

**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 27, 2017 -- 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 (arrived at 7:30 p.m.).

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger and Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber.

GUESTS: Kim Koutsky, Diane Carson, Stacy Mazurek, John Voss and Doug Terpstra.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 13, 2017 Board meeting. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Meyer.

Motion Carried.

CLERKS'S REPORT

1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Clerk Conner reported that dog tags are now past due.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The budget workshop was conducted under Old Business at the end of the meeting.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an agreement with the Illinois Department of Revenue for the sharing of sales tax information. Trustee Basile seconded the motion. This is a renewal of the old agreement that expired.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Kypuros, Wehling, Kuhlman and Basile.
NAYS: (0) None.
ABSENT: (1) Trustee Meyer.
Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1258 - An Ordinance authorizing entry into a water pollution control loan agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 for the reconstruction of the Beecher Wastewater Treatment Plant, with two changes made by the Attorney adding the potential referendum date of March 20, 2018 if it's petitioned and listing exact number of voters as 282. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve Ordinance #1258 with the two changes. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Ahrendt, Kypuros, Wehling, Kuhlman and Basile.
NAYS: (0) None.
ABSENT: (1) Trustee Meyer.
Motion Carried.

This Ordinance authorizes a higher amount than staff expected the project to cost but since there is a possibility of loan forgiveness and a 30-year term at a very low interest rate the Village is keeping options open.

The Village has received the final tax levy from the County Clerk. The new tax rate is 0.7468.

A report on the NIMEC bid opening was provided.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Wehling provided a report on park rules. The Committee met and recommended some changes to the way the park is used by private parties. The Village Attorney is working on a draft park application and rules sheet which may be considered at the April meeting.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

Trustee Ahrendt provided a Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting update. After public hearing, the PZC recommended a special use for the off-premise sign for Sophia's Café, but due to the short time period to have a finding of fact prepared and an ordinance drafted, this matter will not be considered by the Village Board until the April 10th meeting. Public hearings were also approved for a variance for a solid fence in the front yard setback at 159 Bald Eagle and for an outdoor patio at The Gould Vault, formerly Basil Bistro, at 618 Gould Street. The solar panel ordinance was amended and a hearing date has not been set yet. The next PZC meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27th.

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.

The water billing register for the months of January and February was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Kypuros questioned how many breaks occurred during that billing period. Superintendent Cowger reported that there were six breaks, and flushing was conducted at the corner of Dixie Highway and Pasadena which contributed to the lower pumped to billed ratio. The ratio will need to be reviewed again after the next billing.

Trustee Kypuros provided a sewer plant design update. The Village Engineer met with staff to go over the detail of the design. If the Village gets all the options proposed, the engineer's estimate is \$9,900,000 for the entire project but the goal is to keep the project cost below \$8,000,000. The cost savings of using the existing building for sludge storage instead of a new building was questioned.

It was reported that the Village must order 300 tons of salt yet this winter as required by our bid. This would give us enough for an entire normal winter next year.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

An update was provided on tablets for the Village Board members. President Szymanski ordered the tablets last week. They will be 10" with a detachable keyboard.

Trustee Basile reported that work has begun on the Spring newsletter and they are expected to be mailed by the end of April.

Trustee Basile provided a report on the meeting he attended with President Szymanski and John Grueling, CEO of the Will County Center for Economic Development. They discussed HITS, CSX, Amazon, etc. They discussed tax credits given to bring business into the area. Trustee Basile will also be holding a one on one meeting with Mr. Grueling to discuss bringing businesses into Beecher and asked Board members for ideas.

G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Szymanski provided a Crete Intermodal update. CSX recently has a new CEO. It is uncertain how this will affect the Crete Intermodal at this time. CSX was asked about funding a railroad Quiet Zone. CSX said that either way the Village would have to put up some money.

An update on the Will County Governmental League (WCGL) lobby day in Springfield was provided. A meeting was attended with Randy Blankenhorn from IDOT and issues of traffic, noise, effect on area roads, etc., was discussed in anticipation of the Crete Intermodal.

H. OLD BUSINESS

The Board considered granting an additional 10 years for park impact fee waivers for Fieldgate Subdivision as requested at the February 27th meeting by Doug Terpstra. The Village Attorney has provided an opinion that the development agreement cannot be extended and that the PUD will disappear in 10 years if the improvements are not completed or a letter of credit is not secured by the Village before that time. However, the Village Board does have the legal right to extend the park impact fee waivers for an additional 10 years to allow the subdivision to be built out gradually according to economic conditions.

John Voss from Fieldgate was asked why they wanted this extension now. Mr. Voss said that they felt that to do it now would be better than to wait because most of it is tied to marketability of the project. He felt the subdivision would take more than 8 years to build out. They need to have projection out on the returns of this project. They didn't end up moving forward when the project originally started because economy went down.

Mr. Voss said they don't have access to the sewer to the subdivision at this point. The sewer needs to be connected by the Village. In the original agreement, MGM was supposed to provide this sewer pipe and they went bankrupt. The Village and this developer don't agree on who should provide the extension of the sewer to the property. The Attorney has been consulted on this issue and indicated that the Village has no obligation to extend the sewer pipe.

Trustee Meyer arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Doug Terpstra from Fieldgate arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Trustee Kypuros felt that they are asking to renegotiate the terms of the agreement and that nothing has been offered in return for this extension. Mr. Terpstra didn't agree. Trustee Meyer expressed concerns about doing this now before the certificates are close to expiring. Trustee Basile expressed concerns about locking the Village in for another 18 years. Trustee Ahrendt said she felt that everything should expire at once and not just a portion extended. Much discussion followed. Trustee Wehling made a motion to deny request for an additional 10 years for park impact fee waivers for Fieldgate Subdivision. Trustee Ahrendt seconded the motion. After further consideration the petitioner chose to withdraw request. Trustees Wehling and Ahrendt withdrew their motions.

A five minute recess was held before the Village Board workshop to review the 2017/2018 budget.

Administrator Barber went through the budget highlights, and the Board went through each page of the budget.

Some of the following issues were discussed more at length:

Trustee Kypuros expressed concerns about if the Beecher Fire District and Washington Township's share of the EMA is adequate or if they should be asked for more funding. Chief Weissgerber reported that the Beecher Fire District is donating radios and other equipment and previously donated a Suburban to the Police Department. President Szymanski asked to give it a year to see where the program is going to figure out where the expenses are. There were also questions about the jump in expenses relating to EMA compared to last year. Trustee Kuhlman expressed concerns about Code Enforcement in evenings and weekends since Officer Tatgenhorst is off at 3 p.m. He would like to see some flexibility in Code Enforcement hours. Trustee Meyer said that when going over the budget she didn't realize the EMA program would cost this much when the program was originally implemented. Staff recommended to obtain more data before asking the Beecher Fire District or Washington Township how much they would contribute towards EMA. President Szymanski recommended having discussions with the Beecher Fire District regarding this issue.

In the Street Department, Trustee Kypuros questioned the Trim Creek Business Park drainage improvement budgeted. Attorney is being consulted to determine if it is our responsibility to repair this drainage problem.

Trustee Kypuros asked at what point the due to from Park Fund should be written off since the General Fund is healthy. Administrator Barber will put on a future agenda to forgive the due to from Park Fund. It was the consensus of the Board to forgive this due to.

Trustee Meyer made a motion to recommend the 2017/2018 budget for public hearing. Trustee Kypuros 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 Wehling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk