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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
NOVEMBER 29, 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, Gianotti, Tieri and Kraus.

ABSENT: Trustee Stacey.

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

GUESTS: George Schuitema and Brian Diachenko.

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 8, 2021 Board meeting. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

CLERK'S REPORT

No report.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

None.

REPORT OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

RESOLUTION #2021-14 – A Resolution adopting a strategic plan of the Village Board for the years 2022 through 2025. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adopt Resolution #2021-14. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A letter from Comcast announcing a rate increase was provided in the packet for review.

PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

(committee reports done out of order)



ORDINANCE #1358 – An Ordinance granting a variance for a fence in the front yard setback at 250 Maple. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) held a hearing and no negative testimony was received. The PZC unanimously recommended granting the variance as long as the fence is built according to what was submitted and is at least three feet from the public walk. The HOA in Prairie Crossings has already approved the fence location. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve Ordinance #1358. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

PZC Commissioner George Schuitema commented that we keep getting variance requests for fences so the Board may need to look at changing the fence ordinance.

ORDINANCE #1359 – An Ordinance authorizing a 10 year extension of a development agreement with the successor owner to The Preserves at Cardinal Creek subdivision. This extension removes the 20-year-old cap on engineering review fees and building permit fees charged to builders but keeps in place the required infrastructure to be installed if additional pods in the subdivision are constructed. Staff and the attorney recommended that this 10-year extension be approved. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve Ordinance #1359. Trustee Gianotti seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE #1360 – An Ordinance adopting a tax levy for fiscal year 2021 collectible in 2022. This ordinance includes an overall 2% increase in the corporate levy into the police protection tax levy. The Village Board hasn't increased levy for seven years but increased this year for police protection. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve Ordinance #1360. Trustee Tieri seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board considered a financing plan for the Village's 20% share of the Penfield Street STP project. The plan outlines the use of reserve cash in the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) account combined with a 10 year loan to be paid with future MFT revenues to pay our \$1,333,200 share of this project. Trustee Kypuros explained the loan terms and the dedicated revenue source (MFT) which will pay for this loan. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve a financing plan for the Village's 20% share of the Penfield Street STP project. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The audit has been completed and will be presented to the Board at the December 13th meeting.

The Illinois Personnel Benefits Cooperative (IPBC) quarterly report was provided in the packet for review. IPBC is the Village's health insurance pool. The Village has accumulated \$43,529 in unrestricted reserves on account with the IPBC. The current loss ratio of claims to premium is 71.7%.

The AZAVAR quarterly report was provided in the packet for review.

It was reported that insurance rates for worker's compensation and liability coverage will be increasing this year. The total cost for 2022 will be \$170,154 and last year we paid \$166,919. We do not have a quote for cyber liability yet for 2022 and we expect to see an additional cost of about \$5,000 for this insurance.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

An update on video surveillance in Firemen's Park was provided by Trustee Tieri. All the old cameras have been replaced with the new technology.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

An SRO program update was provided. At the strategic planning workshop last week several School Board members attended where the future of the SRO program was discussed by both Boards. It was agreed that the School District's personnel committee, the Village's public safety committee, the Chief and the School Superintendent meet to work out any deficiencies that may exist in the program. This will also include the selection and training of a new SRO. Chief Lemming put out notice to members of the Police Department of the available SRO position.

A Corporal promotion update was provided. The list was posted earlier in the day. Chief Lemming will review and make a recommendation to the Board.

A full-time officer hiring list update was provided. The Police Commission is in the process of beginning a new list for full-time police officer candidates. Trustee Kraus is setting up a testing date. The list is a two-year list. Trustee Kypuros would like to see shorter than a two-year list. Chief Lemming agreed he would like a shorter time period for the list. Trustee Kraus will look into the list time period.

A part-time officer hiring status was provided. The Chief is in the process of putting part-timers into the FTO program in the next week or two.

Administrator Barber reported that the Eastern Will County warning siren network needs to be upgraded. Our siren technology is so old (2002) that the new consoles cannot activate the sirens anymore at Laraway Dispatch. The Eastern Will Group is leaning toward a cloud-based activation system tied in with the polygons at the National Weather Service. This will cost the Village of Beecher \$556 in the first year and \$445 each year thereafter. All towns on the East Will network will share in the cost. The parameters of when the siren goes off can be changed to however we would like it to work.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Water and Sewer Committee met to discuss the numerous watermain breaks in the last three months. The main areas of concern are Miller Street west of Dixie, and Catalpa Street north of Miller Street. The Committee discussed the causes of these breaks and potential alternatives. There are concerns that the Public Works Department was beginning to burn out from the long hours of repairs so the use of a contractor was approved for any watermain break occurring within 48 hours of a previous break. The use of surge suppressors in the system and operating modifications were also discussed. Trustee Gianotti recognized the Public Works Department for working 16 main breaks in 22 days. Jim Pratl was especially recognized for his work. Superintendent Conner plans to go with Water Operator Steve Zellner to look at surge suppressors that would absorb any shocks in the water system. Cost is \$2,000-\$2,500 for each suppressor. Energenics also came out and made some changes to Well #4 that was possibly some of the issues relating to radio communications. There haven't been any communication problems since they came out. He felt they are right on track to getting the breaks under control.

The committee has approved the shortening of the brush collection program as Public Works has ramped up leaf collection. The brush collection will now run from April 1st until the last Tuesday in September every year.

The Committee is recommending the early ordering of next year's Public Works vehicle. Once the vehicle order is prepared it will be placed on the agenda for Board approval. There is a six-month lag on these orders. We are scheduled to replace the watermain break response vehicle.

A Gould Street watermain update was provided. Administrator Barber said he still has not heard anything from DCEO on this project.

Superintendent Conner provided a leaf collection update. Forty-five loads have been collected to-date. The last leaf collection is scheduled for the week of December 6th. After that date, trucks will be made ready for snow.

Brush collection has been completed for the year.

The water billing register was included in the packet for review. The billed/pumped ratio has increased to 67.43% compared to 51.35% for the same period last year. Capping the leak in Hunter's Chase has made a big difference, which was believed to be leaking for quite some time.

The Sewer Department monthly report was included in the packet for review.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

An update on the Tree Lighting Ceremony in Firemen's Park on Sunday, December 6th at 4:30 p.m. was provided. The churches will be leading a sing-along of carols along with music selections from the high school band. President Meyer will emcee the event. St. Paul's Lutheran Church is providing and serving the hot chocolate and cookies as a thank you to the community for assisting them after the fire. Administrator Barber asked what should be done for restrooms. Public Works

can de-winterize the Park bathrooms, get porta-johns or rent the Community Hall for use of bathrooms. Staff will try to rent Community Hall, and if not, porta-johns will be ordered.

The Board discussed possible dates and protocols for the 2022 concert season in the park. \$10,000 has been placed in the five-year plan for entertainment but we are also hearing of some other potential sponsors that may want to step forward and host a concert. This Committee can take on the role and design a schedule for the year that works with the budget in place. The Board discussed the need for sponsors since the Village is sponsoring these events. Two committees will work on this. Trustee Juzeszyn said he would like to consider the setup of events and times and what or if would be available for food and drink at the events. People could possibly bring their own food and drinks. Trustee Gianotti discussed tying this in with the Fourth of July Commission for sponsoring of the bands to get the Village's name on advertising for the Fourth and the Village concert series sponsoring a band for the Fourth to get the word out on both events. Administrator Barber suggested the other commissions also be given an opportunity for sponsorships. Trustee Juzeszyn felt a maximum of 7-8 events based on the budget. Trustee Kypuros suggested scheduling three or four bigger nights for concerts instead of too many events in one year. Joint committee meeting needs to be held this winter and determine the plans for next year's concerts.

There being no further business to be discussed in regular session, Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. to discuss the contract of the Police Chief. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to return to regular session at 8:33 p.m. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

There being no further business to be discussed, Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk