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**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
NOVEMBER 9, 2015 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Szymanski called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Trustees Ahrendt, Kypuros, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber and Treasurer Kim Koutsky.

GUEST: Stacy Mazurek and George Schuitema.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 12, 2015 Board meeting and October 20, 2015 special meeting. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Ahrendt.

Motion Carried.

VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT

A report on income received since last meeting was provided.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Trustee Ahrendt reported that the next Beautification Commission meeting will be held on November 10th at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Trustee Kuhlman provided a Fourth of July Commission report. Four bids were received for the storage building to be built near the beer stand. Work on the foundation is hoped to begin this week.

Trustee Kypuros provided a Youth Commission report. The last event was the Trunk or Treat. Trustee Kypuros thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their efforts to help make this a success. This Friday is an open dance being held at the Beecher Junior High.

There was nothing new to report on the Ribbon of Hope Commission.

Trustee Wehling reported on the Historic Preservation Commission meeting that was held. The Commission is coming up with ideas and discussing budget line items. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17th.

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 Meyer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Report of Financial Activity in the prior month. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed closing certain bank accounts. According to Treasurer Koutsy, this has not yet been done. Once the accounts are closed staff loses all the history, so he would like to get more information on closing the accounts before action is taken, so history is not lost.

Variance reports for the preceding month were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totalling \$441,867.91 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2015-08 - A Resolution asking the State of Illinois to release revenues owed to local governments for 9-1-1, Motor Fuel Tax, and Local Use Taxes. Trustee Meyer made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-08. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Audit requests for proposal have been sent to a total of 12 firms and the Committee will be reviewing the proposals after the holidays and will make a recommendation to the Board.

The five-year financial plan process is in full swing. The General Fund has been completed so staff could review the numbers before a decision is made on the property tax levy. State revenue is difficult to project because of the budget stalemate in Springfield. Administrator Barber said he wants to delay the five-year financial plan until January or February so he can get more final numbers from the State.

The Board was asked about drafting a tax levy for 2015 collectible in 2016. Staff wanted to know if the Board wishes to continue freezing the tax levy or request a cost of living increase. Trustees Wehling and Kuhlman felt the levy should be frozen for another year, but President Szymanski stated that if the State passes legislation that it could freeze our levy indefinitely, that would be a great concern. The levy needs to be passed by the December meeting.

Trustee Meyer made a motion authorizing the drafting of two tax levy ordinances, one with a 0% increase and one with a 1.5% levy increase to be considered at the December Board meeting. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. Both ordinances will be drafted in case more information is available by the next meeting that may affect the decision.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered authorizing an actuarial study relating to future participation in the Downstate Police Pension Fund. If the Village's population exceeds 5,000 the Village will be required to replace IMRF with the Downstate Police Pension Fund for all seven of our sworn personnel which will be at an additional cost to the Village. Trustee Meyer questioned if it was thought that we might exceed the 5,000 population and if we have the money to spend on this study. Trustee Kypuros recommended this study be done to help plan better for the future. After some discussion, Trustee Meyer made a motion authorizing an actuarial study in the amount of \$2,500 from Lautterbach and Amen on the Village's future participation in the Downstate Police Pension Fund to determine cost. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Village has received its premium quotes for insurance for 2016. Liability, worker's compensation, cyber liability and property coverage will cost \$136,372, which is just under the budgeted amount.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A Firemen's Park concession stand update was provided. Prints have been finalized. Public Works has put in the sewer and water. The foundation and slab will be formed this week.

The Fourth of July storage shed project is moving forward. A low bid of \$18,400 was received after four bids were taken to pour the footing and slab for this building and the go-ahead was given to proceed. Framing of the building will begin in the Spring. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve a bid in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for the concrete for the Fourth of July storage building. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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The playground mulching project has been completed for 2015.

Administrator Barber provided an update on corrective actions to be taken after the insurance carrier conducted a safety inspection of the new Public Works facility. A jacklifting policy and a needed eyewash station were the only violations.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

A report was provided on the Nantucket Cove street light repairs. Administrator Barber stated that all but two of the lights have been fixed. Public Works needs to check the wiring fault on the last two and repair them.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing payment of bills from The Preserves at Cardinal Creek Escrow Fund for bills as listed in the packet totalling \$38,520.90. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing the closure of The Preserves at Cardinal Creek Escrow Account with the remaining funds to be placed in Public Infrastructure to pay for the patch repair on Cardinal Creek Boulevard. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing payment of a bill from the Nantucket Cove Escrow Account for an amount of \$1,090 to Floyd's Electric to repair street lights. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed referring a proposal to amend the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to temporary signs to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). There are new Supreme Court decisions affecting how temporary signs can be regulated. Administrator Barber noted a letter from Attorney Kuiper regarding temporary signs. The new rulings will change how we enforce these signs in the future. Signs can't be regulated by category anymore, they will need to be regulated by zoning district. Staff will need to get ordinance together and determine if it's legal before it can be sent to the PZC. Administrator Barber summarized the changes. This zoning ordinance amendment will need to be considered by the Committee before it goes before the Board or PZC. The Committee will meet with the Attorney to discuss this issue.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Trustee Kuhlman thanked the two people who donated memorial trees. Five trees were also planted in Depot Park last week, and he thanked them for those trees.

The Police Department monthly report was provided for review.

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

Chief Weissgerber provided a report on Halloween patrols, and felt the Trunk or Treat helped. He reported on a DUI hitting parked cars. The holiday was mostly uneventful.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

The Water Billing Register for September and October was provided in the packet for review. There was a slight improvement in the pumped to billed ratio.

A leaf pickup update was provided. November 30th will be the last day for pickup.

Materials have arrived for the Maxwell Street storm sewer. Public Works is waiting on doing this until leaf season is over.

An ash tree removal program update was provided.

A parkway tree planting program was provided. Thirteen trees were planted in the last week along parkways where ash trees had been removed within the last two years.

An update was provided on the Cardinal Creek median.

Administrator Barber provided a report on R.A.S. lift station repairs. A new contractor needs to be hired for this project because the previous contractor no longer does this type of work. Staff is working on finding a new contractor.

Results of the fall hydrant flushing program was provided in the packet for review.

A Safe Routes to Schools Grant update was provided. An additional \$27,000 has to be budgeted to install ADA ramps at each of the crossings, but it's believed it can be done for much less. Administrator Barber is checking to see if the Federal Government will help with this, but it needs to get done either way.

The Committee met to draft a 10-year watermain replacement program. Trustee Kypuros said several projects were decided upon but not prioritized since conditions can change with new businesses moving into Gould Street buildings or other future changes.

The Board discussed authorizing a contract with Baxter and Woodman in the amount of \$45,500 for the design and construction observation of the replacement of mains on Birch and Elm Streets, south of Penfield Street. The other option discussed was to just award the design phase of the project for now. Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing a contract in the amount of \$18,000 with Baxter and Woodman for the design work for replacement of mains on Birch and Elm Streets with the money coming from the watermain replacement account. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Committee met to update the 10-year road resurfacing program. Trustee Kypuros explained the five-year plan components including two projects in the coming five years using both Motor Fuel Tax and Public Infrastructure funds: \$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2017/2018 and \$400,000 in Fiscal Year 2020/2021. In each of these projects, \$100,000 in MFT reserves would be used with the rest coming from the ½% sales tax.

The Board considered authorizing a referendum to increase the sales tax. Trustee Kypuros explained the reasons for needing the additional ½% sales tax increase. It could have been previously increased by 1% but was only increased by ½%. This money could be used to replace and put in sidewalks throughout town and then later be used to fund sewer plant expansion. It was discussed previously that the sales tax rate would need to be increased for the expansion. President Szymanski asked the Board to consider how they would promote this increase to the community and be clear to the residents on what the funding will be used for. Much of this increased tax would come from out of town residents and not just Beecher residents. The Community Relations Committee should help promote this. The Board was asked for their input and thoughts on this issue. Board members felt there is a need to raise this rate. Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the Village Attorney to draft an Ordinance calling for a referendum on March 16, 2016 for a ½% increase in the local sales tax for infrastructure. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A report was included in the packet from the Village engineer providing a status report of ongoing projects they are working on in Beecher.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE #1233 - An Ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement creating the new Lincoln/I-394 Enterprise Zone. Trustee Basile made a motion to approve Ordinance #1233. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Committee met with the Chicago Southland Alliance to discuss what the Alliance can do for Beecher economic development. Trustee Basile reported the future of the proposed airport, Beatty Lumber's building, the closing of Balmoral race track and other industrial properties were discussed.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski reported on some changes to commissions. He reported that the Women's Club/Beautification Commission won't be having a housewalk this year because they don't have enough houses participating. They do hope to have a housewalk again in the future. Women's Club members Melissa Ohlendorf, Jean Smith, Christine Coats and Amy Smith resigned from the Beautification Commission.

President Szymanski reported that Larry Cox, Greg Ohlendorf and George Obradovich resigned from the Fourth of July Commission and he would like to appoint Nicholas Hoehn and Cameron Ohlendorf as replacements. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve appointment of Nicholas Hoehn and Cameron Ohlendorf to the Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski appointed Lynne Orr as new Village Treasurer upon upcoming retirement of Kim Koutsky effective November 15, 2015. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve President Szymanski's appointment of Lynne Orr as Village Treasurer. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski discussed creating a Beecher Emergency Services Department to assist with traffic and crowd control, lighting emergency scenes and assisting with public safety activities. Trustee Kuhlman and the Public Safety Committee will work on the details to set this up.

President Szymanski reported on the proposed costs for a railroad quiet zone and what would be needed to move forward with this project. The costs keep coming down the more information that is obtained and he wanted to know if the Board wants to move forward. The Village has discussed this project with the Village of Crete who just went through the process, and we now believe we can get the project done for less than \$100,000. The key component to rating the crossings is the traffic count to get a handle on the cost to do this. Trustee Wehling made a motion authorizing \$2,500 for a traffic count study of the railroad crossings. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski informed the Board that he has talked to a resident who wants to abolish the time change every year and may pass out petitions to eliminate Daylight Savings Time. This is something that would need to be done on the Federal level, but he wanted to inform the Board.

An update on Pine Street drainage was provided. Two out of three of the property owners have agreed to sign the easement. Only one more property owner needs to sign. Progress is being made.

There being no further business to discuss in open session, an Executive Session was requested to discuss land acquisition.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:29 p.m. to discuss land acquisition pertaining to the purchase of a piece of land for public purposes. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to return to regular session at 9:11 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

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 Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk