

**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 28, 2016 -- 7:35 P.M.**

The Board meeting followed the 2016/2017 Budget Workshop, which began at 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, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

ABSENT: Trustee Wehling.

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

GUEST: George Schuitema.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 14, 2016 Board meeting. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERKS'S REPORT

A report on income received since the last meeting was provided.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Meyer provided the results of the sales tax referendum. The referendum passed by a vote of 739 to 403.

A public hearing on the proposed 2016/2017 budget will be held at the April 25, 2016 Board meeting.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update was provided on the concession stand in Firemen's Park.

A storage building update was provided. Work will begin this Saturday, according to President Szymanski.

No Firemen's Park rentals will be taken from April 15th through July 10th due to the Beecher Recreation baseball schedule.

A second meeting was held with the Forest Preserve District of Will County, to begin the partnering process. An article will be included in the Village's Spring 2016 newsletter.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is scheduled to meet on March 31, 2016 at the Washington Township Center. The PZC will discuss a proposal to change the temporary sign ordinance, and will hold a public hearing on the Beecher Library District's LED sign. A workshop will also be held for a special use for a solar farm on the vacant lot across from 1362 Dutch American Way. Also added to the agenda was a request to expand the beer garden at Pin and Tonic Bowling Alley to add a volleyball pit.

A new construction update was provided.

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.

ORDINANCE #1237 - An Ordinance authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an intergovernmental agreement with the Beecher Fire District and Washington Township for the creation of a Beecher Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA). The Village will commit a minimum of \$1,000 per year. Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to approve Ordinance #1237. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Siren maintenance occurred on March 2nd. Everything should be working now for this year. The Gould Street siren site needed to be painted according to Chief Weissgerber. Work has been authorized and completed.

An update on parking issues along Cardinal Creek Boulevard in front of the Junior High was provided by Chief Weissgerber. Cardinal Creek Boulevard southbound at Church Road is all muddy where cars are pulling off by the ditch. Children are crossing Cardinal Creek Boulevard walking to cars that are parked on the west side. Chief Weissgerber recommended putting up “No Parking” signs on the west side of the street. It was discussed if this should apply for all times of the day or designating only during certain hours. It was the consensus of the Board to put “No Parking” signs on the west side of Cardinal Creek Boulevard by the Junior High School.

President Szymanski said that on Hunters Drive on the east end by Mallards Cove, some residents requested increased enforcement or “Slow Children Playing” signs in that area.

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 noted that the pumped to billed ratio is above 75% this time, so it seems our persistence in fixing water leaks is finally paying off.

A sewer treatment plant update was provided. The Committee met with Derek Wold on March 10th and it is now time to present to the full Board the proposals and options for the design of the rehabilitated facility. Mr. Wold will be attending the April 11th meeting to explain the issues the Committee has been wrestling with and how the Village is going to keep this project at less than \$8 million. The Committee has organized a tour of the Plainfield wastewater treatment plant on Friday, April 8th. Available Board members were encouraged to attend.

The Board discussed combining the Penfield and Birch/Elm water main projects. The projects are currently bogged down by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) due to the state fiscal crisis. The Committee is recommending combining the two projects into one larger project under the IEPA loan so they can be bid and constructed at the same time. This would save the Village money on the bid process and allow us to take advantage of a low interest rate. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to combine the Penfield and Birch/Elm water main projects. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Cowger reported on the Maxwell Street storm sewer project, stating that the project will start next week and should be completed in a few days.

A tree maintenance and removal list was discussed. There are 62 addresses in the Village waiting for their trees to be removed, trimmed, a stump removed, needing restoration work, or waiting for a new parkway tree. Work will begin on this list in the coming months. Superintendent Cowger reported that 26 stumps need to be removed. Some stumps may be removed this fiscal year with current budget money.

JK

The Board considered a recommendation by staff to trade in the 2002 Ford New Holland TC33 tractor with a 2016 Ford New Holland Boomer 41 from DeJong Equipment. It was found out over the winter that the old tractor has leaking seals in the rear axle bearings which requires a major overhaul of the tractor. After speaking to DeJong Equipment it was learned that we are eligible for a large NJPA discount off the list price and along with trade in of the old tractor would cost the Village \$16,698.50. The new tractor will be able to do a lot more than the old one. After some discussion, Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the trade in of the 2002 Ford New Holland TC33 with a 2016 Ford New Holland Boomer 41 from DeJong Equipment. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber also proposed to purchase a new skid steer with a program similar to the replacement of the tractor. It would cost \$9,000 to replace a three year old skid steer every three years with no maintenance costs due to a three year warranty with federal discounts. The discount exceeds the depreciation of the piece of equipment. Trustee Kypuros felt this was a good deal. Superintendent Cowger said new tires were just purchased for the existing skid steer. The warranty on the current skid steer expires soon. This item will be put on the agenda and have DeJong Equipment provide costs for the Board to consider.

Superintendent Cowger said Public Works will be conducting spring flushing beginning Sunday, April 3rd until Thursday, during the overnight hours.

Superintendent Cowger said street sweeping will begin on April 17th to also be done during overnight hours.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

A Spring newsletter update was provided. Scheduled mailing date is April 18th.

A letter sent by Trustee Basile to Congresswoman Robin Kelly and Elgie Sims regarding the Vincennes Trial bike path was provided in the packet for review. Meetings are scheduled with grant coordinators with Will County to see if there is funding available for this project.

A promotional brochure is being developed for use by the Will County Forest Preserve to promote our community and its businesses.

Trustee Basile reported that a major rail line and rail port is being proposed to run along the Will/Kankakee County Line, called the Great Lakes Basin Railway, and it is meant to skirt around Chicago and link all of the Class I railroads together, similar to what I-294 and I-355 do for vehicle traffic. The focal point is the Manteno Rail port. Information was included in the packet for review. An informational meeting is scheduled for April 11th in Manteno. Board members could attend the informational meeting before the regular Board meeting.

President Szymanski asked Trustee Basile to contact Bahlmans to see if they would be willing to put a way-finding sign on their property directing people to the old downtown. The sign would be installed below the current Bahlman's sign.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A dispatch consolidation update was provided by President Szymanski. The consolidation is still progressing.

A liquor license has been issued to Sophia's Café at 747 Penfield. They have a beer and wine license and plan to install gaming machines.

The Board discussed the status of the retention pond in Prairie Crossings South. There are no recorded covenants in this subdivision since the developer was foreclosed on before the covenants were filed. The property is being foreclosed on again. President Szymanski asked the Board what they want to do with the 5 acre dry basin retention pond. The plat states that is to be owned and maintained by an HOA but one does not exist. The bank currently holds title to the pond and does mow it when the Village calls. It was asked who should be responsible for maintenance and if the Village should be responsible for all ponds since they are drainage structures. The question was asked if it is fair for the Village to accept one pond and not another. The major difference is that many of these ponds have no public access so there is a direct benefit to the adjoining property. President Szymanski asked the Board if they wished to authorize the Village attorney to keep trying to set up an HOA, SSA or have the Village take it over. This would only be the interior lots around the pond and draining to the pond. Trustee Meyer asked what the estimated cost would be to maintain this pond. Administrator Barber estimated assessing \$250 per lot per year if the Village wanted to collect \$7,500 for maintenance. It was decided to get an estimated cost for maintenance before moving forward on this matter.

HR Green provided a price to do the railroad quiet zone but the money hasn't been budgeted and there is no funding source for this so President Szymanski recommended doing nothing with this for now. There were no objections from the Board.

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


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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk