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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
FEBRUARY 22, 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 and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

GUEST: George Schuitema and Stacy Mazurek.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the February 8, 2016 Board meeting. Trustee Ahrendt 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.

CLERKS'S REPORT

1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Clerk Conner reminded residents that dog tags need to be purchased by March 15th. Price is currently \$10 each and will go up to \$15 after March 15th. 3) A thank you letter was read aloud pertaining to the Doc's Drugs robbery.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the upcoming sales tax referendum. The only question that seems to have come up so far is whether anything agriculture-related is subject to this additional tax, which is not if the buyer provides proof that it is ag-related.

RESOLUTION #2016-02 - A Resolution adopting a five-year financial plan for the Village. Trustee Meyer made a motion to adopt Resolution #2016-02. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Ahrendt, Kypuros, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve a proposal from Lauterbach and Amen for a three-year contract for the conduct of an audit in Fiscal Years 2016, 2017 and 2018. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion. AYES: (6) Trustees Ahrendt, Kypuros, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer. NAYS: (0) None. Motion Carried.

The annual report from the Illinois Municipal Insurance Cooperative was provided in the packet for review. Administrator Barber explained and he is happy with the plan so far. The increases we have seen so far are due to worker's compensation claims experienced throughout the pool.

The annual report from the Illinois Public Benefit Cooperative (IPBC) was provided in the packet for review. Administrator Barber explained that the Village currently has approximately \$90,000 in our terminal reserve. A rate increase of 8.6%-11% is anticipated this year due to large claims in other parts of the pool.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Status was provided on the concession stand in Firemen's Park. The exterior appears to be complete and the electric work has been roughed in. Siding on the outside, plumbing and insulation still needs to be completed.

Status was provided on the storage building in Firemen's Park. It should be completed by July 4th so it can be used for storage of park equipment during the festival, pending volunteers to be available to do the work.

It was reported that the ice rink had been taken down due to damage that occurred from wind and possible vandalism. The liner was damaged. Superintendent Cowger said that a more secure fence is needed in the future to be installed around the rink. He is working with the Fourth of July Commission to share use of a fence.

Trustee Wehling met with the Will County Forest Preserve last week. The Board discussed a partnership proposal with the Forest Preserve for the promotion of activities and exhibits sponsored by the Forest Preserve. They want to come to Beecher with exhibits to share with the community and raise awareness of what's available. Trustee Wehling described some of their programs. It was the consensus of the Board that they would like to work with them on this. The Forest Preserve is also constructing a dog park to be open this spring on Burville Road.

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

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Trustee Ahrendt provided the results of an initial meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) on the temporary sign ordinance. The PZC recommends that temporary signs in residential districts be regulated to up to two 2' x 3' signs to be allowed year round, and an additional three signs would be allowed for two 45-day periods to cover election cycles. In commercial districts there was a struggle to balance the need to advertise businesses with aesthetics. The PZC will meet again on February 25th to continue discussion on this ordinance.

The Library District intends to file for a special use permit for a digital sign. Representatives from the Library District will appear before the PZC on February 25th.

The Building Department monthly and 2015 annual reports were provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Ahrendt asked that the request to grant an additional ten years on tap-in fee and park impact fee waivers for Fieldgate be tabled for further discussion in the future.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department monthly and 2015 annual reports were provided for review.

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

The Public Safety Committee held a meeting with Beecher Fire Department and Washington Township to discuss the creation of a Beecher ESDA, and all parties agreed to contribute \$1,000 per year towards the program. The Village will take the lead in forming this committee and an ESDA coordinator would need to be found and would serve under the Chief of Police.

The annual tornado drill is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1st.

Trustee Wehling reported that he has received complaints that there is a safety issue with cars parking on both sides of the street on Cardinal Creek Drive by the Junior High School, and children running across the street. Chief Weissgerber will try and work with the school to try and determine where "No Parking" signs could be placed to manage the traffic. Chief Weissgerber said it seems like vehicular traffic has increased causing the problem. The Chief will look at the problem and report back to the Board next month.

Chief Weissgerber reported that on Tuesday siren maintenance will be conducted, so if residents hear the sirens, it is because they are being worked on.

Administrator Barber asked Chief Weissgerber questions about the Police Department annual report and noted that the reports show the Police Department is busier than they have ever been. This has resulted in cost increases in dispatching, which is charged based on the number of incidents.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

The Sewer Treatment Plant annual report was provided in the packet for review.

The Beecher Water and Sewer Department annual report was provided for review. Trustee Kypuros reported that Public Works is continuing to replace meters. The annual billed to pumped ratio has improved but still needs to improve.

Trustee Kypuros provided a summary of the Public Works Department annual report, which was provided for review.

A sewer treatment plant expansion update was provided. The Committee is in the process of reviewing alternatives to design which will bring down the cost of the project. Trustee Kypuros provided details of the options relating to the condition of two steel wet wells installed prior to 1995.

The Board considered several motions pertaining to the Safe Routes to Schools Grant project. The total project cost is now \$176,220 with the Village's share being \$35,244 with the local match coming from the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) budget. This includes the sidewalk ramp replacements as part of the grant which means the Village only has to pay for 20% of the \$30,000 in replacement costs.

RESOLUTION #2016-03 - A Resolution of appropriation of Motor Fuel Tax funds in the amount of \$35,244 for the Village's share of the Safe Routes to Schools Grant project. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adopt Resolution #2016-03. Trustee Wehling 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 execute an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for construction services pertaining to the Safe Routes to Schools Grant project. 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 execute an engineering services agreement with Baxter and Woodman in the amount of \$16,020, pertaining to the Safe Routes to Schools Grant project. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There will be a special brush pickup on Tuesday due to wind damage from the high winds the previous week.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Board members were asked for Spring newsletter article ideas. Trustee Basile suggested a breakdown of the budget in pie charts. Trustee Wehling recommended having articles regarding the Forest Preserve and the Museum/Depot Commission.

Trustee Basile reported that the smartphone app has been overhauled and is now more interactive with new features. Over 800 smartphones have downloaded the app. It was discussed that the app annual costs may be increasing. President Szymanski asked Trustee Meyer to discuss with COC that we are disappointed that we are currently no longer able to do our own push notifications. We should be getting that ability back in the next month.

Chief Weissgerber received a three-year contract with Nixle today at a lower rate, according to Administrator Barber.

A Village website annual usage report was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Basile attended the South Suburban Economic Development Corporation Summit in Matteson and provided a report.

The Will County Transportation Plan open house was held at Governor's State University. Improvements for Peotone Road and Beecher-Peotone Road for truck traffic was unveiled. It was also learned the Forest Preserve wished to expand the bike path from Beecher to Goodenow Grove, however there is no money right now and some blockages, so the program has been put on the back burner, according to Trustee Basile. He said he will contact some State representatives to see about getting some funding or grants for this. Trustee Kuhlman wished to discuss this issue further with him.

A Route 394/Route 1 corridor implementation meeting was held at the Sauk Village Hall and was attended by the Chair of the Committee and the Village President. Short term goals (priorities) and long term goals were drafted and a timeline was created. They discussed naming the corridor the Southland Parkway for branding and to put identifiers on poles so people know it's part of Southland Parkway. They also discussed addressing dangerous intersections such as 394 and Burville Road.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski provided a report on the 9-1-1 dispatch center consolidation. Committees are being formed for the new PSAP center. Governance and an intergovernmental agreement among all entities is being worked on. The next meeting is scheduled for February 29th to discuss governance and operations.

President Szymanski provided a report on the St. James Hospital, Chicago Heights scheduled closing. The fire chiefs will be forming a task force to work with St. James directors to address issues relating to the loss of the emergency room, security at the new hospital, etc. The SSMM have approved a policy asking the Chicago Heights emergency room location to stay open and be

considered for a Level 1 trauma center. There were also concerns about other emergency rooms being stacked up with ambulances if they become overloaded due to the closing of this facility. Fire departments are trying to work out some of the logistics of the many issues.

Administrator Barber attended a meeting pertaining to a water task force that is looking into bringing lake water directly into the south suburbs and provided a report. This would not be cost effective for Beecher to participate in. We are currently paying 1/3 of a water and sewer rate of what communities up north are paying just for water.

President Szymanski requested input on changing the liquor ordinance to require food to be prepared on site as a condition for obtaining a liquor license. All current liquor license holders serve food at this time and there have been some recent inquiries for liquor licenses for establishments that would only serve alcohol and have video gaming. These types of issues could be decided by the Liquor Commissioner but he would like it to be in the ordinance. President Szymanski feels we don't want only bars in town, we want bars that serve food.

ORDINANCE #1236 - An Ordinance amending the Liquor Code requiring food to be prepared and served as a condition for a liquor license. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1236. Trustee Kuhlman seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered awarding a bid for fuel by the Intergovernmental Fuel Committee. The Committee is recommending that the bid be awarded to Reladyne at \$0.099 per gallon above low rack FOB Chicago OPIS index price from March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to award a bid for the purchase of fuel from Reladyne as recommended above by the Intergovernmental Fuel Committee. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There was discussion regarding the future of the Prairie Crossings South dry basin retention pond. The Village has been trying to get an HOA or SSA on this pond for maintenance. Attorney Kuiper has been told to hold off on trying to do this until he gets further direction. President Szymanski asked if the Board still wants to try and get an HOA or SSA established before we move forward on this. Trustee Kypuros asked how many lots are affected by this. It was estimated that there are 33 lots. Administrator Barber said he didn't think there was currently public access to this pond. It was decided to do more research on this before proceeding.

There being no further business to be discussed in regular session, Trustee Wehling made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss land acquisition. 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 8:23 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 Meyer 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 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk