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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
MAY 23, 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, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

ABSENT: Trustee Kypuros.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber, Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger, Attorney Tim Kuiper and Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman Engineering.

GUEST: George Schuitema and Jack Daley.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 9, 2016 Board meeting. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Ahrendt, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Wehling.

Motion Carried.

CLERKS'S REPORT

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

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Board discussed the actuarial study completed for the Police Department to determine unfunded pension liability if the sworn officers were moved from the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) to the Downstate Police Pension Fund. This would occur when the Village has a population of 5,000 or more. This report will be used in future financial planning. Administrator Barber also reported on legislation being proposed to increase the population required for being in the Downstate Fund.

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Trustee Meyer reported on a Request for Proposal (RFP) being recommended by the Finance Committee for a short-term loan to finance the Phase II design of the wastewater treatment plant. It was questioned how many banks should be approached for this loan. The Finance Committee recommended approaching the two local banks for this loan. First Community Bank and Trust and Midland States Bank will be approached to provide loan proposals. Trustee Meyer made a motion authorizing a request for proposal for a short-term loan to finance Phase II design of the Beecher Wastewater Treatment Plant. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.
AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

A letter was provided in the packet for review notifying residents of changes to the ComEd electrical rate which will make it lower than the Village's current contract price with Homefield Energy. Residents are able to opt out by calling Homefield Energy themselves to switch back to ComEd pricing. The Board discussed how to inform residents of this option and process. Administrator Barber recommended putting a letter on the Village website and sending Nixle and smartphone app notifications referring residents to the website. Trustee Wehling said many residents are confused with the different energy companies trying to contact them to get their business. The Village also needs to inform our older residents on this issue that don't use technology. A newsletter could also be sent out but that was estimated to cost approximately \$1,000 with printing and mailing costs. The Village will do a combination of things to inform residents including putting a letter on the website, notice in the post office, Nixle and app notifications, note on water bill and hand out letters at the front desk of the Village Hall.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that the concession stand in Firemen's Park has been completed and is up and running.

The Fourth of July storage building in Firemen's Park will be completed this week. The old concession building will remain up until after Fourth of July.

Trustee Wehling said the Village has received complaints about the condition of Welton Stedt Park ballfield. Superintendent Cowger reported that Public Works has been working on raking, spraying, putting limestone down, and should be finishing improvements this week.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

The Board discussed granting an expanded Special Use Permit for a volleyball pit at Pin and Tonic, 643 Dixie Highway. The petitioner, Jack Daley, was present to answer questions. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) unanimously recommended approval of the expansion of a special use permit for a beer garden to include a sand volleyball pit under the same terms and conditions of the

existing special use in addition to the volleyball pit only being open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and that the Police reserves the right to address excessive noise levels. Administrator Barber said one comment that was made at a prior meeting was that the volleyball times seemed to conflict with beer garden times. President Szymanski noted the need to address noise level, alcohol, and lighting concerns. He noted that the petitioner could put up a volleyball net currently, because there is nothing prohibiting it, as long as it doesn't violate any current ordinance. Jack Daley stated that he doesn't plan to have volleyball games past dark at this time, but may want to do so later in the year. There have been no noise complaints so far to the Police Department. Trustee Wehling asked Mr. Daley if there was a plan to do landscaping around the fence. He plans to paint the fence. He would eventually like to have leagues to supplement the bowling alley which is slow in the summer. President Szymanski asked Mr. Daley if he would be willing to not have lighting and have volleyball play end at dusk. President Szymanski is thinking to set end time at 9 p.m. instead of dusk. Trustee Ahrendt asked about hours during the week. It will depend on how many people have signed up to play. Administrator Barber proposed 9 p.m. end time to Mr. Daley and he had no problem with that. It was stated that if any alcohol was in the play area it would have to be in aluminum or plastic. Plans for the volleyball court were provided for review.

ORDINANCE #1242 - An Ordinance granting an expanded special use permit for a volleyball pit at Pin and Tonic, 643 Dixie Highway with the condition that the volleyball pit will close and 9 p.m. and subject to the same stipulations as the original beer garden special use permit. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1242. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed amending the Zoning Code pertaining to temporary signage in the Village. The PZC has held three workshops and a public hearing on proposed amendments to the code to bring it into compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court's Gilberts decision. The PZC has recommended to allow up to 18 square feet of "daily" temporary signage per business (signs can up in the morning but must be removed within 12 hours) and an additional 2 square feet per linear foot of building frontage for temporary signage (up to 300 square feet per zoning lot) which may remain in place overnight. Prior special use permits, which include K's Shell, K's Phillip 66, Casey's, and Beecher Hardware building are grandfathered due to the prior special use being permitted and recorded. Special event signage could also be approved by the Village Administrator for up to 120 continuous days and no more than two times per year. It was noted that the language pertaining to off-premise temporary signs will not be amended. It was believed that all of the existing signage up in town at this time would be in conformance with the new ordinance. Attorney Kuiper explained the details of the changes to the temporary sign ordinance. He said there are only certain ways that the Village can regulate temporary signs. He also explained the differences between commercial signs, residential signs and special events signs. George Schuitema commented that the PZC wanted to be reasonable about the sign ordinance and still allow businesses to advertise their products. President Szymanski thanked the PZC and others involved in drafting this ordinance.

ORDINANCE #1243 - An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code pertaining to temporary signage in the Village. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve Ordinance #1243. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Wehling, Kuhlman, Basile and Meyer.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

The May 26, 2016 meeting of the PZC has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

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.

A Church Road warning siren relocation update was provided. Superintendent Cowger reported the moving of the siren is scheduled for this week, but might be held up by rain. The siren is being moved 134' to the east due to the nursing home expansion.

Chief Weissgerber reported that the Police Department bike rodeo is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th in Firemen's Park parking lot. Volunteers are needed to help with judging.

Administrator Barber reported and he and President Szymanski will be attending local government meetings in the coming weeks to present the ESDA proposal.

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 March and April was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Basile made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an agreement with Baxter and Woodman Engineers in the amount of \$620,000 for the Phase II design and financial work needed for an IEPA low interest loan to complete the rehabilitation of the Beecher wastewater treatment plant. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A Penfield/Elm/Birch Streets watermain update was provided by Ray Koenig from Baxter and Woodman. The IEPA loan division is currently backlogged with projects and has limited staffing due to the State's budget stalemate. He said adding Elm Street to the project delayed it a little, but he felt it was best to get it done now. It should be a 90-120 day project. It is preferred to do the project at a time other than summer so as not to disturb the residents as much and avoid the Fourth of July festival.

A Safe Routes to Schools Grant project update was provided by Ray Koenig. PT Ferro was awarded the contract and the Village will be billed for our 20% share of this project upon completion. The

pre-construction meeting will be held on June 2nd in Schaumburg and someone from the Village was encouraged to attend.

Ray Koenig reported on the Penfield Street reconstruction and replacement of the bridge. Construction is targeted to be done in 2019. More details should be known from the Will County Governmental League (WCGL) by the next meeting.

President Szymanski asked Superintendent Cowger about getting bids for work to be done at all the parks. The Superintendent was directed to get a bid from Desiderio Landscaping. Tadpole's bid was too high.

The hanging flower baskets should be delivered on Thursday and flags will be put up on poles in town. The banners are not yet ready due to some delays in ordering.

It was reported that the Public Works Committee met to discuss timelines for projects to be completed over the summer months. Superintendent Cowger said he has addressed a lot of the major concerns, weather allowing. Mosquito spraying should begin next week and work has started on the Maxwell Street sewer project. Bids are being obtained for mulching at the parks and stump removal is an ongoing project.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Board discussed an incentive package for a 5,000 square foot industrial building to be located in the Trim Creek Business Park for a business that constructs and installs hooded venting for commercial kitchens. The consensus of the Board agreed to the following incentives:

- a. No water and sewer tap-in fees
- b. A building permit fee equal to the SafeBuilt fee (no administrative fee)
- c. 25% reimbursement of the Village portion of the property tax for five years

Trustee Basile reported that the committee met with three business owners in the downtown earlier in the day to discuss improvements to the Gould Street area prior to spending the \$40,000 which has been allocated for improvements. Trustee Basile reported that after meeting with downtown businesses they are thinking about putting in composite or wood lumber over the existing sidewalks to make Gould Street look like a boardwalk like it did in the late 1800's. Wiring can be run under the boardwalk for lighting. There are many different ideas being looked at for this project and the business owners are very happy with the ideas. Another meeting will be held with the business owners in two weeks. It was noted that parking barriers along the old storage buildings on Gould Street are deteriorating and need to be removed.

A Vincennes Bike Trail update was provided. Trustee Basile reported that he reached out to Bob Howard on the Will County Board and is trying to get some funding on this and get the project back on the books, but there is a lack of cooperation on behalf of two of the property owners. He has also reached out to State legislators but there is no State funding available at this time.

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A Will County Forest Preserve brochure update was provided. Trustee Basile reported that copies of the two brochures were provided to the Board for review. One is for local attractions and other for local businesses. The Board liked the brochures and thanked Clerk Conner for her work on them.

A report was provided on the Penfield Street and Dixie Highway wayfinding signs. The new panel has been ordered. It was noted that the sign on Gould Street still had the old Village Hall location and needs to be fixed. Dacav will be contacted to see if they can do a new decal to put over this panel. Also, a better location will try and be found for this sign, maybe on Woodward Street.

The 2015 Commonwealth Edison annual report to municipalities was provided in the packet for review.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Trustee Meyer made a motion to untable a motion to re-affirm the memorandum of understanding with Bernard Welding on connecting to sanitary sewer. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to withdraw the motion to re-affirm the memorandum of understanding with Bernard Welding on connecting to the sanitary sewer. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The matter pertaining to the memorandum of understanding with Bernard Welding was referred to the Public Works Committee for further discussion.

President Szymanski provided a report on the South Suburban Mayors and Managers and Illinois Municipal League (IML) annual lobby day in Springfield. He said the Governor seemed to be more positive at that time but things seem to keep changing. The Governor seems to be loosening up on his turnaround agenda. Administrator Barber reported that the State may delay our tax money for 4-5 months later this year. President Szymanski also reported that the Illiana Expressway and airport may not be dead. There are still discussions but nothing new.

Administrator Barber reported that the Hunters Chase West Pond Homeowner's Association (HOA) has agreed to disband and turn over the title to the little pond and \$7,000 remaining in its accounts over to the Village with an anticipated closing date of around October 1, 2016. The HOA plans to maintain the pond until October. The residents in the HOA seem to be happy that the Village accepted their offer to take over maintenance of the pond.

The status of Prairie Crossings South Retention Pond was provided. Superintendent Cowger was instructed to get two prices for annual maintenance of this pond. To have it contractually mowed would cost \$1,500 per year. The two proposals were provided in the packet for review. This would

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require an assessment of \$50 per year for the 32 lots inside the "box" which directly benefit from the pond. The Board was asked if they want to set up this special assessment or just assume the responsibility for the pond once the subdivision sells. It was discussed that it would be easier to do the special assessment (SSA) now because many of the lots are empty and once they are sold it will be more difficult. Some Board members expressed concerns it may be difficult to get people to pay even if an HOA was formed. Currently the bank owns and mows the property. Attorney Kuiper reported it will be costly to set up an SSA or HOA and since maintenance costs are currently being paid by the bank he recommended doing nothing on this for now. Trustee Meyer expressed concerns about setting a precedent for other subdivisions for pond maintenance. No action was taken.

President Szymanski requested an executive session be held pertaining to personnel relating to one of his annual appointments and land acquisition relating to a lot being considered for purchase. Both parties have made their final offers but now some new information has been received which may or may not change the Board's mind.

Trustee Meyer made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:18 p.m. to discuss land acquisition and one of President Szymanski's annual appointments. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There being no further business to be discussed in executive session, Trustee Kuhlman made a motion to return to regular session at 8:55 p.m. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski provided his annual appointments. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve President Szymanski's annual appointments for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 as presented. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

PRESIDENT SZYMANSKI'S FY 2016-2017 APPOINTMENTS:

Village President Pro-Tem: Scott Wehling

Finance and Administration Committee:

Chair: Marcy Meyer

Co-Chair: Jonathan Kypuros

Public Safety Committee:

Chair: Ron Kuhlman

Co-Chair: Gayle Ahrendt

Public Works Committee:

Chair: Jonathan Kypuros
Co-Chair: Frank Basile

Economic Development and Community Relations Committee:

Chair: Frank Basile
Co-Chair: Marcy Meyer

Public Buildings and Properties, Parks and Recreation:

Chair: Scott Wehling
Co-Chair: Ron Kuhlman

Planning, Building and Zoning:

Chair: Gayle Ahrendt
Co-Chair: Scott Wehling

ESDA Coordinator: Robert Barber

Village Administrator and Zoning Administrator and Economic Development:

Robert Barber

Village Clerk: Janett Conner

Village Prosecutor: Tom Knuth

Village Corporate Counsel: Tim Kuiper, Austgen and Kuiper, P.C.

Village Treasurer: Lynne Orr

Deputy Treasurer: Donna Rooney

Code Enforcement Officer: Aaron DaCorte

IML Delegate: Greg Szymanski

Chief of Police: Jeffrey Weissgerber

Public Works Superintendent: Harold "Bud" Cowger

Building Department Services: Independent Inspection Services, Inc. (SafeBuilt)

EASTCOM Board of Directors: Member: Greg Szymanski, Alternate: Robert Barber

Planning and Zoning Commission Secretary: Patty Meyer

Joint Fuel Committee: Greg Szymanski and Robert Barber

Village Engineer: Baxter and Woodman: (project engineers TBD on a case by case basis)

Planning and Zoning Commission:

Paul Lohmann (term expires 5/1/17)

Althea Machtemes (term expires 5/1/17)

Bill Hearn (term expires 5/1/18)

Phil Serviss (term expires 5/1/18)

George Schuitema (term expires 5/1/18)

Denis Tatgenhorst (term expires 5/1/19)

Kevin Bouchard (term expires 5/1/19)

Beautification Commission:

Gayle Ahrendt, Village Liaison
Steve Weishaar
Paul Lohmann
Jessica Treco
Andrew Ahrendt

Sandy Lohmann
George Obradovich
Jean Smith

Fourth of July Commission:

Brad Coats
Ron Kuhlman, Village Liaison
Jonathan Kypuros
Jerry Meyer
Patty Meyer
Bruce Becker
Kevin Bouchard
Ken Bobowski (Ex-Officio)

Bill Voss
Chuck Hoehn
Cameron Ohlendorf
Robert Barber
Laura Voss
Marcy Meyer
Howard Perry

Barb Hodgett
Steve Koehn
Nicholas Hoehn
Joe Gardner

Beecher Youth Commission:

Jonathan Kypuros, Village Liaison
Ben Jones
Teri Kasput
Heather Graham
Trish Moran
Brandy Flores
Joe Tieri

Laura Irwin
Jeanette Chose
Roger Sipple, ex-officio
Jodi Cook
Diana Jerkatis
Amy Kramer

Historic Preservation Commission:

Scott Wehling, Village Liaison
Virginia Bath
Ken Haumeister
Don Sala
Arnie Cooper

Marilyn Ohlendorf

Ribbon of Hope Commission:

Frank Basile, Village Liaison
Dean Bettenhausen
Barbara Hodgett
Myra Kocsis
Mike Stanula

Howard Perry
Chris Szymanski
Susan Sebastian

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janett Conner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Janett Conner
Village Clerk