

**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
JANUARY 10, 2022 -- 7:00 P.M.**

All present joined in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Meyer called the meeting to order and asked the Board to stand for a moment of silence for fallen Bradley Police Officer Marlene Rittmanic and injured Officer Tyler Bailey.

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, Chief Terry Lemming, Treasurer Donna Rooney and EMA Director Bob Heim.

GUESTS: George Schuitema.

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the December 13, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Tieri 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.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Stacey.

Motion Carried.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE - None.

CLERK'S REPORT

1) A report was provided of income received in December, 2021. 2) Clerk Conner reported that she received business license application for a Covid testing site opening in Beecher.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Superintendent Conner provided a Beautification Commission report. Last Thursday a meeting was held with some of the current members. Two members have stepped down and there are not many members left. It was decided to try and get members of the community to come out to a meeting in March and try to recruit and get more people involved. A clean-up day for Saturday, April 30th will be coordinated with the commissions.

9c

Trustee Kraus provided a report on the Fourth of July Commission, which met last week. Budget was passed. Committee is getting prices for the raffle car and have a contract for fireworks. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16th.

Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve a contract with Pyrotechnico in the amount of \$30,000 for a fireworks display on July 4, 2022. A copy of the contract was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Gianotti seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Juzeszyn provided a Youth Commission report. It was decided not to hold the bowling event this year. A Daddy Daughter dance will be held on February 5th at 6:30 p.m., with a theme of "Light up the Night".

Trustee Kypuros provided a Historic Preservation Commission report. Meetings have been changed to every other month at 6 p.m. A date will be scheduled for Depot clean-up in February. The Commission plans to ask for donations in the spring and depending on Covid to offer school tours again in spring.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT

Corporal pinning of Brian Fravel did not occur, due to illness.

Introduction and oath of office for part-time Officer Bryan Certa will occur at the January 24, 2022 meeting.

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 and provided report. Trustee Stacey seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

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

The Board considered approval of bills and payrolls in the previous month. Trustee Kypuros added a bill to the list to be paid for the Will County Police Chief's Association in the amount of \$150. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills in the amount of \$138,799.66 (which includes the added bill) and payrolls for the previous month. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The Board discussed the five-year financial plan, and a copy has been provided to the Board. The Finance Committee met for four hours and discussed the plan. A memo highlighting 14 major points of discussion was provided for review and Administrator Barber went through and explained the 14 major points.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing an RFP for a new auditing firm for the next three fiscal years. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

The budget preparation process is beginning. The budget will be prepared in draft form for the Finance Committee to review at 7 a.m. on Saturday, February 26th. The budget will then go to the full Village Board for review. The budget workshop will be held on March 28, 2022 at 6 p.m. The meeting can be held at the Public Works garage so everyone can spread out and de-mask for that specific meeting. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to set a new meeting time and location for the March 28th meeting at 6 p.m. at the Public Works garage. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion authorizing a public hearing on the budget and appropriation ordinance for 7 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2022. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion approving an engagement letter with Chapman and Cutler as bond counsel for 2017 refi G.O. bonds. The annual fee for this work will be around \$2,000 starting in 2023 and they will be doing the SEC filings for free this year. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

It was reported that bid packages for fuel have been mailed out for a bid opening on February 11, 2022 at 10 a.m. A recommendation will go to the Village Board on February 14th and go into effect on March 1st.

B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Gianotti made a motion authorizing the installation of natural gas service to the food stand and vendor's building at 675 Penfield Street. Natural gas will give the Village more options for the use of the building and free up electric for use elsewhere in Firemen's Park. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion Carried.

Trustee Gianotti made a motion declaring the ice rink as surplus property. Due to warmer winters and the difficulty in maintaining good ice when it is cold enough has made the ice rink concept rather obsolete and only benefitted a few residents. The Village has been approached by local interested parties to purchase the rink. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (1) Trustee Kypuros.

Motion Carried.

A joint committee meeting was held to make plans for this year's concert series. Trustee Juzeszyn reported reaching out to bands to approve contracts. Six events are planned. Resident Drew Beck is volunteering to help with the concert series. The committee also needs to look at a sound system for the future, but this year will have the bands provide their own sound systems. Trustee Gianotti said quotes for the sound person that has been used previously was more than \$1,000 per event. They are talking to another sound person about prices for single events. Trustee Kypuros asked about the bands being proposed and what kind of crowd they may bring in since rock and roll bands are not being considered for the bigger concert events. He felt that the events were to be more for the local residents and would the local residents turn out for some of the proposed bands. Trustee Juzeszyn said no bands have been booked yet, so it is still open for discussion.

C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

The Building Department annual report was provided in the packet for review. Eleven new home permits were issued in 2021.

Trustee Stacey reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to meet on Thursday, January 27, 2022. A workshop on fences in front yards on corner lots and parking of commercial trailers in front yard setbacks will be discussed. The February 24th PZC meeting will most likely have the Illiana Crossroads Business Park proposal on its agenda.

The Board considered extending a temporary special use permit for the storage container at 500 W. Indiana Avenue for Beecher Hardware. The container has been there for seven years and the old permit expired on March 1, 2019. This was caught by Code Enforcement. Trustee Kraus asked if these containers are not allowed or if the Village can just issue permits for these. Having these for a long period of time technically isn't a temporary use. Our ordinance allows these storage containers only as temporary uses. Trustee Kypuros expressed concerns about precedence being set with allowing businesses to do this if other businesses also wanted to have storage containers. Trustee Gianotti said it may be time for them to build a shed instead of having a container. After much discussion, Trustee Stacey made a motion to approve a request to extend a temporary special use permit for two years from today's date for the storage container at 500 W. Indiana Avenue for Beecher Hardware. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Staff is also expecting a request for the storage container at Buddys. They are currently using it to store appliances in as they re-do the interior, but it would be useful for them to store other supplies and paper products.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chief Lemming reported that Erik Hanson was chosen for the SRO officer. He was given expectations by the Chief and School District. Chief will be meeting with the School District regularly to monitor the program.

Chief Lemming stated that tests were conducted for the Sergeant position, and the matter will be discussed later in the meeting.

Chief Lemming reported that the "Holidays with Heroes" event went very well. He thanked those who volunteered and Bob Heim for his work coordinating the event.

There will be a presentation to the Beecher School District students later this month on what parents need to be aware of for their children on social media.

The Police Department is planning to do another self-defense class in February.

EMA Director, Bob Heim, provided his monthly report. He said it was a slow month compared to previous months.

Trustee Tieri commented that the Code Enforcement Officer is taking a proactive approach, which shows in his report.

A full-time police officer hiring update was provided by Trustee Tieri. Interviews will be conducted later this week.

Trustee Tieri made a motion declaring the 1999 Chevy cube box truck as surplus property. Trustee Stacey seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Tieri made a motion authorizing the purchase of a 2017 Ford Explorer used vehicle for use by the EMA from Terry's Ford in the amount of \$20,999. It was reported that EMA has disposed of three vehicles and wishes to purchase a used SUV so that they can pull their light trailer and materials trailer. The Public Safety Committee met Friday afternoon to discuss this. This will give EMA 3 vehicles to use. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Tieri requested an Executive Session be held at the end of the meeting to discuss the Sergeant position candidate and recommend pay for the position.

E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

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

The water billing register for the previous two months was provided in the packet for review. The pumped to billed ratio improved to 69.96%.

A Gould Street watermain update was provided. The project has gone out to bid for a third time and bids will be opened on Wednesday, February 9th at 10 a.m. Bids will be considered at the February 14th Board meeting. We can still get this done before Penfield/Gould resurfacing scheduled for late summer. \$967,000 will be paid by the State and the rest of the cost will be paid by the Village.

The Penfield S.T.P. project is still on target for March 11th bid opening and a start date of May 1st. Construction will run through November 15th.

Superintendent Conner provided an update on repairs to the tandem axle truck. The truck is back. Cost was just under \$24,000 to replace two turbos along with other repairs.

The Public Works Committee met to go over big projects facing the Village in the future. Several major projects were discussed, including the slip lining of a damaged sanitary line in the rear of the 800 block of Catalpa, the condition of the wells such as the pumps, motors, and shafts, the need for new water tower and to rehab our existing tower, and generators for well #5 and two lift stations.

Status of watermain replacement was also discussed at the Public Works Committee meeting. Provided in the packet was a list of iron mains that still need to be replaced.

Trustee Kraus made a motion approving an engineering services agreement with Baxter and Woodman Engineers in the amount not to exceed \$37,000 to design and obtain permits for the replacement of watermain on Miller Street from Dixie Highway to Reed Street, subject to President Meyer not signing the agreement until discussed further with the Committee. Before signing the contract, Trustee Kypuros will work with Trustee Kraus to get some other competitive prices for the work. Trustee Stacey seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The "Go with Gould" downtown infrastructure redevelopment grant in the amount of \$1.5 million has been submitted. The Village has agreed to cover \$300,000 of this cost with the rest coming from state Covid relief funds.

An Enterprise Zone status report was provided. In December, the fourth quarter meeting of the joint board was held where it was learned that we have \$73,000 on account to begin promoting our region for commercial and industrial development. A public relations firm has been hired to create e-blasts and e-newsletters promoting each of the communities in the zone. Beecher's turn will be in April.

The Board considered four different sign options for the installation of an L.E.D. monument sign in front of the Village Hall. The Village would use some ARPA funds for the project. The project would have to go to the PZC for special use permit approval. Administrator Barber recommended budgeting \$70,000 to plan for any unforeseen issues with the installation. Board was asked to pick an option for the sign design. Consensus of the Board agreed to move forward with this sign at the Village Hall location. Consensus of Board liked option "A" for the sign. The cost will be placed in next year's budget.

G. OLD BUSINESS - None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Kypuros asked the Board to consider holding the bond referendum in June of 2022. This would be a binding referendum on the remodel or build of a new police station. The referendum must be filed with the County within 90 days of the election. Administrator Barber explained that we still need a specific bond amount for the referendum and won't have that number until the end of February. Board consensus agreed to push to be able to have the referendum in June of 2022.

Trustee Kypuros also asked Board members to decide whether it would be beneficial to hold a referendum for home rule status. Possibly have IML or Ancel Glink to provide a presentation on the benefits and drawbacks of home rule status. We will first have Attorney Tim Kuiper be present at next meeting to provide information on home rule.

Chief Lemming reported that there is currently \$11,600 in the Police Asset Seizure Account. He would like to get more involved with community outreach possibly through the purchase of a golf cart as a public relations tool. It can also be used for music in the park and other events. Chief felt it would be a great tool for connecting with the community. They could possibly purchase a used Gator or a golf cart, and asked for the Board's feelings on this. There were no objections to his proposal.

There being no further business to be discussed in regular session, Trustee Tieri made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss the Sergeant position candidate and recommend pay for the position. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Tieri made a motion to return from Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. Trustee Stacey seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

Trustee Tieri made a motion to reinstitute the position of Sergeant in the Beecher Police Department with the pay rate for Sergeant at \$2,500 over Corporal. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion Carried.

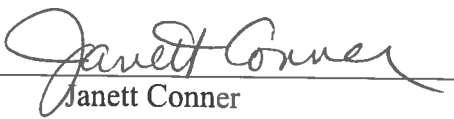
Trustee Tieri made a motion to approve Chief Lemming's recommendation of the promotion of Aaron Dacorte to the Sergeant position with the pay raise starting the next pay period. Trustee Kypuros seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, 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.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett Conner
Village Clerk