

**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
DECEMBER 12, 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, Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger and Treasurer Lynne Orr.

GUESTS: None.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 28, 2016 Board meeting. Trustee Ahrendt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Basile 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 read a thank you card from the family of Paul Lohmann.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Trustee Ahrendt reported on the Beautification Commission. The next meeting is the second Tuesday in January at the Village Hall.

There was nothing new to report for the Fourth of July Commission.

Trustee Kypuros provided a report on the Youth Commission. Nerf gun wars were held last month, which was well received and a success. No events are scheduled for December. The daddy/daughter dance is scheduled for February.

Trustee Basile reported that the lights are up at the Ribbon of Hope memorial.

Trustee Wehling reported on the Historic Preservation Commission. The December meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday in January.

Administrator Barber asked if there was an expectation that Public Works needs to keep areas around Ribbon of Hope and Veteran's Memorial clear of snow in the winter. Salt cannot be used, and a snow blower would damage the bricks. This matter needs to be looked at. Public Works may need to use a push broom at the Veteran's Memorial in case anyone comes in for the holidays and wants to see the engraved bricks.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review and the Treasurer 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 Wehling 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 \$182,947.93 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. 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.

A report on the comparisons of the Village's fund balances since 2007 was provided in the packet for review.

A State Income Tax update was provided. The Illinois Municipal League (IML) has reported that there is a trending loss of state income tax dollars to local governments, but Beecher is currently on target with projections.

The Illinois Public Finance Forecast Summit is being held on January 19th. Board members were asked to contact Administrator Barber if they are interested in attending. President Szymanski and Administrator Barber are both planning to attend.

The five-year financial plan has been released to Board members and will be discussed in January.

The Finance Committee will meet on December 21st at 2 p.m. to discuss refinancing of bonds with Midstates Bank of Bloomington and to review the five-year plan.

Comcast's notice of service changes and a rate increase was provided in the packet for review.

ORDINANCE #1253 - An Ordinance establishing a travel expense policy for the Village. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve Ordinance #1253. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling reported that the ice rink has been put together and should be open by the end of the week, depending on how frozen the ice is after the snow. Gates will be taken down and lights will be on once the rink is open. There is a plan to increase the size of the rink next year. There are different options with the newer type of rink being done for use for hockey, etc. according to Trustee Kypuros.

The Village has received an employee safety grant of \$4,300 from our insurance carrier to provide for more safety measures for employees. Staff is looking at using this safety grant to install intrusion and panic alarms and video surveillance at the Village Hall.

Trustee Wehling provided a report on the Village Hall generator. The generator is up and working, but had to be taken offline since it is causing power problems with electronic devices. The generator would work well running a lift station or a well, but not the Village Hall battery backups on the computer and phone systems. Metro Power is working toward finding a solution. Superintendent Cowger said Wednesday morning Generac is coming back out to try one more thing to get it to work properly. The generator will need to be replaced if this doesn't work. Administrator Barber expressed concern that if the existing generator is repaired as proposed, if it gets back out of tune it could cause problems and damage equipment.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

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.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

Trustee Kypuros provided a Penfield/Elm/Birch watermain update. Bid opening has been set for Tuesday, January 17th at the Village Hall. The Village Board will consider the bids at the January 23rd meeting.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the Village President to sign a contract with HR Green Engineers for the submission of a bi-annual bridge inspection report for \$1,500. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A Safe Routes to Schools grant project update was provided. Beacons have been ordered and it was hoped that IDOT has them installed soon.

The Illinois General Assembly is considering new testing laws pertaining to lead in water. This will have to be monitored. In the future, the Village will have to test the school's water for lead.

The leaf disposal contract with Smits Farms expires at the end of next season. Staff will begin negotiating a new contract for another five years.

RESOLUTION #2016-09 - A Resolution regarding maintenance obligations on State rights of way. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adopt Resolution #2016-09. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Administrator Barber was supposed to meet with ComEd regarding street lights on Chestnut and Willow. The ComEd rep was unable to make the meeting and it had to be rescheduled. Staff is still working on this, but will wait until new representative comes in after the current representative retires after January 1st.

President Szymanski commented that there was supposed to be one more leaf pick up the previous week but due to freezing temperatures and the snow they weren't able to be picked up. It was believed the refuse company may still pick up leaves.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Basile attended a Will County Center for Economic Development annual meeting and reported that at the meeting the President of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and North American Logistics Engineer from Amazon talked about the company's commitment to Will County. It was a very interesting meeting about Amazon's sales and operations.

The Committee will meet with Architect Mike Stanula on December 29th at 4 p.m. to go over the prints for the Gould Street boardwalk.

Trustee Basile reported that the Village is considering a project where a vendor sells video ads to local businesses and they are displayed on TV screens in lobbies of local businesses and possibly at the Village Hall. The 40" tv screen displays ads which can help promote local businesses. If allowed in the Village Hall, these ads would only be of Beecher businesses. Administrator Barber Bob

requires that this be endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce and has to also be able to advertise community events so it's not just ads.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski provided an update on the Laraway dispatch center negotiations. The process has been very contentious and negative but a tentative agreement has been reached which was included in the packet for review. There may still be a slight revision to the agreement before the next meeting. Thirty agencies are trying to consolidate into one dispatch center. The fees of the new dispatching center could save the Village approximately \$15,000 per year in dispatching fees. This is just for information at this time.

President Szymanski invited Board members to attend the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Dinner meeting being held at Scrementi's in Crete on Thursday, January 19th. They are to let him know if they plan to attend.

There is no Village Board meeting on December 26th. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2017.

Administrator Barber said he received notice in the mail today that Bernard Welding has applied for a NDPES permit for their sewer plant which would be good for the next five years.

Tomorrow night is the Washington Township Christmas party at the Amvets. Village Board members were invited to attend. Anyone interested in attending was asked to contact President Szymanski.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk