

**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 13, 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, Chief Terry Lemming, Treasurer Donna Rooney, EMA Director Bob Heim and EMA member Dale Murray.

GUESTS: Anthony Cervini from Sikich, Police Commission member Tom Johnson and George Schuitema.

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 22, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting and November 29, 2021 Board meeting. Trustee Gianotti made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

None.

CLERK'S REPORT

1) A report was provided of income received in November, 2021. 2) Clerk Conner announced that dog tags are now on sale. 3) Clerk Conner reminded everyone that gift certificates for water bills are available at the Village Hall and two have been sold so far.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Superintendent Conner reported that one resident is interested in joining the Beautification Commission when they have their next meeting.

The Fourth of July Commission budget for 2022 was provided in the packet for review. Next meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2022.

Trustee Juzeszyn reported that the Youth Commission partnered with the Lions Club for their recent Breakfast with Santa. The event went well and the Lions Club was appreciative. The next meeting will be held on December 14th at 7:30 p.m. They will be discussing a bowling event and Daddy-Daughter dance.

Trustee Kypuros reported that the next Historic Preservation Commission meeting is Wednesday, December 15th at 7 p.m. at the Depot.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT

The Board considered approving an employment agreement with Terry Lemming, but some Board members still had questions to be discussed in Executive Session at the end of the meeting before approval.

President Meyer made new Committee assignments as follows:

Village President Pro-Tem: Jonathan Kypuros

Finance and Administration Committee: Chair: Jonathan Kypuros, Ben Juzeszyn

Public Safety Committee: Chair: Joe Tieri, Jonathan Kypuros

Public Works Committee: Chair: Todd Kraus, Roger Stacey

Economic Development and Community Relations Committee:

Chair: Ben Juzeszyn, Joe Gianotti

Public Buildings and Properties, Parks and Recreation Committee:

Chair: Joe Gianotti, Todd Kraus

Planning, Building and Zoning Committee: Chair Roger Stacey, Joe Tieri

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve President Meyer's new Committee appointments. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report of financial activity in the prior month. Treasurer Rooney was present. Trustee Gianotti seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills in the amount of \$422,278.49 and payroll for the previous month. Trustee Kypuros read aloud bills added to the list

since Friday. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Anthony Cervini from Sikich was present and provided an audit report to the Board for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Board members were given the opportunity to ask the auditor questions. Administrator Barber asked a question. The Board had no questions. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to accept the audit for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The first draft of the Five-Year Financial Plan has been provided to the Finance Committee for review and then it will be provided to the Board for review. Committee will set up a meeting to review and hopes to approve first meeting in February.

Staff reported that the Village's IMRF pension rate is dropping from 8.16% to 4.57% in 2022.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Board discussed the results of the first Village Tree Lighting Ceremony held on December 5th in Firemen's Park. St. Paul's served 225 cups of hot chocolate despite the terrible weather. A list was provided of needed changes for next year to make the event run smoother. Thank you letters were sent to Santa and to the School District band. Overall, everything went well and the event was a success according to Trustee Tieri. The Board discussed putting the tree lights on a timer.

The Committee met with the Community Relations Committee to discuss the 2022 Concert in the Park series. Trustees Tieri and Juzeszyn reported on their meeting. The Committee is excited about the opportunity to hold these events. They are planning for seven events: four bigger events to be held the first Saturday of the month in May, June, July and August around 6:30 or 7 p.m., and three smaller events to be held the second Sundays of May, June and August. They plan to have food and drink to be provided by local organizations and vendors at larger events, and smaller events more of a picnic in the park. They will partner with the Fourth of July Commission to promote the events. The Committee will likely need to pay more for each band to provide their own sound equipment instead of having the same sound person for each event due to put up and tear down for each individual event. They are working on tracking down bands to book, looking for diversity and different music genres. Committee is asking for an additional \$2,000 for their budget to cover additional costs they anticipate over the \$10,000 proposed to be budgeted. Committee will not be looking for outside sponsorships this year. The Board discussed where to find money if a band is booked in this fiscal year and have to pay a deposit. Committee was asked if \$12,000 is enough. After some discussion, the consensus of the Board was to budget \$15,000 to give them the flexibility in doing the events.

Trustee Tieri reported that the Fourth of July Commission received a donation of a gas fryer which will be used in the vendor building in the park. The Village will need to put a gas service line into the building. Nicor agreed to put in the line at no cost to the Village. There would just be a monthly bill. Consensus of the Board agreed it would be advantageous to have the gas line installed into the building. The formal approval will be on the next Board meeting agenda.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Building Department monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

The next Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2022 to discuss fences in front yard setback on corner lots and also the parking of trailers in front yards. The Code Enforcement Officer will be invited to the meeting to present the trailer issue. The first phase of the Illiana Business Park for the portion which runs along the railroad on the west side will be on the agenda for review and approval also. Plans have been deferred for the east side for now. Trustee Kypuros asked if the PZC was the place to first discuss the fences in front yard setback on corner lots and if the actual costs are accurate for the \$750 we charge for a variance. Administrator Barber indicated the cost is in line with the overall costs to the Village for a variance.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police Department, EMA and Code Enforcement monthly reports were provided in the packet for review.

ORDINANCE #1361 – An Ordinance authorizing the execution of an intergovernmental agreement with Will County for the installation of license plate readers in the County rights of way. It was determined that only two readers are needed on Indiana Avenue so one of the cameras was moved to Miller and Oak Park, and the other to the entrance to Nantucket Cove. This means that all entrances and exits to the Village will be covered with the cameras for the security of the Village. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve Ordinance #1361. Seconded by Trustee Tieri.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

An update was provided on the SRO candidate position in the Police Department. Chief Lemming reported that two candidates were interviewed and Erik Hanson was unanimously selected by the panel. Officer Hanson will begin the SRO program in the school in January and Chief Lemming will meet monthly with the school to address any issues the school may have with the program. Officer Hanson will also be asked to attend Youth Commission meetings.

Trustee Kraus requested an Executive Session be held to discuss a potential appointment to the Corporal position.

Trustee Kraus made a motion declaring the following vehicles as surplus property: 2013 Dodge Charger with 93,000 miles (Police Chief's car), 2010 Ford Crown Vic with 110,000 miles (EMA

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Director's car), and 2007 Chevy Impala with 160,000 miles (EMA volunteer's car). The Chief will then use the Chevy Traverse as his car. This will leave EMA with the 1999 Chevy Suburban with 160,000 miles, the 2009 Chevy HHR with 99,000 miles, and the box truck command vehicle. It was explained that the plans are to take the proceeds from the sale of these vehicles and add \$10,000 in Asset Forfeiture funds to buy the EMA Director a decent used front-line vehicle that can tow the trailer and the light tower. Once the front line vehicle is purchased the Village can liquidate the 1999 Suburban and the box truck. This would leave EMA with only two vehicles in the short-term but plans would be to give them two used Police cruisers in 2022 when we change them out with squads next summer. This will give them four vehicles they are permitted to have. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

A Resolution amending the current Resolution pertaining to the Police Commission hiring process relating to the duration of the hiring list was discussed. Commission met earlier that day. They agreed to the duration of the list to one year. Written testing requirements were also discussed. If written unduly burdens the hiring process it can be waived but not to be eliminated. Want to keep minimum standards. The Commission may come up with their own written test so we don't have to rely on hiring a testing company, but that will take time. Also discussed some other changes needed to be made to the Resolution. Trustee Kypuros asked when to advertise for another officer to replace officer who resigned in October. Can't change the current process until the Resolution is amended. Still takes two weeks to advertise, review applications, do background checks, etc., and then enroll new person in academy before any hiring can be done. Looking at not being able to replace officer until at least February. Also could consider an officer who already has certification but market for officers is very slim. Discussed the benefits and drawbacks of having a hiring list. Much discussion followed. Discussed the specifics of what the Committee would like to change in the resolution. Need consistency in hiring, treating everyone the same and to be legally defensible. Ask attorney what Village liability will be if we do away with Resolution. Unlikely will be able to hire by January 17th when next academy will be held.

RESOLUTION #2021-15 – A Resolution to amend Resolution #2020-06 Chapter I, Section 3 to change wording “shall include one Public Safety Committee member and two residents to be appointed by the Village President”; Chapter II, Section 3, under Disqualifications, eliminate wording “by way of contracted testing service”; Chapter II, Section 4, Defective Applications, strike language “the contracted testing service will notify all applicants whose applications are found so defective”, and suspend Chapter III upon further review of the Police Commission and on advice of the Attorney. Trustee Kraus made a motion to adopt Resolution #2021-15. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Water Department monthly report was provided in the packet for review.

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Administrator Barber provided a report on the Penfield Street STP project. There has been another delay in the bid opening (now set for March 11th) due to right of way acquisition. Missing signatures from two residents for easements. Have to follow federal process for taking of easements.

Trustee Gianotti made a motion authorizing the letting of bids after December 17th if a bid is not awarded on the Gould Street watermain project. It was reported that Baxter and Woodman and the contractor are resubmitting their BEP showing that negotiations occurred with minority contractors and the unit pricing established by the bid could not be met. If DCEO approves this document, then the bid will be awarded. If not, then we re-bid. The goal is to still get this project done prior to the Penfield/Gould Street resurfacing later this Spring/Summer. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Gianotti made a motion authorizing the execution of an agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad for improvements in their right of way to pedestrian crossings. The Penfield Street walkways are to be replaced right up to the cement crossing pad and this work needs special approval and inspection from the railroad. They are asking for an agreement to review the work and charge a fee not to exceed \$10,000. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was reported that on the used tandem axle truck the Village purchased, both of the turbos on the motor burned up and the truck is in University Park awaiting \$20,000 in repairs. Parts are in short supply so now it sits in a full lot with other trucks until the parts arrive.

Trustee Gianotti made a motion waiving bid requirements for the purchase of an F-250 pickup truck due to the lag order time and lack of availability for joint purchasing. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Gianotti made a motion to approve the pre-order of a pickup truck for the Public Works Department in the amount of \$38,829.00 from Terry's Ford from the Capital Equipment Sinking Fund Account replacing the oldest vehicle in the Public Works fleet, a 1984 P30 watermain van purchased from the Village of Flossmoor in 1992. Since it is taking six months or more to receive delivery of the vehicle, Public Works would like to order it now. There are currently no contracts at Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) or National Fleet Group for any F-250 or F-350 pickup trucks due to the incredible lag time and lack of available pricing. We were able to obtain pricing from two local Ford dealers who are willing to place the order for the truck and stand by their price. One was from Terry's Ford in the amount of \$38,829.00 and the second was from Taylor Ford in the amount of \$41,195.00. Delivery would be in the summer of 2022. Trustee Kypuros

seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Conner provided an end of season leaf collection report. Sixty four loads were collected this year. Public Works can no longer can guarantee to make it through the entire town each week due to the newer subdivisions having more leaves now.

Trustee Gianotti made a motion declaring the 1982 Kohler generator on trailer as surplus property.

Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Juzeszyn and Administrator Barber attended a Will County Center for Economic Development annual investor briefing breakfast and a copy of the annual report was provided to the Board for review. Trustee Juzeszyn said it was a very interesting event seeing the track record of the CED's priorities and large presence of communities around us. Board discussed the CED's benefits to the Village.

Trustee Juzeszyn made a motion authorizing the approval of an agreement with Baxter and Woodman Engineers in the amount of \$11,970 for the submission of an application for COVID-19 downtown improvement funds from DCEO to improve Gould Street from Hodges to Penfield. This would be a \$1 million project grant with the Village paying for design and construction management and 10% of the construction cost. If awarded, the Village would pay about \$300,000 and the State \$1 million for this project. This project would include new drainage, road reconstruction, decorative bump outs around the stairs and the corners, wiring and lighting of the boardwalk, planters and refuse containers for the public spaces and along the boardwalk. Administrator Barber expressed concerns about the track record of the administration of these grants. Board was asked if they would like to spend \$11,970 to apply for this grant and then commit to another \$300,000 for this project at the expense of other planned projects with the risk of not being awarded the grant. Board decided to move forward with this. Trustee Gianotti seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

G. OLD BUSINESS - None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Kypuros said he had a meeting with Administrator Barber and Chief Lemming about creating a Capital Equipment Sinking Fund Account for the Police Department for the purchase of

new vehicles starting the fund with \$80,000 in reserve cash to plan for vehicle purchases moving forward.

Trustee Juzeszyn has been discussing with Administrator Barber and Superintendent Conner to set up a community clean-up day for the spring. He hopes to work with the school to sign up kids to help. He can work with the new SRO on this.

There being no further business to discuss in regular session, Trustee Kraus made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. to discuss the appointment and compensation for the Corporal position and discuss the Police Chief's contract. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kraus made a motion to return to regular session at 9:46 p.m. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kraus made a motion approving the promotion of Brian Fravel to the position of Corporal in the Police Department effective immediately with pay raise effective the next payroll. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kraus made a motion to establish a pay scale for the position of Sergeant at \$4,000 above Corporal pay pending Attorney review. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE #1362 – An Ordinance authorizing the execution of an employment agreement with Terry Lemming as Chief of Police effective until December 30, 2023, with the amendment to waive the residency requirement for the contract. Trustee Tieri made a motion to approve Ordinance #1362. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

AYES: (5) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri 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 Gianotti seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk