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**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 28, 2019 -- 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, Public Works Superintendent Matt Conner, Treasurer Donna Rooney and Chief Greg Smith.

GUEST: Joe Tieri, Raul Arroyo and family, Erik Hanson, Kris Szwab and Ryan Drew.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 15, 2019 Board meeting. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Basile 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.

Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve and amend Executive Session minutes as discussed by the Board at the October 15, 2019 meeting. Trustee Basile seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2019-10 – A Resolution releasing certain Executive Session minutes as approved by the Board at the October 15, 2019 Executive Session. Trustee Meyer made a motion to adopt Resolution #2019-10. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2019-11 – A Resolution approving the destruction of Executive Session audio recordings over 18 months old. Trustee Meyer made a motion to adopt Resolution #2019-11. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

Chief Smith introduced new Police officers to the Board who have graduated from the academy: Krystov Szwab, Erik Hanson, Ryan Drew (who was already certified) and Raul Arroyo. Clerk Conner swore in part-time officer Raul Arroyo.

A. VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Board was reminded that the next meeting is Tuesday, November 12th at 7 p.m. due to the Veteran's Day holiday being Monday, November 11th.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion cancelling the regular Village Board meeting scheduled for Monday, December 23, 2019. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

President Szymanski provided a railroad quiet zone update. HR Green is in the process of submitting a Notice of Intent to obtain a permit from the railroad to allow the Village to install the improvements, hoping to implement the quiet zone in the spring.

President Szymanski reported that HITS has pulled out of Balmoral. Another firm has a contract to purchase the land and golf course. It could be a possible casino. It was the consensus of the Board to support a House Bill that would add Crete Township to the bill to be eligible for Balmoral Park as a possible location for a racino or casino. There was a question about the revenue sharing of a casino versus a racino.

B. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Basile reported that the auditor, Anthony Cervini of Sikich, was not present. The audit has not been completed yet and staff is frustrated. An extension will need to be filed. Staff needs to find out what happened by the auditor, and hopes to have audit by next meeting.

Trustee Basile provided an update on the five-year financial plan.

C. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Board considered an Ordinance establishing an advisory referendum regarding the creation of a Park District. A draft ordinance was provided for review at the meeting. Trustee Wehling recommended adding working to the advisory referendum to include that it would provide recreation to all ages and maybe add more details of the types of programs. Trustee Kypuros asked that “Village of Beecher Village limits” be added to eliminate confusion. Trustee Meyer had concerns about the wording about Village of Beecher creating a Park District so people don’t think the Village is the one creating it. Board members wanted to work on the wording more to clarify the question. Matter will be discussed again and voted on in November.

D. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The results of the October 17th Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) were provided. A Public Hearing on the special use permit for sale of recreational marijuana was scheduled for November 21st at the Washington Township Center. The Village Attorney was at the PZC meeting to explain the new state law.

E. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Trustee Kraus reported he hopes to get out the new full-time hiring list by the end of the year.

Chief Smith explained a four-year agreement placing a full-time police officer onto the Illinois Statewide Auto Theft Task Force. One of our officers would be deployed to this unit which would be based out of the Village of Thornton. A new officer would then have to be hired to replace the officer that has been deployed. The Chief explained the history of this program. The organization will provide training and networking for the officer. There are other things that need to be discussed and the Board would have to approve an intergovernmental agreement. The money for the full-time officer would be reimbursed by the state and the officer would come back to the department after the four-year program. No objections to the participation in the program. The Attorney will draft an agreement to be considered in November.

F. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

A wastewater treatment plant construction update was provided. Administrator Barber said the project is about 80% complete. Weather has not been cooperating. Superintendent Conner said the contractor has been moving equipment out so they can asphalt before the plants close.

Superintendent Conner provided an update on the lead service line replacement program. Superintendent Conner said he received a lot of additional paperwork late in the day today and hadn’t had an opportunity to review. He’s hoping to get the loan process moving with the IEPA. Trustee Kypuros asked that paperwork be sent to him to review.

Trustee Kypuros tabled consideration of an agreement with Baxter and Woodman for design of the Dixie Highway water main replacement.

The Board discussed a proposal by Trustee Kypuros to increase the water rate by \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons effective 3/1/20; \$1.00 to accelerate the water main replacement program and \$0.50 for replacing lead service lines. This proposed fee increase would provide an additional \$154,000 annually for watermain replacement and \$77,000 annually for the replacement of lead service lines. Trustee Kraus expressed concerns if something else comes up that needs to be done if we will be able to raise money for it also with this increase. Beecher's rates are on the lower end of other area municipalities at this time. Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the Village Attorney to draft an Ordinance increasing the water rate by \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons effective 3/1/20; \$1.00 to accelerate the water main replacement program and \$0.50 for replacing lead service lines. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion approving a time extension with IHC Construction for December 27, 2019 for the final completion date for additional valve replacement, and May 31, 2020 for final completion date for final restoration and paving. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Meyer provided a Sesquicentennial update. Plans are in place for a street dance on July 25, 2020. Board members were asked what other events should be provided. Some ideas suggested were a bean bag tournament, church picnic, magic show or some "back in time" type events. Trustee Basile recommended to reach out to the churches in town about ideas and participation. Committee will continue to discuss and be looking for ideas.

H. OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Meyer asked the purpose of the Committee of the Whole since everything seems to be working the same as it was before. The main difference is there is no co-chair. The whole Board is co-chairs. She felt eliminating the discussions between chair and co-chair eliminates a level of transparency. President Szymanski explained some things were getting lost in the shuffle before, so it was changed but it could be changed back if it's not working. Other Board members expressed that they would like to return to the old way, feeling it worked better.

The following monthly reports were provided in the packet for review:

1. Building Department
2. Police Department
3. EMA
4. Code Enforcement
5. Water
6. Sewer

I. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Kypuros commented that Chief Smith had reported two cars were stolen in the last month and also vehicle break-ins in town. He asked if people should be notified of these kinds of things going on. Discussion was had on how these things should be communicated to the residents.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk