

AC

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE OF BEECHER
HELD AT THE BEECHER VILLAGE HALL,
625 DIXIE HIGHWAY, BEECHER, ILLINOIS
NOVEMBER 22, 2021 -- 6:00 P.M.**

President Meyer called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None.

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

GUESTS: Members of the Beecher School Board.

A Strategic Planning meeting was held based on the results of a Village Board survey conducted in August, for the purpose of adopting a Strategic Plan Resolution under the new Board.

As part of the Strategic Planning, members of the Beecher School Board were present to discuss the future of the S.R.O. program. President Meyer read aloud a letter from Jack Gaham from the school, who could not be present, explaining his reasons for not wanting to continue with the S.R.O. program. Some school board members present commented that the SRO is not needed in Beecher and is a luxury. They do not have the financial resources for this when the money could be better spent. This is mainly a budgetary decision. There was discussion on the need for and current implementation of the SRO program and whether it was beneficial for the school as it's being done now. Village Board members felt this program was a valuable program for the schools and if it wasn't being administered properly then that can be worked on. There wasn't any previous indication that the school was unhappy with the program. Village Board members asked the school board members to work with the Village to try and make this work the way it should and give it another chance. The agreement between the Village and School District for the SRO program needs the approval of both parties to be terminated. There will be further discussions between the Village and School on this issue. The Chief and School Superintendent will meet to work out the issues and report back to the boards.

The Board then continued strategic planning. Attached are the results of all of the strategic planning sessions.

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, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janett Conner".

Janett Conner
Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF BEECHER STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

STRENGTHS

1. Small town feel
2. Safe place to live
3. Responsive to community
4. Community Involvement

WEAKNESSES

1. Too close to the state line
2. Lack of recreational opportunities
3. Lack of diversified tax base
4. Overall resistance to change

THREATS

1. Property taxes
2. Competition for growth
3. Declining quality of K-12 Education
4. Increasing crime in surrounding areas

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Younger volunteers
2. Availability of land
3. Rejuvenation of academic standards & facilities
4. Availability of educated workforce

TOP 10 PRIORITIES

1. Increasing total EAV through Industrial/Commercial development
2. Replace aging water system
3. New or improved police facilities
4. Improved park and recreational opportunities
5. Create more community-wide events
6. Diversified residential growth
7. Road improvements
8. Make downtown viable
9. Regulation of rental properties/code enforcement
10. Fiscal responsibility

VILLAGE OF BEECHER STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

PUBLIC WORKS

WATER

1. Replace aging water system (including well casings, wells #3 & #4, submersible well pump at well #5)
2. Determine a cost of replacing all existing cast iron and a financial plan to make it happen.

MISC

1. Engage a discussion with the fire district and other interested parties on an underpass for the Miller Street railroad crossing.
2. Supports hanging flower baskets in old part of town and flags/banners along Route #1.
3. Roads are a priority however the watermain and police station issues need to be resolved first.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

1. Continue to be as transparent as possible. Use of newsletter, Facebook, Nixle are important communications tools.
2. LED message board is a priority of the Board as long as it can be financed properly.
3. The Village needs to do a better job educating the residents on village initiatives (commissions.)

RESIDENT CONCERNS

1. Code Enforcement
2. Lack of business opportunities
3. Condition of roads and sidewalks
4. Recreational opportunities

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

1. The Village Board supports minimums of \$10,000 for MFT, \$400,000 for Water and Sewer Debt, \$60,000 for O&M, \$250,000 for General and \$10,000 for Infrastructure.
2. Create a document that explains to residents how their property taxes are structured and where their money goes.
3. Board supports a 2% increase in the police protection tax levy each year for patrol officer staffing.
4. Housing starts will be 10/10/15/20.
5. Need to replace Village Administrator.

VILLAGE OF BEECHER STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

OCTOBER 12, 2021

NEW PD FACILITY

1. New Construction. No absolute preferred site. (JK, BJ)
2. New Construction but an in-town site preferred like Fairway Drive. (JG)
3. Prefer in-town depending on cost of construction. (MM)
4. Open to any in-town site but construction must be block. (JT)
5. Public Works site on Indiana Avenue. (RS)
6. Open to results of feasibility study but any new build should be on Route #1. (TK)
 - Consensus that existing police station cannot be remodeled. Sell the building after new one is completed or consider an incubator business concept.
 - Large meeting room desired to accommodate public meetings, i.e.: village board meetings, etc.

VILLAGE OF BEECHER STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

OCTOBER 25, 2021

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION

1. Initiate a public forum to discuss how to create a Park District within the Village limits.
2. Improve and maintain Welton Stedt Park.
3. Collaboratively create a financing mechanism to improve infrastructure and amenities in our major parks.

OLD DOWNTOWN

1. Portion of TIF proceeds must be dedicated to old downtown area. Village Board encourages applications for TIF funds from the old downtown area as soon as funding is available.
2. Electrify the boardwalk, including new lighting, receptacles, etc.
3. Explore streetscape options on Gould, south of Penfield.
4. Promote the use of street frontage for businesses in the old downtown to hold one-day special events. Off premise sales would be allowed during these events.
5. Have the Code Enforcement Officer develop a plan for the demolition/condemnation of three identified properties.

VILLAGE OF BEECHER STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

NOVEMBER 22, 2021

- A Village committee should be assigned to review the development fees charged by the Village and/or a continuation of the moratorium on the fees. This committee should meet in 2023.
- The Village Board is willing to consider a variety of options for architectural design based on market conditions, consistent with the surrounding neighborhood.
- The Village has the infrastructure to support a population of 12,000 however it believes that a population of 7,500 is more realistic for the year 2040. The additional capacity should be reserved for commercial and industrial development.
- If State legislation allows for charging of stormwater utility fees the Village Board is willing to consider accepting ownership of currently private detention facilities in exchange for an assessment for maintaining those facilities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The village reaffirms its commitment to the 1988 third airport resolution.
- In addition, it supports a development district for the land surrounding the airport if it expands.
- The Village supports and is proactive for industrial development in appropriate locations according to our land use plan.
- The Village supports the concept of the Illiana Expressway.
- The Village supports a Route #1 truck bypass west of town.
- In lieu of intergovernmental committees the Village should meet with specific taxing bodies to discuss issues of mutual concern.
- The Village Board supports additional senior housing for its residents with market conditions driving location. The Village would even consider using TIF incentives for senior housing.
- The expansion of liquor licenses will be on a case-by-case basis.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The Village Board wants more police visibility.
 - Programs the Village Board would like the police to consider would include: Cop for a day; senior scam prevention; sports charity events, etc.
- The Beecher EMA is an integral part of our public safety program and the Village Board recognizes the role they play in the community.
- The Village Board supports a crime free housing ordinance. This would require home rule status.