

A

**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 19, 2020 -- 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, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**GUESTS:** Ben Juzeszyn, Chief Joe Falaschetti, David Kolosh, Marge Cook, Justin Bakker, Mike Waterman and Chris Peterson.

President Szymanski asked for consideration of the minutes of the September 21, 2020 Board meeting. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

1) A report on income received since the last meeting was provided. 2) Clerk Conner reported that election packets for the April 6, 2021 election are available at the Village Hall.

**VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT**

Ben Juzeszyn was appointed by President Szymanski to fill the unexpired term of former Trustee Basile. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve President Szymanski's appointment of Ben Juzeszyn as Trustee. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Clerk Conner swore Mr. Juzeszyn into office and he took his seat at the Board table.

President Szymanski announced committee assignments for the remainder of the fiscal year as follows:

- Village President Pro-Tem: Scott Wehling
- Finance and Administration Committee: Chair: Jonathan Kypuros  
Co-Chair: Marcy Meyer
- Public Safety Committee: Chair: Todd Kraus  
Co-Chair: Scott Wehling
- Public Works Committee: Chair: Marcy Meyer  
Co-Chair: Jonathan Kypuros
- Economic Development and Community Relations Committee: Chair: Ben Juzeszyn  
Co-Chair: Stacy Mazurek
- Public Buildings and Properties, Parks, and Recreation Committee: Chair: Scott Wehling  
Co-Chair: Todd Kraus
- Planning, Building and Zoning Committee: Chair: Stacy Mazurek  
Co-Chair: Ben Juzeszyn

Trustee Wehling made a motion to approve President Szymanski’s committee assignments for the remainder of the fiscal year. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A railroad quiet zone update was provided.

A COVID-19 update was provided. Area numbers are up. Our area may be placed on further mitigations sometime this week. President Szymanski reminded everyone to wear masks and follow CDC guidelines.

**A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report of financial activity in the prior month. Treasurer Rooney was present and also provided an updated credit card utilization report. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Juzeszyn.

Motion Carried.

Variance reports for the previous month were included in the packet for review.

Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills in the amount of \$412,956.44. Bills added after Friday were read aloud. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Juzeszyn.

Motion Carried.

Nick Bava from Sikich was present and provided an audit report for fiscal year 2019/2020. Reported was an unmodified clean opinion which is the best you can have, and he went through details of the audit. There were no questions from the Board. Trustee Meyer made a motion to approve acceptance of the Village audit for fiscal year 2019/2020. Seconded by Trustee Kraus.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Juzeszyn.

Motion Carried.

Board members discussed the tax levy for 2020 collectible in 2021. The Board discussed the effects of leaving the levy the same as last year or freezing the levy again. This year it was estimated the COLA will be 1.5% and if levied this would increase the total levy by \$9,243.54. The police protection levy would be increased by this amount and pledged to the increasing costs of operating the Police Department. Trustee Kypuros asked for a recommendation from the Public Safety Committee due to the increase in police expenses in the last fiscal year due to a number of robberies and car thefts along with other issues. Trustee Kraus will meet with Chief Smith to discuss his needs and the tax levy will be considered at the next Board meeting.

RESOLUTION #2020-17 – A Resolution changing the way employees receive worker's compensation benefits. This resolution would change the policy of the Village paying 100% of the employee's salary and then retaining the worker's compensation checks. Worker's comp only pays 70% of employee's salary. Moving forward the employee will be paid directly by worker's comp at the 70%, which is tax exempt. Trustee Meyer made a motion to adopt Resolution #2020-17. Trustee Wehling seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

A report was provided by Trustee Wehling on the Centennial time capsule that was removed from below the monument while the Fire Department was excavating for their station expansion. The enclosure of the time capsule had been moved and some moisture had gotten into it. It has been since moved from the Fire Station and stored at the sewer plant until it can be placed in a new location. Trustee Wehling suggested putting it at the location of the new parking lot at the corner

of Penfield and Maxwell Streets and kept there for the next 50 years until it is due to be opened with another dedication ceremony.

Marge Cook and representatives from the Beecher Fire District were present regarding a proposal on the future of Firemen's parking lot. This was relating to an intergovernmental agreement which was approved for the donation of the park land to the Village in 2002. The specifics regarding the cost sharing of the parking lot were never finalized since the Community Hall Board at that time was not a party to the agreement and had no funding for improvements. Since that time both the Village and the Fire District have spent funds to maintain the parking lot. Fire Chief Falaschetti handed out a proposal for repaving of the parking lot in the amount of \$134,106. An amount of \$44,702 per entity was being requested. Fire District Board President Cook explained that the reason for the high cost of re-doing the parking lot was due to the original base not being sufficient so a new base needs to be put in. They were hoping to get the parking lot paved before the asphalt plants close for the year. The history of the park and parking lot was discussed. There was also discussion about the parking lot the Village will be putting in across the street from the fire station in the future when Penfield Street is improved and who will be paying for that. The lot needing paving is used by the Fire Department as well as many other community groups and people in the community for a number of reasons. There needs to be an agreement that would require the parking lot to remain public. The Village taking ownership of the parking lot was discussed. It was considered whether the Village had the money to contribute to this project. Some Board members were uncomfortable with the timing of this but supported contributing towards the improvements. Marge Cook indicated that it doesn't need to be decided now, but will need an answer fairly soon. Much discussion followed. Trustee Meyer recommended a meeting be held to discuss where the money could come from in the budget before making a decision. The Committee will meet on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 8 a.m. to discuss this matter to try and come up with a solution for how much the Village could contribute to the project and where the money would come from.

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

The Board discussed the filing of a formal complaint in Will County Court pertaining to the condition of 752 Penfield Street. Administrator Barber took pictures of the property earlier in the day and reported that the building appears to be secure but some structural problems remain. There are areas where wildlife could get into the building still some debris sitting outside. The property is being maintained and grass is being mowed. Trustee Kypuros suggested that we keep sending them letters until they comply. President Szymanski will reach out to them again to urge them to continue to do the needed cleanup. Matter was tabled until an undetermined time.

The October 27<sup>th</sup> Planning and Zoning Commission meeting was cancelled due to a lack of critical agenda items and under the Village's essential meeting policy during the pandemic.

### **D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

A reminder of trick-or-treat hours of 2-6 p.m. on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> was provided. Parents were reminded to observe IDPH guidelines for this holiday. An insert was put in the newsletter that residents can put in their door to show if they plan to participate in trick-or-treating or prefer not to have children knock on their door.

## E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Trustee Kypuros made a motion re-letting bids for the replacement of the Gould Street watermain. The State grant requirements make us re-bid this job that was last bid out in June of 2019. Bid award should occur at the November meeting. Construction would then occur in early 2021. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #2020-18 – A Resolution of application to Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for Illinois transportation enhancement funds install and infill sidewalks in all new subdivisions of the Village. This is the same project that we applied for last year under a different grant program. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adopt Resolution #2020-18. Trustee Mazurek seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was reported that brush pick-up began again earlier in the day and has been completed for this week. Leaf collection is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

## F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The fall newsletter will be mailed this week.

The Village hosted an annual T.I.F. Joint Review Board meeting. No major concerns were raised at the meeting.

## G. OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Kraus thanked Superintendent Conner for getting the blue line painted down Penfield so quickly.

## H. NEW BUSINESS

President Szymanski said that he has had conversations with Walts Foods. They agreed to a 50% reduction in tax reimbursements. Some of that money has been committed to purchasing a squad car. Staff still needs to get the agreement in writing.

President Szymanski indicated that there is a vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Since there is very little activity at this time he prefers to hold off on action on this until after the next election.

Trustee Kypuros asked for consensus of the Board to purchase a new gator to replace the one that was totaled in the accident a few months ago. A proposal for a new gator was provided for review. The insurance will pay for the replacement gator. There were no objections from the Board.

The third Monday in January is a holiday so Administrator Barber recommended the Board consider when they would like to hold that meeting if the Board wishes to continue the third Monday of each month for Board meetings.

The following reports were provided in the packet for review:

1. Building Department monthly
2. Police Department monthly
3. Water Department monthly
4. Sewer Department monthly
5. Year-to-date insurance claims

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 Mazurek, Juzeszyn, Wehling, Kypuros, Meyer and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk