

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT
& BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER
HELD AT THE BEECHER VILLAGE HALL,
625 DIXIE HIGHWAY, BEECHER, ILLINOIS
MARCH 23, 2015 -- 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 and Treasurer Kim Koutsky.

GUESTS: George Schuitema and Frank P. Basile, Jr.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the February 23, 2015 and March 9, 2015 Board meetings. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Cleary.

Motion Carried.

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

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Cleary made a motion to approve a proposal for the mowing of vacant and abandoned properties for 2015 with the lowest bidder, Tadpole's Landscaping of Beecher. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Kuhlman.

Motion carried.

The Comcast Annual Report was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Cleary reported that the Finance Committee met on the budget and recommended that all Board members review the budget before the Budget Workshop on March 30th. Staff has prepared an internal spending plan that will not be acted upon until a final budget is approved by the Illinois Legislature.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that a meeting was held on March 2nd to discuss the buildings in Firemen's Park. The Committee came up with a design for a new concession stand and the drawing was available for review. The old stand will be taken down once the new stand is constructed. Financing options were discussed. It was noted that there is electrical power to that area. Administrator Barber explained financing options. The Village would borrow money to build the buildings and the Fourth of July Commission and Beecher Rec would promise to pay the Village back. It has not been discussed if these groups are willing to pay this back yet since no project costs have been obtained. Trustee Wehling said Beecher Rec is looking into getting proposals for the things that need to be done to build the concession stand themselves. President Szymanski said it is possible Beecher Rec may be able to get this done without having to finance it. Staff prefers that the Village own this building since it is in our park.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

The proposal for an outdoor patio for Basil Bistro has been removed from the PZC agenda since the petitioner has failed to provide a site plan for the patio. Administrator Barber stated that he was told the owner is having problems finding a plumber to complete his project. It is on hold at this time.

Administrator Barber reported on the land use plan grant. This project is on hold at this point due to the freeze in state funding.

A PZC meeting will be held on March 26th to discuss the proposed rezoning on the back half of DeJong Equipment property and a workshop to consider a special use permit for a digital sign on an existing sign and a beer garden area on the north side of the bowling alley on Dixie Highway. Trustee Ahrendt asked if the beer garden would be limited to certain hours. This matter will be looked at by the PZC and Liquor Commissioner.

The Board discussed prohibiting pigs as pets in the Village or allowing them under certain conditions. Two ordinances were provided for consideration. Administrator Barber said some Trustees have expressed concern regarding the weight of the pigs as stated in the ordinance if they are allowed. The most common ones are 110-150 lbs. Trustee Meyer recommended it be based more on height instead of weight. She noted that she did a lot of research and found out the pigs end up

being much bigger than was originally thought and there are many unscrupulous breeders that sell regular pigs as teacup pigs. Trustee Meyer did a Facebook poll and 26 voted yes and 4 voted no as to whether residents would like pigs to be allowed. The only way to keep them smaller is to underfeed them which will make their bones break and die at an early age. Existing pigs would be grandfathered in under either ordinance. It was heard that there are currently three pigs in town. Trustee Cleary asked if the grandfathered ones grow past the size in the ordinance if they were below the weight before the ordinance was passed, if they are still grandfathered. Chief Weissgerber's opinion was they would be grandfathered and wouldn't be subject to the weight restriction in the ordinance. It was discussed that there is no real teacup pig. Trustee Wehling asked if someone moves into town and has one, how will they find out that they are not allowed if the Board prohibits them. Trustee Kypuros noted that these are allowed in the City of Chicago in apartment buildings, didn't like the idea of it, but isn't comfortable with limiting what someone can have in their own home. President Szymanski said that the Humane Society recommended if pigs are allowed they should have a lot of property. The local veterinarian provided an opinion they are pets but there is no such thing as a teacup pig. The homeowner that first came to the Village with this issue has already been told by his homeowner's association that they are not allowed in their subdivision. There was much discussion on this issue.

ORDINANCE#1221 - An ordinance prohibiting pigs as pets. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1221. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Kuhlman, Wehling and President Szymanski.

NAYS: (3) Trustees Cleary, Meyer and Kypuros.

Motion Carried.

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.

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 January and February were provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Kypuros provided a leak detection update. A leaky hydrant on the east side of Church Road has been found. Superintendent Cowger is at a conference and couldn't attend tonight's meeting. There has been some water loss in Nantucket Cove Subdivision. Trustee Kypuros wants to work with Superintendent Cowger to try and trouble shoot the water loss issue before proceeding with authorizing Simpson to do leak detection.

An update was provided on backhoe repairs. The rear end has been repaired and it is back in the shop. A few other repairs still need to be made. Work is needed due to wear and tear on the machine.

Administrator Barber reported on the F800 truck repairs. An alternator problem caused a fire during the last snow storm and has been repaired.

An oxidation ditch repair update was provided. The bearings in the west axle of the oxidation ditch should be done next week at a cost of \$6,581.

Trustee Kypuros provided a report on a proposed water rate increase for the replacing of mains and a high capacity user charge for the operation of the system. Trustee Kypuros said this idea was sparked after making a commitment to get Penfield watermains replaced in the five-year plan and we are pursuing a 30-year loan through the IEPA to do this. By committing to the 30-year loan this will limit what other mains can be replaced in the next 30 years. Trustee Kypuros felt that we need to set aside more money each year to replace watermains.. Trustee Kypuros remembered the auditor saying that the Village is charging less than other surrounding communities. A report was included in the packet showing the surrounding communities' rates. After doing many different water rate increase scenarios the committee is recommending a \$1 per thousand gallon water rate increase to plan for future replacement of watermains or we will get way behind on replacement of mains. Trustee Kypuros also proposed a high capacity user charge for those that use over 30,000 gallons for the operation of the system in addition to the \$1 per thousand gallon increase. Administrator Barber stated that for an average 14,000 gallon user it's \$14 more per billing. A minimum user would pay \$8 more per billing. The committee wants to do this to catch up since the Village has one of the lowest water rates in the area. Trustee Ahrendt asked about the impact on senior citizens. President Szymanski reported that there were discussions at the committee meeting as to the impact on those on a fixed income. President Szymanski felt replacing the mains would increase the water quality, which is a problem in some parts of town. Trustee Kypuros agreed that there are a lot of old mains in town and we have to plan for replacement of them. The Board was asked to think about this and it will be discussed further at the April 27th meeting. Trustee Cleary provided an explanation.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Meyer reported that the smart phone app update has been delayed and any changes will probably be done in April.

The Spring 2015 newsletter is scheduled for release April 13th.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski reported on the golf course/Inland Bank properties. A meeting is scheduled with Inland Bank this week to discuss the closing of the golf course and its maintenance. A list of maintenance concerns were given to Alps Management who will be maintaining the course regarding mowing, pond aeration, maintenance of buildings, etc. It is believed that there is still a chance we have bought another year that the property will be maintained so it can still possibly be sold as a golf course. The Village has had a couple of inquiries about the property and those people have been referred to Inland Bank.

President Szymanski reported on a railroad quiet zone. A cost estimate obtained from Crete will be

forwarded to Board members. It was lower than staff anticipated. HR Green will start on this project as previously approved.

President Szymanski reported on recent meetings with Governor Rauner on LGDF and unfunded mandates. President Szymanski reported that there is a five-page agenda of total reform which Governor Rauner said he would like to put through and if it goes through he will not take our LGDF funds. There are eight bills the Governor wants to go through. The airport is still being considered by Governor Rauner. There has been no discussion about the Illiana Expressway at these meetings. President Szymanski said to Rauner's staff that there are a lot of people and their property that has been put on hold due to the airport and Illiana projects and asked them to decide one way or the other about these projects to allow these people to move forward. School reform was also discussed at these meetings in addition to elimination of some taxing bodies.

Administrator Barber reported that the homeowner's association of The Preserves at Cardinal Creek has provided an indemnity agreement. The Village Attorney has reviewed the agreement and sent it back to the HOA and once signed by both parties, the \$68,400 in escrow funds will be released as discussed by the Village Board in November.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Barber reported that he is working on getting senior housing in the pod behind the Washington Township building. These are separated duplexes. This housing would be for age 55 and older and would be owner-occupied housing. It was previously thought that the project was dead, but the developer came in last week. This property was always zoned for duplexes. Trustee Wehling asked if there would be some screening between these duplexes and the Washington Township property. This issue will be brought up with the developer.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk