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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  
DECEMBER 14, 2015 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Pro-Tem Wehling called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

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

ABSENT: President Szymanski.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Treasurer Lynne Orr and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

**GUESTS:** George Schuitema and Kim Koutsky.

President Pro-Tem Wehling asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 9, 2015 Board meeting. Trustee Basile made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT:** 1) A report on income received since last meeting was provided. 2) Clerk Conner announced that dog tags are now on sale and due by March 15, 2016.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS**

Trustee Ahrendt reported on the Beautification Commission. Holiday decorations are up. Next meeting will be held in February.

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

Trustee Kypuros reported that the Youth Commission has held two open dance nights since the last meeting. A bowling event is planned for January 18<sup>th</sup>.

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Trustee Wehling reported on the Historic Preservation Commission. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Depot. Trustee Wehling will meet with Trustee Meyer to see about getting the Commission some exposure on Facebook.

#### A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kim Koutsky introduced new Treasurer Lynne Orr to the Board. There are still some issues with syncing the Fourth of July data on the Treasurer computer. 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.

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

A list of bills to be paid in the amount of \$221,435.41 was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Two bills that were left off the list were added at the meeting: the Village Hall Petty Cash in the amount of \$193.42 and Bond maintenance fee of \$350. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$221,978.83. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber provided an update on the State of Illinois budget crisis. The State approved releasing certain funds to municipalities, but they still have not passed their budget.

Administrator Barber reported on the IPBC health insurance rates. There is a possible rate increase of 4-5% due to poor performance on behalf of the subpool. He is looking into plan design changes and increasing deductibles and co-pays to decrease the rates.

The Board discussed adopting a tax levy for 2015 collectible in 2016. Trustee Meyer explained that two different ordinances were drafted. At the last meeting it was decided to draft the two ordinances: one for 0% increase and the other for 1.5% increase to give the Board more time to think about which they would like to approve because of the uncertainty at the State level as to what they will do with their budget. There was some discussion on the tax levy.

ORDINANCE #1234 - An Ordinance adopting a 0% tax levy for 2015 collectible in 2016. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve Ordinance #1234. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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## **B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Wehling reported that the concrete has been poured for the concession stand in Firemen's Park. Two walls have been put up and a third is to be put up soon.

The concrete has also been poured for the Fourth of July storage building. A pile of dirt still needs to be removed. Nothing else will be completed this winter. The old concession stand will be removed next year.

Trustee Wehling requested a closed session be held at the end of the meeting to discuss land acquisition.

## **C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

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

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion referring a request to amend the Zoning Code pertaining to temporary signs to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). The Committee met twice in the last month to discuss the changes needed to bring the code in compliance with a new Supreme Court ruling. The Attorney has recommended that it is best for the Board not to refer any specific recommendations to the PZC. 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 to approve payment of bills from the MGM Escrow Account in the amount of \$1,950, as listed in the packet. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Trustee Kuhlman thanked the Village, Township, Fire Department and all agencies that assisted in the Firefighter's wake the previous week for traffic control, etc. He was proud of all for their cooperation and work.

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

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

A report was provided on creating an ESDA Department. Administrator Barber stated that President Szymanski would like to see an ESDA more active in Beecher assisting the Police Department and Fire Department. A meeting was held with Washington Township and it was discussed. A steering committee will be set up between the different agencies to decide how to set this up and get the right people involved. It will most likely be under the jurisdiction of the Police Chief. Costs will need

to be shared between the participating agencies. Chief Weissgerber reported that these would be volunteer positions. The next meeting will occur after the holidays.

A report was provided on traffic control and parking for the firefighter wake the previous week. The wake wasn't as heavily attended as was possible, but all went well. Chief Weissgerber reported that they didn't know how many people to expect so Will County EMA was involved. Many towns from the area were represented to assist in traffic control, parking and security. Letters were hand delivered to all residents on the west side of town regarding street closures and possible traffic issues.

### E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Water Department monthly report was included in the packet for review.

The Sewer Department monthly report will be provided next month.

Superintendent Cowger provided a report on leak detection. He hasn't been able to work on leak detection much in the last month due to the time of the year and other ongoing projects.

A meter replacement program update was provided. Superintendent Cowger said there are approximately 70 meters left to install.

Leaf and brush pickup has ended for the year. Public Works picked up the same amount of leaves as last year. There would have been much more if so many trees hadn't have been removed this year.

Superintendent Cowger provided a Maxwell Street storm sewer update. This has not been completed. The tree removal has put Public Works behind on other projects.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the Cardinal Creek median has been poured. Project is done and looks great.

Superintendent Cowger said he still needs to talk to John Swedo about the R.A.S. lift station at the sewer plant and will provide a report at the next meeting.

A Safe Routes to Schools Grant update was provided. It was hoped to have the signs, speed indicators and flashing lights installed by the Fall, 2016 school year.

The Village has completed sewer cleaning and televising of the main trunk sewer. A report was provided in the packet for review. The project increased capacity of the line by approximately 33%. Two sections of pipe will need grouting in future years.

The Board discussed calling for a referendum on March 16, 2016 for increasing the Public Infrastructure sales tax by ½% to pay for a portion of the sewer plant rehabilitation project in the future and possibly replacing sidewalks in town. The Committee developed a fact sheet on the sales tax which would be used to advise residents of the need for the increase and how it will be used. Trustee Kypuros said the rehabilitation to the sewer plant has to be done. It is being required by the

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IEPA. It can be paid for through an increase in the sales tax or increase in sewer debt fees. He explained the potential costs to residents.

ORDINANCE #1235 - An Ordinance calling for a Village referendum on March 15, 2016 on the matter of increasing the Public Infrastructure Sales Tax by ½% to pay for a portion of the Sewer Plant Rehabilitation Project. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve Ordinance #1235. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Basile provided a report on the Lincoln/I-394 Enterprise Zone.

The Board discussed the marketing strategy for a ½% increase in the Public Infrastructure sales tax. A draft of an informational sheet was provided in the packet for review. Public information meetings would be held in January and February and presentations could be made to the Chamber of Commerce, a one-page newsletter could be drafted, information put on the website and word of mouth are ways to inform the public. Administrator Barber noted that the Board needs to provide the public with a consistent message. The Board agreed that a special informational newsletter needs to be done to educate the public after the first of the year.

Trustee Basile, President Szymanski, Administrator Barber and Clerk Conner attended the Will County Economic Development breakfast. Trustee Basile provided a summary of the economic development report for Will County.

**G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Administrator Barber provided a report on dispatch consolidation. A new State law will require six county dispatch centers to merge into three centers unless it is proven it's not cost effective to consolidate or service levels will drop. He anticipates it will cost us more money in the long run but is still working on the plan for this which must be submitted by July, 2016.

It was reported that St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights plans to move its emergency room to Olympia Fields in 2018.

A railroad crossing quiet zone update was provided by Trustee Wehling. President Szymanski wants to move forward with this. This matter will be discussed further at budget time.

Administrator Barber provided a report on the Will County Transportation Committee meeting. The Penfield Street STP project is on target for 2020 funding at \$2,455,000 with \$461,000 being our local match.

Trustee Wehling made a motion to solicit bids for the purchase of fuel by the Joint Intergovernmental Fuel Committee. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to cancel the second Village Board meeting in January. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.  
NAYS: (1) Trustee Kypuros.  
Motion Carried.

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss land acquisition.

Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion:

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

Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to return to regular session at 8:38 p.m. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the Village President to acquire a piece of land under terms set forth by the Board in executive session. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

The engineer has requested a public information meeting be held with residents affected by the Penfield Street STP project and Administrator Barber wanted to be sure the Board understood the scope of the project before this meeting is scheduled. Administrator Barber showed a map and explained the project and the changes in parking for that area. The Board discussed whether the Penfield Street bridge is included in the project, which it is not. It would increase the project costs greatly. Chief Weissgerber expressed concerns about the weight limit on the bridge.

There being no further business, President Pro-Tem Wehling asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Meyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk