

**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 9, 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 (arrived at 7:02 p.m.), Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Matt Conner, Chief of Police Greg Smith, Treasurer Donna Rooney and Attorney Tim Kuiper.

GUESTS: George Schuitema, Pastor Ed D'Andrea, Diane Basile, John Harless, Julianne White, Lucy Rietveld and Ana Tristan. (Approximately 15 audience members)

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 25, 2019 Board meeting. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSENT: (1) Trustee Mazurek (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Basile.

Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

Pastor D'Andrea read a letter to the Board expressing his opposition to the sale of recreational cannabis. He felt the survey conducted by the Village showed opposition. He also opposed having a facility closer than 1,500' from his church and felt it a threat to his church and church members.

Ana Tristan spoke in support of the ordinance that would allow for recreational cannabis sales for the following reasons: additional revenue, bring more business to Beecher, and same rules as sales of liquor. She would like to increase revenue to support increasing police due to current crime issues.

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Julianne White spoke in support as a medical patient. She would like it to be easier to get the cannabis she needs medically since it is very expensive and difficult to get a medical cannabis card. She would like to see the Village have zoning control over recreational cannabis facilities so it can be controlled where a facility can be located. She felt that it's the same as alcohol sales and has medical benefits.

Lucy Rietveld spoke in opposition. She cited the survey that was taken by the Village. She said the results had more in opposition than in support of this issue. She indicated that she spoke to a number of people who were a majority in opposition also. She didn't want this brought into Beecher.

Diane Basile spoke in opposition.

Issabella Hollingsworth spoke in support. She supported the increased revenue to provide additional programs to improve the Village.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Superintendent Conner reported that the Beautification Commission met the previous week. Flowers were ordered and there will be hanging baskets along Route 1 next year.

The Fourth of July Commission budget was adopted and specifications for the car raffle bid were approved.

Trustee Mazurek provided a Youth Commission update. The next meeting is in January. The next event is bowling on Martin Luther King Day.

Trustee Wehling provided a Historic Preservation Commission update. The December meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be the third Wednesday in January. The Commission plans on getting eight more properties to include in the plaque program in the beginning of 2020.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT

President Szymanski appointed Jenna Barber to the Beecher Fourth of July Commission to replace Bill Voss. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve appointment of Jenna Barber to the Fourth of July Commission. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.


Motion carried.

President Szymanski appointed Ben Juzeszyn to the Beecher Planning and Zoning Commission replacing Diane Basile. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve appointment of Ben Juzeszyn to the Beecher Planning and Zoning Commission. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.



President Szymanski appointed co-chairs to the committees of the Village Board as follows: Marcy Meyer, Co-Chair of Finance; Frank Basile, Co-Chair of Economic Development and Community Relations; Scott Wehling, Co-Chair of Public Safety; Todd Kraus, Co-Chair of Public Buildings, Parks and Recreation; Jonathan Kypuros, Co-Chair of Planning, Building and Zoning; and Stacy Mazurek, Co-Chair of Public Works. Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve appointments of co-chairs to the committees of the Village Board. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

The Board considered an ordinance amending the Zoning Code providing for the sale and cultivation of recreational cannabis in certain districts as a special use permit. The ordinance provided is the one recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). The sale of recreational cannabis can only be in a B-3 District by special use permit and be at least 250' from residential and 1,500' from a school, day care center or church. Churches were added to the larger buffer after the public hearing. At the last Board meeting, Trustees asked to be provided with maps that would show a 500' and 1,000' buffer for churches and the maps were provided. Staff is of the opinion that these buffers have to be enforced in the unincorporated areas as well so this will greatly decrease the areas in which a special use could be considered due to the location of St. Paul's Church at Racine and Church Road. However, this church is 3,500' from the current Village limits and does not affect any of our current boundaries. The Board can either adopt the ordinance as provided, amend it and adopt it, or table it to a future meeting. The Attorney recommends something be approved by the January 1st deadline and was present to answer any questions.

Trustee Meyer explained that everyone has very strong opinions about this issue and there are two sides to this. Currently cigarettes and liquor are both legally sold and have no health benefits but cannabis has possible health benefits. She supported the issue. Trustee Meyer noted that the request to increase the distances from churches is farther than liquor is allowed from churches.

Trustee Mazurek explained the revenue has been discussed a lot but it's not the reason this should be allowed. She would like to have zoning to control where it can go. Trustee Mazurek is in support of Ordinance.

Trustee Kypuros asked if the Village can set a limit on the number of dispensaries allowed. Attorney Kuiper indicated it can be limited. Chief Smith was asked for his opinion on this ordinance. Chief Smith said he felt it would bring additional crime and be too expensive to buy here anyway and would still be sold on black market. The Board discussed what the taxes would be.

Trustee Basile spoke in support of medical marijuana but is opposed to recreational cannabis. He has discussed with many residents and business owners who are opposed to it.

Attorney Kuiper said the Village is better off having an ordinance in place and see how the recreational cannabis plays out in the next year and make changes if needed but this would give the Village zoning regulation.

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Administrator Barber advised the ordinance recommended by the PZC could be amended if the Board would like to change the PZC recommended distances from churches and any other changes the Board would like.

Trustee Kypuros recommended the ordinance be amended to dedicate 80% of revenue Village receives on recreational cannabis sales be allocated to Police protection, 15% to the School District for addiction and drug education programs and 5% to the Beecher Youth Commission for kids programs. Attorney Kuiper indicated this would need to be done separately through the original tax ordinance approved or could be done as a resolution of the Board setting a policy for the distribution of the taxes. This would have to be implemented separately from this Ordinance.

ORDINANCE #1320 – An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code providing for the sale and cultivation of recreational cannabis in certain districts as a special use permit. Trustee Mazurek made a motion to approve Ordinance #1320. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Mazurek, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (2) Trustees Basile and Wehling.

Motion carried.

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 Basile made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Report of Financial Activity in the prior month. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

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

A list of bills totaling \$308,244.72 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: (6) Trustees Mazurek, Basile, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

The first draft of the five-year financial plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2024 was distributed to the Board members for their review. A workshop will be held in January on the plan.

The Board discussed the tax levy for 2019 collectible in 2020. The previous month the Board approved a motion to draft a levy with a 0% increase but since that time there has been some discussion at the Public Safety Committee to increase only the public safety portion of the levy for a total increase of only 1.8% This funding would be used to supplement the increasing costs of part-time and overtime in the Police Department being used for investigations. An ordinance with both options was provided in the packet for consideration. Trustee Kraus voiced support of the

increase in the levy to pay for more police protection with the extra crime that's been occurring. Trustee Kypuros asked if this will increase man hours in the budget. Chief Smith indicated that he would make that happen. This will be applied to part-time police hours.

ORDINANCE #1321 – An Ordinance for a tax levy for 2019 collectible in 2020, with a 1.8% increase. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve Ordinance #1321. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A referendum on the creation of a park district will be on the March 17, 2020 ballot. Board members were asked how they would like to inform the public about this issue. Trustee Wehling will get with Trustee Meyer to come up with some informational options to get the word out to residents regarding this referendum. President Szymanski said this must be a grass roots effort by residents of the community. It's a non-binding referendum.

Trustee Wehling said the ice rink is put up but is not ready yet. A notification will go out on Facebook when the rink is frozen and open for use.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Trustee Mazurek requested an Executive Session be held to discuss pending litigation.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Laraway Dispatch Center was discussed. At the last meeting questions were raised as to why several adjoining communities have submitted letters of withdrawal. Staff was asked to draft a report showing the pros and cons of pulling out and who has threatened to pull out and the impact to the overall size of the center if they do leave. Trustee Kraus said this was discussed at the Public Safety meeting. Chief Smith is currently happy with the dispatch center and there is no place to go, therefore he recommended not sending a letter. Trustee Wehling agreed that the Village should stay where we are for now. Trustee Kraus will be added as an alternate for attending meetings. Trustee Kypuros requested the Laraway Dispatch minutes be included in Village Board packets.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

A wastewater treatment plant progress report was provided. All areas have been backfilled to grade and the areas to be paved have had a final layer of asphalt. All of the valves from the change order have been installed. Work now centers on the orbal ditch which is the final phase of the project. A progress meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 1 p.m.

Superintendent Conner provided a lead service line project update. The application has been submitted to the IEPA. It was learned that all IEPA loans can be paid off early without penalty. Looking at April-May approval and a July payout with construction possibly occurring in September or October if the project is approved.

Brush pickup has ended for the year and leaf collection will be completed by the end of the week. Superintendent Conner indicated this is the final week for pickup and a notice was put out on Facebook.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing partial payment to I.H.C. in the amount of \$306,523.78 for work at the Beecher Wastewater Treatment Plant contingent on the receipt of IEPA loan funds. 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 authorizing payment in the amount of \$17,472.86 to Baxter and Woodman Engineering as payment for construction management services related to the Beecher Wastewater Treatment Plant. Trustee Meyer 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

Trustee Meyer provided the results of a meeting with the Southwest Home Builders Association. She and Administrator Barber attended this meeting at the Home Builders request about the building permit fee moratorium and to get some builder interest in Beecher. Trustee Meyer said it was a really good meeting and the home builders were happy with the reduction in building permit fees. They suggested we have an open house in the spring to put out all the lots that are available and they will help with this. Administrator Barber said Nantucket Cove is to go up for auction again in the spring.

An Enterprise Zone meeting update was provided. A new website that was unveiled has been linked to the Village website. The TIF Districts are also being promoted through this platform. It was learned that Dutch American Foods has applied for and received incentives from the enterprise zone for its new building on Dutch American Way. Our application for renewal of the zone has also been received by DCEO and we are awaiting a decision from them. This will be for a 20-year permit to operate the zone.

H. NEW BUSINESS

President Szymanski read aloud a proclamation recognizing the number of years of service by full-time employees which exceeded five years, totally 205 years of service, and declared December 23rd as employee appreciation day in the Village of Beecher. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve President Szymanski's Proclamation for employee service. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Mazurek made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 8:11 p.m. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Mazurek made a motion to return to regular session at 8:20 p.m. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

There being no further business, President Szymanski asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Kraus 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 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk