

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT  
& BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER  
HELD AT THE BEECHER VILLAGE HALL,  
625 DIXIE HIGHWAY, BEECHER, ILLINOIS  
AUGUST 31, 2016 -- 7:00 P.M.**

**JOINT TAXING BODY MEETING**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

The meeting was called to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: President Szymanski and Trustees Wehling and Meyer.

ABSENT: Trustees Ahrendt, Kypuros, Kuhlman and Basile.

A quorum of the Village Board was not present.

Other taxing bodies called roll.

**STAFF & OTHER TAXING BODY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Michael Mach, Mike Stanula, Marla Heldt, Shirley Biery, Marge Cook, Dennis Kennedy, Larry Hermen, Ron Mazurek, Karen Scrementi, Jeff McCartney, George Obradovich, Brian Claus, Denis Tatgenhorst and Bob Howard.

A Joint Taxing Body meeting was held to share information relating to each taxing body. The Village, Will County, School District, Fire District, Library Board, Township and Community Hall Building Board were invited to attend.

President Szymanski provided reports on the following items:

The logistical issues of having the 4<sup>th</sup> of July carnival in the parking lot the last two years and different issues that came up this year. The carnival may be moved back into park to allow for additional parking unless there is a lot of rain again. Also the Village now owns the empty lot at the corner of Penfield and Maxwell which will be converted into a parking lot and other parking improvements to be done along Penfield due to the upcoming watermain and street improvements.

The Village hopes to get the Firemen's Park parking lot re-paved in 2019 and asked for input on how to pay for this. A meeting will be held soon with the other taxing bodies using this lot to discuss the needed improvements.

A Beecher Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has been established by the Village and the Fire Department and Township have signed an agreement to participate in the EMA. The process for hiring a director was explained. The purpose of the EMA is to get help with traffic control, crowd control, and for setting up warming and cooling centers.

ComEd plans to install smart meters beginning this fall.

An update on the Penfield Street watermain project planned for next Spring was provided. After the project there will be new parking configuration along Penfield and new parking lots at Reed and Penfield and at Maxwell and Penfield. There are also aesthetic improvements being made to the area.

Administrator Barber provided a report on the Great Lakes Basin Railroad. He said the project may have merit but may not have the funding to proceed.

The Future of Balmoral Park was discussed. The park has been purchased by HITS and will become a horse show jumping destination. The need for hotels and other amenities in the area to accommodate the people who will be coming from around the country for these shows was discussed.

The Safe Routes to School signs have been installed in town but the lights haven't been received yet. They will be installed once they are in.

Gould Street renovations were provided. Sit-N-Bull has opened on Gould and looks nice. The landlord for the building with the "Basile" sign on Gould is doing renovations and hopes to open it as a restaurant. The old Wehmhoeffer Hardware is being remodeled and may become pottery store. Sophia's on Penfield Street has opened as a video gaming café and has great food. The Village Board is looking into putting some money into the old downtown to continue revitalization now that some businesses are investing in the area. A boardwalk will be installed over the old concrete sidewalk to restore the historic appeal to the area. There also may be a mural painted on the side of the old lumber yard building in the future.

Administrator Barber reported RP Lumber is opening September 6<sup>th</sup> in the old Beatty Lumber on Church Road.

The old Reilly's on Dixie Highway is being divided into a 2-3 unit strip mall. One of the businesses planned in the building will be Lacey's which is video gaming café. The other units are build to suit.

A roundtable discussion was then held.

The new sports bar planned for next to Tubby's named Chubbys was asked about. They have applied for a permit. There are only a couple of liquor licenses still available so the number businesses offering video gaming will be limited by the number of liquor licenses.

The Fire District will be putting up a new LED sign.

The Library is in the process of removing all the old landscaping and replace it with something more compatible with the building. They also plan to tear out and re-pave their parking lot. They will be having a bid opening for a new time and temperature sign to replace the old one which quit working.

The old concession stand in Firemen's park has been removed and replaced with a new one.

County Board member Bob Howard provided a report on the County. Trustee Basile has been working with the County on the Vincennes Trail bike path. A new dog park is going in on Burrville Road which will connect to Beecher and further north when trail is done. The Village and County is working together on this.

Dispatch center consolidation was discussed.

Electronics recycling was discussed. There is now an electronics drop off site in Peotone which is open twice per week.

It was agreed the Joint Taxing Body meetings in the future will only be held once per year, while things are slow.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janett Conner, Village Clerk