

**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  
August 27, 2018 -- 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 Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Acting Public Works Superintendent Matt Conner and Chief Greg Smith.

**GUEST:** George Schuitema.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 13, 2018 Board meeting. Trustee Basile made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

**AYES:** (6) Trustees Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

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

**RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE**

None.

**A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Basile provided a Will County aggregation update. The Will County Aggregation group consisting of 14 communities opened three bids for electrical supply on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The lowest bid was from Constellation Energy, which was about 6% lower than the ComEd rates beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. This rate was locked in for three years. Letters advising the residents of this new rate went out last week. ComEd rates should continue to climb but if they do drop the Village will advise the residents to opt out of this program, which they can do at any time at no cost.

An Illinois Municipal Insurance Cooperative update was provided.

The Village is monitoring state tax collections to budgeted amounts and are right on track.

The Illinois Department of Revenue explanation of the impact of a Supreme Court decision requiring the collection of internet sales taxes was provided for review.

An update on the Village's health insurance pool was provided. The first meeting of the joint eastern and western Will County pools was held on Friday. We are now a member of the SWAHM group. Beecher currently has \$112,381 in reserve with \$31,154 of this amount being unrestricted.

## **B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Wehling provided a tot lot update. A site has been staked out in Firemen's Park for the tot lot and more than half of the money has been collected for the initial phase of the project. The northeast corner of the park near the parking lot is the planned location. Trustee Wehling handed out pictures of some possible park equipment designs and price ranges for different options. He will get more information on costs for installation and adding mulch, etc. Trustee Basile said some Lions Club members would like to see the equipment put where the T-Ball field is and move the T-ball field to the northeast corner of the park so the tot lot is closer to the actual ballfields. It was discussed whether this lot is meant to serve the community overall or to give families somewhere for younger children to play during baseball games. The Board discussed other possible locations, and also discussed what age group this equipment will serve and adding more equipment for older age groups later. Costs will need to be considered before choosing equipment. Grants are also being pursued. This is still a work in progress.

An update on Lions Park playground repairs was provided. The Lions Club is planning to purchase two new slides. This fall the stone will be removed and replaced with mulch.

Acting Public Works Superintendent Conner provided an update on the generator for the Police station. The electrician will be back out Wednesday. Project is still moving forward.

Administrator Barber reported that AT&T and Call One are in the process of installing fiber optic cable into the Village Hall. Eventually all copper wires will be transitioned to fiber since copper is being phased out.

## **C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

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

A Comprehensive Plan update was provided. Since last month Teska Associates has been at gatherings for the Chamber of Commerce, the Youth Commission, the Lions Club Summerfest, and the public visioning workshop. Most of the data collection is now complete and it is time to begin planning. The next step in the process is a meeting with the Intergovernmental Committee

on Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Teska is also going to be at the next senior breakfast talking to the seniors. In October the vision will be put into text and maps.

An update on developments in Beecher was provided. The Village has 385 vacant single-family lots and 257 townhome lots. This is 642 total vacant lots. In addition, there are 1,068 lots which are platted but not improved.

**D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

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

The E.M.A. monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The Code Enforcement monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Kraus commented about a post on Facebook on August 9<sup>th</sup> about a Beecher Police Officer going out to St. John to do training. He expressed concerns about doing these types of trainings outside of Beecher and outside jurisdictions having different standards for response. Chief Smith explained that we have been training with surrounding towns and how officers would be coming from many different areas to respond in the event of a school shooting, etc.

**E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

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

Trustee Kypuros provided a wastewater treatment plant improvement update. All of the underground work is being laid including the new junction flow boxes, tie in lines and clarifier pit. A new path to the grade school lift station has been installed. A progress meeting was held on August 18<sup>th</sup> and the next progress meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Dunbar Street watermain replacement project has begun. The plan is to bore both north and south of Penfield Street to Hodges and then to Indiana. This will require the intersection of Penfield and Dunbar to be closed for the next month. Services will then be attached to the new main and the old main abandoned. Residents have been informed of this project by letters delivered to their homes. The contractor will advise residents when there will be temporary disruptions of water service or blocked driveways. The plan is to be complete with this work by the end of September and restorations complete by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

A Miller Street lift station rehab has been completed.

A report was provided on curb and sidewalk repairs. Curbs are to be done this week and sidewalks to be done starting the second week in September.

Acting Superintendent Conner reported that the Gould Street boardwalk sealing should begin on Tuesday.

Tree removal and tree trimming update was provided. There are six trees still leftover on the list for fall or winter work. A new list will need to be made.

A water meter replacement update was provided. Acting Superintendent Conner reported that a total of 27 new meters were installed this fiscal year. He is working on a plan to replace the meters on Dunbar Street after the watermain project is completed.

A Public Works Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. to review applications and set an interview schedule for the Public Works employee job opening.

A Penfield Street STP project update was provided. The Village no longer has to worry about registry of the bridge. It has been deemed not historically significant. A community workshop on the roadway plan is scheduled for later this Fall. The project is anticipated to be done in 2020 which may affect the Sesquicentennial event. The completion of this project is dependent on Federal funding, which could delay the project.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to waive bids for the upgrade to the Village's Scada system for water distribution. A proposal for the work to be done in the amount of \$26,190 was provided for consideration. Acting Superintendent Conner is recommending that this be done now to prevent further software and hardware failures at well #3 and the booster station. Also provided was the history of the Scada system and a letter on the system's current status. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve a proposal in the amount of \$26,190 from Energenecs to upgrade the Scada system at well #3 and the booster station. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed a request for a design and a price for making a cul de sac off the Hodges Street extension at the west end of Firemen's Park. The Village Engineer did not provide a design of the cul de sac but provided a price of \$208,000, or \$178,000 without the contingency. The Village is waiting on the design from the engineer. This seems to be a very high cost and perhaps other options could be pursued such as Public Works preparing the road bed and hiring a paver to install the asphalt. We still need to see a drawing of what this cul de sac would look like. This is for information only at this time.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2001 ODB LCT 650 leaf loader in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 from Claus Municipal Supply and to fund the purchase with funding from the Street Department. This machine was discovered at our large truck supplier in Cissna Park, IL when we took a truck in for warranty work. It is the same type of unit as our 1994 LCT 650 with the exception that it has a tube on a hydraulic arm which makes leaf collection less

labor-intensive. This will help Public Works with leaf collection in the future. A proposal from Acting Superintendent Conner and photo of the unit was provided. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

A TIF district update was provided. All data collection and field work is complete and when the first draft of the report is ready for review, Teska Associates will ask the Village President to appoint a TIF Review Board. A public hearing before the Board will also be held. No exact timetable is available on this yet.

An independent senior housing development update was provided. A second series of letters went out earlier this month. Administrator Barber will follow up on these with a phone call to those who haven't been called yet.

A railroad quiet zone update was provided. The Village has received preliminary design work for the crossings but the Village still needs to meet with the Federal Railroad Agency to discuss the scope of the project. President Szymanski has worked closely with HR Green on this project. He is waiting for a call back as to when a meeting with the railroad will be scheduled.

Board members were asked to let Staff know if they had anything to put in the Fall newsletter.

A Sesquicentennial update was provided. A committee has been formed to write the next chapter of the history book from 1995 to 2020. Administrator Barber said it appears the entire text book portion of the project will cost \$10,000 which should be supplemented by selling ads.

## **G. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The Board was reminded of the Intergovernmental Committee meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

The Board is to let Clerk Conner know if they plan to attend the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Conference.

President Szymanski requested an Executive Session be held to discuss an employment agreement and appointment of a Public Works Superintendent.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss an employment agreement and appointment of a Public Works Superintendent. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kraus made a motion to return from Executive Session at 8:13 p.m. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1294 – An Ordinance authorizing an employment agreement with the new Public Works Superintendent Matt Conner. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve Ordinance #1294. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve an increase in salary in an amount of \$6,000 to Steven Zellner for being the water operator of record. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve recommendation of Public Works Superintendent for promotion of Jim Pratl as Public Works Crew Leader to the top of scale MMI salary. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

## **H. OLD BUSINESS**

President Szymanski is trying to get an update on the Crete SCX Intermodal. He heard something is in the works, but doesn't know any details.

Trustee Kraus asked about an over-time bill for the Police Department for Fourth of July security coverage and what was budgeted. He would like information on what this is going to cost the Village each year and how to budget for this on a yearly basis. Administrator Barber responded that this has always been considered a Village event so the Village covers additional costs. There was some discussion on providing extra man hours by Police Department and Public Works for any type of special events in the Village.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Basile reported that the Lions hearing bus will be present at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Washington Township senior breakfast.

Trustee Meyer said someone from Monee contacted her and was interested in our Fourth of July event, asking for information on what we do. They are thinking of having an event on the Fourth of July also.

Administrator Barber reported that Village President Szymanski is a candidate for IML Board member, which will be official at the IML Conference.

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

AYES: (6) Trustees Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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