (one Board member and Administrator): Greg Szymanski and Robert Barber

Village Engineer: Baxter and Woodman; however, project engineers to be determined on a case by case basis

Annexation Committee: as determined by the Village President on a case by case basis

Planning and Zoning Commission:

Paul Lohmann (*term expires 5/1/17*)

Althea Machtemes (*term expires 5/1/17*)

Lance Saller (*term expires 5/1/15*)

Phil Serviss (*term expires 5/1/15*)

George Schuitema (*term expires 5/1/15*)

Denis Tatgenhorst (*term expires 5/1/16*)

Kevin Bouchard (*term expires 5/1/16*)

Chair of Planning, Building and Zoning Committee sits as ex-officio member

Beautification Commission (12 members):

Gayle Ahrendt, Village Representative

Steve Weishaar

George Obradovich

Barb McWhorter

Andrew Ahrendt

Melissa Ohlendorf

Sandy Lohmann

Paula Weishaar

Paul Lohmann

Jean Smith

Christine Coats

Amy Smith

Fourth of July Commission (7 to 20 members):

Brad Coats

Ron Kuhlman, Village Representative

Barb Hodgett

Chuck Hoehn

Trish Moran

Greg Ohlendorf

Nelson Collins

Joe Gardner

Laura Voss

Marcy Meyer

Larry Cox

Bill Voss

Jonathan Kypuros

Steve Koehn

Jerry Meyer

Patty Meyer

Robert Barber

Bruce Becker

Kevin Bouchard

George Obradovich

Beecher Youth Commission (7 to 12 members):

Jonathan Kypuros, Village Representative

Elizabeth Delgado

Terry Kasput

Brandy Flores

Jeanette Chose

Kyle Mose

Tiffany Messana

Trish Moran

Ben Jones

Laura Irwin

Roger Sipple, ex-officio

Preservation Commission (7 members):

Scott Wehling, Village Representative

Paul Lohmann

(Up to six more names to be determined later)

Ribbon of Hope Commission (7 to 11 members):

Scott Wehling, Village Representative
Dean Bettenhausen
Barbara Hodgett
Myra Kocsis
Mike Stanula

Howard Perry
Chris Szymanski
Nadia Schmidt
Susan Sebastian
Brian Cleary

_____ (*open seat*)

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve President Szymanski's appointments. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An Eastcom Board meeting update was provided. President Szymanski reported that the placement of the antenna on the water tower has been resolved.

RESOLUTION #2014-09 - A Resolution opposing a landfill in Eastern Kankakee County. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adopt Resolution #2014-09. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There were no objections to a Proclamation declaring Accessibility Awareness Week for July 20 through July 26, 2014.

It was reported that a local entrepreneur is converting the old Koenning Insurance building on Gould Street into a bistro restaurant and is asking for waiving of fees to assist him in establishing his business. This could apply to building permits, liquor licenses, business licenses, special use permit fees, etc. The Board then discussed incentives for the old downtown area. President Szymanski asked the Board to come up with consensus on this and refer it to the Economic Development Committee to discuss possible incentives. Waiving of special use permit fee was discussed. Administrator Barber recommended that any waivers of special use permits should be based on geography and only apply to certain areas such as specific areas of the old downtown business district. There is a need to be consistent as to any fees being waived. Administrator Barber also noted if we waive the building permit fee we still have to pay the inspector so there will be a cost to the Village. Potential waivers of liquor licenses, business licenses, building permit fees, etc. would only be for the first year. This would only be for a specific area in the old downtown area only for businesses. This matter was referred to committee for further discussion.

President Szymanski requested a closed session be held to discuss personnel so the Administrator can provide an update to the Board on a personnel matter.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and threatened litigation. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Cleary made a motion to return to regular session at 8:40 p.m. Trustee Kypuros 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 Kypuros 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 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk