

**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
JANUARY 11, 2016 -- 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 Ahrendt, Kypuros, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

ABSENT: None.

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

GUEST: George Schuitema.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the December 14, 2015 Board meeting. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction to Page 6, with an incorrect number under the Nays on the second roll call vote. Trustee Ahrendt 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.

A presentation was provided on the upcoming sales tax referendum. Administrator Barber explained that the committee met last week to discuss drafting a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce and for a newsletter to be sent out to residents. A copy of the draft newsletter and referendum information was provided for review. Administrator Barber provided an explanation on the wording of the referendum that asks for a 1% sales tax but will actually be ½% because we already have a ½% sales tax previously approved by referendum. The tax will not apply to certain items such as food, drugs, medical appliances and vehicles titles by the State. Trustee Meyer provided details of why the money is needed and other ways the money could be raised. The money will be used for sewer plant expansion and may be used for other infrastructure projects such as roads and sidewalks.

It cannot be used for anything other than infrastructure. The money could be raised by a ½% sales tax increase or an increase of the sewer debt fees on the water bill. The possible overall costs to residents were explained. Trustees will go to the next Chamber of Commerce meeting to present the information.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

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

Trustee Kuhlman reported on the Fourth of July Commission. A meeting will be held Tuesday, January 12th at 6:30 p.m. and the Commission will discuss the purchase of a 2016 raffle car.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the next Youth Commission event is a bowling night on January 18th at Pin and Tonic.

Trustee Wehling reported on the Historic Preservation Commission. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12th. An alarm went off Saturday at the Depot. A battery on a sump pump battery backup failed and needs to be replaced.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review and Treasurer Orr 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 totalling \$148,196.45 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Administrator Barber read aloud all of the bills added to the list since the list was sent to Board members the previous week. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The five-year financial plan was provided for review.

Trustee Meyer made a motion authorizing a Public Hearing at the April 25, 2016 Board meeting on the proposed 2016/2017 budget. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Meyer made a motion authorizing a special workshop meeting of the Village Board on the budget for Monday, March 28, 2016 at 6 p.m. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A Finance Committee meeting will be held at 7 a.m. on Saturday, March 5th at the Village Hall with department heads to draft a budget for the Village Board workshop.

Trustee Meyer reported that the Finance Committee is reviewing proposals for auditing firms for auditing services for a period of three years. A recommendation from the Committee will be provided at the next meeting.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A Firemen's Park concession stand update was provided. The building is shelled and a construction lock has been put in place during construction.

Trustee Wehling provided the status of the ice rink in Firemen's Park. Public Works put the rink up on Friday, but it is not completely frozen. It should be open later this week.

President Szymanski reported that the ball is in the bank's court to consider land acquisition, so the Village is waiting to hear from them. No closed session will be required yet.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

A Planning, Building and Zoning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 28th, to discuss the proposed changes to the temporary sign ordinance with the Village Attorney.

The Board considered a motion authorizing payment to Davis Concrete for completion of the median on Cardinal Creek Boulevard from the Preserves at Cardinal Creek Escrow Account. Administrator Barber stated that the bill has not yet been received, but it has been 60 days since work was done so he was recommending approval of payment. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion authorizing payment to Davis Concrete in the amount of \$34,620.00 from the Preserves at Cardinal Creek Escrow Account. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

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.

The animal control annual report from Beecher Veterinary Clinic was provided in the packet for review.

A meeting to discuss the creation of a volunteer ESDA program has been scheduled for Monday, January 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

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 November and December, 2015 was provided for review. Trustee Kypuros noted the big difference in pumped to billed ratio. Ratio is up to 81% with the most recent billing, which is a big improvement reflecting the leaks found and repairs in the water system.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the Public Works Committee met with the Village Engineer on December 21st regarding the sewer plant rehabilitation. The engineer is updating cost estimates for the project and the Committee should have those numbers in February. The goal is to begin construction in 2018, complete construction in 2019, and the first payment to the IEPA being in 2020. The Village will still have to front the cost of the design or Phase II engineering estimated at \$600,000.

A special brush pickup for storm damage from the December 28th ice storm occurred last week.

Annual sewer cleaning of trouble spots has occurred in the last two weeks. Each location having a sewer blockage in the last ten years was cleaned with the sewer jetter in December.

Cold patching of streets occurred in the last week of December.

Two watermain breaks occurred on Penfield Street in December. The replacement of this main from Dixie Highway to Reed Street is scheduled to begin in August and be completed by November 1st. President Szymanski noted the area where there was a watermain break near the Fire Station is still open because Nicor still has to come out and make some repairs.

The Elm and Birch Street watermain project is in the final stages of a first draft of design for review by Superintendent Cowger. This project will also be bid out in conjunction with the Penfield Street watermain for better pricing.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the Enterprise Zone. The application has been filed with the State and there is now a 90-day public notice and review period. We should hear in April or May as to the status of our application.

WPAL Comcast Channel 4 was knocked off the air in December due to the failure of the main computer server at the studio. Staff is unsure if it is completely fixed yet.

Trustee Basile reported that the Committee met to draft a special edition newsletter and presentation for the Chamber of Commerce on the proposed ½% sales tax increase. The referendum will be held on Tuesday, March 15th.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski noted a sheet on the table from the Will County Governmental League asking for legislative initiatives if the Board has any suggestions.

President Szymanski reminded the Board that the Beecher Manor groundbreaking will be held on Tuesday, January 12th at 1:30 p.m. and encouraged Board members to attend.

There being no further business, President Szymanski asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Meyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner

Village Clerk