

**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
OCTOBER 10, 2017 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Szymanski asked for a moment of silence to remember Police Chief Jeffrey Weissgerber who passed away the previous week, and recognizing other recent tragedies such as employees who have recently lost family, hurricanes affecting the country, and the shootings in Las Vegas.

President Szymanski called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: President Szymanski and Trustees Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

ABSENT: Trustee Basile.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Treasurer Donna Rooney, Acting Chief of Police Rick Emerson and Superintendent of Public Works Bud Cowger.

GUESTS: Matt Beran, Auditor with Lauterbach and Amen and George Schuitema.

Minutes of the previous meeting were not yet available and will be provided at the next Board meeting.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Superintendent Cowger provided an update on the Beautification Commission. The meeting scheduled for this evening was cancelled. The Paul Lohmann memorial bench has been put together and placed in the park.

An update was provided on the Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Meyer reported an estimated \$6,000 profit from the 2017 festival. Not all the numbers are final yet, but they're pretty close. A meeting will be scheduled to set up a budget for the coming year.

Trustee Mazurek provided a report on the Youth Commission. Fifty kids attended the camp-out at the Will County Forest Preserve and all went well. A haunted hallway event is being held by the Beecher High School Student Council and the Beecher Youth Commission will sponsor the event by paying for entry for registered Beecher Elementary School students. Also, the haunted house trip is planned for this Friday.

President Szymanski reported on the Ribbon of Hope Commission. The memorial is almost complete. The benches have been installed and plates are to be installed. Trustee Basile and President Szymanski plan to do landscaping at the memorial this week depending on the weather. The commemoration is scheduled for later this fall.

Trustee Wehling reported on the Historic Preservation Commission. The next meeting is to be held on October 18th at 6 p.m. at the Depot. A new sign has been put up at the Depot and the Commission is working on the next plaque recipients.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the Treasurer's report was provided to the Board for review and Treasurer Rooney 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 Kraus seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the preceding month were provided in the packet for review.

A list of bills totalling \$183,903.32 to be paid was available for review. A summary of the list of bills was provided. Trustee Basile made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Treasurer Rooney explained to the Board about the new option to residents to receive their water bill by email. When bills were being paid last month, staff informed residents of options for receiving and paying their water bill. As a result, 77 people signed up for email of their water bill and 33 additional people signed up for autodraft.

Matt Beran from the audit firm of Lauterbach and Amen provided a presentation on the results of the audit and the management letter. Board members were asked for any questions or comments. Matt Beran thanked staff for their cooperation in doing the audit. Trustee Meyer made a motion to accept the audit for Fiscal Year 2016/2017. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed a request from Lighthouse Builders to extend the deadline for payment of tap-in fees through the Village's deferred payment incentive plan. Lighthouse Builders has not been able to sell some of their units and the one-year deadline has passed. Some of the homes are completed but the builder does not have buyers. Staff recommended eliminating the one-year provision and wait until the certificate of occupancy is applied for to collect the fees. The petitioner

was not present. Trustee Kypuros asked what course of action would be taken if the fee was not paid. The builder had come in earlier in the day and asked that the item be removed from the agenda, and that they intend to pay the next day. Trustee Kypuros suggested a late fee be attached to any of tap-in fees that have to be extended beyond one year. This would be something that would need to be drafted by the attorney. It was discussed that it doesn't do any good to shut the job down, but the Village could perhaps increase the fee to \$7,500 to be split between water and sewer. After some discussion, Trustee Kypuros made a motion to authorize the attorney to draft an Ordinance increasing the water and sewer tap-in fees to include a penalty to be paid, which will be split between water and sewer, for water and sewer tap-in fees deferred beyond one year of issuance of a building permit or a period of one year. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed extending the deferred tap-in fee and water/sewer/refuse credit ordinance for the first 50 residential building permits or until November 1, 2019, whichever comes first. By extending this program for two more years, the Village continues its housing incentive program. The maximum liability of this extension is \$100,000. Treasurer Rooney said that there is only one home builder who is advertising the incentive. All other people building in Beecher have been surprised to find out about the water bill credit when signing up for their water bill. Trustee Kypuros suggested reaching out to all builders to remind them about this incentive program. Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the drafting of an Ordinance extending the deferred tap-in fee and the water/sewer/refuse credit for the first 50 residential building permits or until November 1, 2019, whichever comes first. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kraus reported that the Police Department came across a promotion for the purchase of certified portable scales that can be used when overweight trucks are pulled over. The cost is \$8,400 and is not budgeted. The department has two certified truck enforcement officers and overweight citations can be significant. The scales would have to be certified every year which would cost \$1,000. Trustee Kraus recommended purchase of the scales. Acting Chief Emerson explained the potential use of the scales and how it would save the officers' time since they wouldn't have to travel to other area scales. Trustee Kraus made a motion to purchase portable scales in the amount of \$8,400 for truck enforcement. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

According to Administrator Barber, the Board needs to discuss dates for the strategic plan at the next meeting. He is still waiting for a couple of the surveys that haven't yet been submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

President Szymanski shared his thoughts on how the process of looking for a new Chief will occur. He would like to hire an outside firm to conduct the assessment, they would provide three candidates to him, and he would make the appointment. Cost is estimated at a maximum of \$12,000. At the next Board meeting he will present companies to the Board. He explained the process of what these firms would do. He would like to have a new Chief by the second meeting in January but needs to determine if this is feasible. This process could be done by staff but he would like to have a firm do it to find the right candidate and keep it non-political.

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

AYES: (5) Trustees Meyer, Kraus, Mazurek, Kypuros and Wehling.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk