

**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
MAY 24, 2021 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Meyer called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: President Meyer and Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

ABSENT: None.

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

GUESTS: Denis Tatgenhorst, Dale and Sherry Murray, Joe Gianotti and family, and Bob Heim.

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Board meeting. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT - None.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE - None.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT

President Meyer discussed the protocols for wearing masks at Village Board meetings. The CDC and DPH say people can go without a mask if they have been vaccinated. It was decided that members of the Board and staff can take off their masks at meetings, if they are comfortable doing so.

President Meyer appointed Joe Gianotti to fill her unexpired Trustee term. He introduced himself and explained that he would like to step up and become involved. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve the appointment of Joe Gianotti to fill the unexpired term for Trustee. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Clerk Conner swore in newly appointed Trustee Joe Gianotti and he took his seat at the Board table.

President Meyer handed out a list of Committee appointments to the Board. She then made appointments as follows:

Finance and Administration Committee
Chair: Jon Kypuros
Co-Chair: Roger Stacey

Public Safety Committee
Chair: Todd Kraus
Co-Chair: Joe Tieri

Public Works Committee
Chair: Joe Gianotti
Co-Chair: Jon Kypuros

Economic Development and Community Relations Committee
Chair: Ben Juzeszyn
Co-Chair: Joe Gianotti

Public Buildings and Properties, Parks and Recreation Committee
Chair: Joe Tieri
Co-Chair: Ben Juzeszyn

Planning, Building and Zoning Committee
Chair: Roger Stacey
Co-Chair: Todd Kraus

Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve President Meyer's Committee assignments. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Gianotti, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Thomas Goodrich, the new Code Compliance Officer, was unable to attend this meeting, but will attend the next meeting. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve the appointment of Thomas Goodrich as Code Compliance Officer. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Gianotti, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion approving Village President, Treasurer, and the Chair and Co-Chair of Finance as signatories for all Village bank accounts. (The signatories will be: President Marcy Meyer, Treasurer Donna Rooney, Finance Chair Jonathan Kypuros and Co-Chair Roger Stacey). Trustee Gianotti seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Gianotti, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed a proposal from Administrator Barber for conducting strategic planning for the period of 2021-2025. It has been four years since the last strategic planning sessions were held. In the past, the Village Administrator conducted an anonymous survey, compiled and released the results, and then led the discussion. Another option is to hire a third party consultant to conduct a consensus building strategy which allows for complete objectivity and trained professionals to achieve a strategic plan. The Board was asked for their thoughts on these proposals. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to do the strategic planning in house with Administrator Barber.

President Meyer requested an Executive Session be held at the end of the meeting to discuss other appointments of the Village President and employment agreements.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION #2021-09 – A Resolution supporting restoring local government distributive fund revenues. A copy of the Resolution was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adopt Resolution #2021-09. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Gianotti, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A residential account electric aggregation update was provided. The Village's current agreement with Constellation runs out on October 1st. ComEd rates are now lower than the long-term supply rates and are projected to drop even lower. The Village will be obtaining bids for a new aggregation program through NIMEC which locks residents into the variable ComEd rate over time. David Hoover, from NIMEC will be at the next meeting to present the program and the bid results for the Board to discuss and make a decision.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the Village is scheduled to receive approximately \$546,000 in Federal Covid recovery funds. The money will be placed in escrow and will only be spent upon Board approval within the funding guidelines. Water and sewer infrastructure projects are eligible projects under the guidelines. The first half will come in July and the second half next year. This will need to be discussed at the Committee level to determine how to spend these funds.

A copy of the actuarial valuation of postemployment benefits as required per our audit was included with the packet for review.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A splash pad update was provided. The equipment has been ordered and bid specifications are being drawn up. It is going to take a little longer to lay out the job than figured since the supplier wants to include the shop drawings of the equipment in the bid specifications. It's hoped the project will go to bid in mid-June with a September completion date. Public Works is laying out the install of the service connections.

Trustee Kraus made a motion to declare the Shoretel 230 phone system as surplus property so they can be sold. There are 20 handsets, six button boxes and a server. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Gianotti, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Zoning Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 27th has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, June 24th.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

A full-time officer hiring update was provided. There were seven people left on the list. Three people are still interested, according to Chief Smith. There are plans to move forward and begin background checks. Once completed, a conditional offer would be made and the candidate would be signed up for the next academy.

RESOLUTION #2021-10 – A resolution changing the name of a portion of a street in Nantucket Cove Subdivision due to an address conflict. The south 300 block of Stonington shares the same address as the north 300 block when 9-1-1 applied the grid system. To correct the error in 2007, 9-1-1 changed the name of the street to “Steuben”, which was the name of the street when the development was first recorded by Alps Development. The south 300 block of this street, which currently only has vacant lots, from Stonington to Steuben Avenue, seems to be the easiest way to correct this problem. Trustee Kraus made a motion to adopt Resolution #2021-10. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Gianotti, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

A Route #1 resurfacing project update was provided. Crews are grinding south of town but can't work in town until concrete work is done. They plan to always keep two lanes open in town.

It was reported that the railroad quiet zone should be implemented after Tuesday, July 13th after a meeting with the Federal Railroad Administration to sign off on the improvements.

A Gould Street watermain update was provided. We now have everything we need from the State but the Village's railroad permit is expired. The railroad now wants the Village to install the main down the middle of Indiana Avenue which requires a new County permit. A meeting of all parties is required to resolve this.

A lead service line program update was provided. The Village is awaiting IEPA approval of the loan. The bid has been approved and is good until July 20, 2021. We are waiting for the legal department at the IEPA to sign off on the loan.

The status of large dump truck repairs was provided by Superintendent Conner. There were two large dump trucks that were broken down in March and we were waiting for the new fiscal year to begin repairs since there was no funding left in the budget. One of the trucks is up and running, the other was running and wouldn't start, so Public Works will get a new battery for it.

It was reported that at the last minute the Illinois General Assembly put out a request for capital items and gave municipalities one hour to respond. The Village quickly threw a list of projects together and submitted it to the State.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion waiving bidding requirements for a unique purchase of a used piece of equipment over \$25,000. Trustee Gianotti seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Gianotti, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing the purchase of a 2011 International 7500 tandem axle dump truck with plow and spreader from Rich Lodewegen in an amount not to exceed \$61,000 contingent on diesel mechanic approval of purchase and \$6,000 for road-ready preparation. A photo of this truck was provided. The truck is located in Manteno. The truck is in great shape and has 129,000 miles on it. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Gianotti, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros requested an Executive Session be held to discuss personnel pertaining to a grievance filed against the Village and pending litigation.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

G. OLD BUSINESS

A letter was provided to the Board. Nelson Collins requested an additional extension of time to use funds held by the Village for improvements that need to be done to connect a house to be built at 170 Indiana Avenue. Last year he was given a one-year extension to the original agreement but he is having supply issues for building the new house so is asking for another one-year extension. There were no objections but no action was taken since it was not on the agenda.

I. NEW BUSINESS - None

The following reports were provided in the packet for review:

1. Sewer Department Monthly Report
2. AZAVAR Quarterly Report
3. Comcast Notification Letter

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. to discuss personnel pertaining to a grievance filed against the Village and pending litigation. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Gianotti, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to return from Executive Session at 9:13 p.m. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Gianotti, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Gianotti, Juzeszyn, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk