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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  
JULY 11, 2022 -- 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, Stacey and Kraus.  
ABSENT: None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Janett Conner, Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Matt Conner, Treasurer Donna Rooney, Chief Terry Lemming, Code Enforcement Officer David Harrison, and EMA Director Bob Heim.

**GUESTS:** George Schuitema, Kevin Bouchard and Fourth of July Commission members: Ken Bobowski, Barb Hodgett, Nelson Collins, Jenna Barber and Nichole Modschiedler.

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the June 27, 2022 Board meeting. Trustee Gianotti made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Tieri seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

**RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE**

Ken Bobowski, Chairman of the Fourth of July Commission, thanked everyone at the Village, including the Village Board, staff, the Police Department, Public Works Department, EMA and all who helped with the festival. President Meyer thanked him and all of his commissioners for making the event a success.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

A report was provided of tax income received in June, 2022.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS**

There was nothing to report for the Beautification Commission.

A report was provided on the Fourth of July festival. Trustee Kraus said that the Fourth of July Commission puts in weeks and months of their lives to put on this festival. He thanked the

Commission members for all of their volunteer work and everything they do. Nelson Collins said that the numbers are looking like it may be the all-time best year for car raffle ticket sales. He said all of the stands in the park are showing big numbers but the expenses are still coming in. He will wait and see how the fest does overall once the final numbers are available. It was a great turnout and event this year.

Trustee Juzeszyn provided a Youth Commission report. They hosted the kid and pet parade and had a good turnout. Next meeting is scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup>. The Commission is working on a water park event later this summer. Administrator Barber asked if the same route the kid and pet parade used this year could be utilized in the future. Trustee Juzeszyn agreed it was a better route and will discuss it with the Youth Commission.

Trustee Kypuros provided a Historic Preservation Commission update. Volunteers started cleaning and mopping the Depot last month, but were unable to finish so more help is needed to help finish cleaning. A pest control service was also called because there were some spiders and wasp nests that needed to be taken care of.

### **VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT**

President Meyer requested an Executive Session be held at the end of the meeting to consider the sale of Village real estate. Administrator Barber requested that pending litigation be added to the request for Executive Session being held at the end of the meeting.

President Meyer discussed doing an informational video on the proposed police station referendum. Administrator Barber sent out a copy of the video that was done on the sewer plant expansion years ago as a reference. Staff will look further into doing an informational video for this project.

### **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 a report. Treasurer Rooney reported on the addition of the Police CESFA account to the list of Village accounts. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded.

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.

Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills in the amount of \$208,610.62 and payrolls for the previous month. Trustee Kypuros read aloud bills added to the list since Friday. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

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All Board members agreed to the amount of \$3,950,000 to be placed in the Ordinance for General Obligation Bonds for the new Police facility. The ordinance will be considered at the next Board meeting. It was noted that if the amount comes in for less the Village will go to bond for only the amount needed.

The Board discussed possible uses for ARPA funds. The Village will be collecting \$604,000 in total ARPA funding. The Village received \$302,000 last September and another \$302,000 will be arriving this September. The Village has committed \$70,000 to the new LED sign in front of the Village Hall and \$230,000 for the remaining portion of the Gould Street watermain project. The Village Board discussed how to proceed with this. All funds must be committed for a project or spent by December 30, 2024. The Board discussed enlarging the splash pad. Administrator Barber and Superintendent Conner reported that the Village does not have the water capability to expand, therefore needing to use recycled water which would greatly increase the costs. The Board also discussed taking equipment out of Water Tower Park and moving the equipment to Lions Park where it would be used more. The Board also discussed lighting up the walking path, other park improvements, another pavilion in Firemen's Park, other infrastructure needs, improvements to old downtown, etc. Trustee Kypuros asked for direction from the other Board members. The Board was asked to come up with ideas for improvements that will benefit the community as a whole. Trustee Kypuros said the Board could do a special workshop meeting in the fall to discuss this issue more at length.

## **B. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

It was reported that the splash pad has reopened now that the festival is over and all of the carnival vehicles have left. The splash pad is being used a lot.

A Firemen's Park path paving update was provided. Superintendent Conner reported that it will need to go back out to bid again because the last bid has expired. He will rebid after September 18<sup>th</sup> since so much is going on in the park this summer. Administrator Barber also said he recently learned that the Village will be awarded a grant for \$26,000 designated for park improvements that can be used for this project if needed.

## **C. PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

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

It was reported that McDonalds is planning an expansion. They will be putting in a double drive-thru which will require the removal of three parking spaces on the north side of the building reserved for pick-up orders, but they will be striping some spaces to the west of the pumps where the trucks park now so there will be no net loss of parking. The double-queuing of vehicles will also reduce the length of the lines for the drive-thru and allow for staging of orders in a more orderly fashion than they are doing now. This was considered to be a minor modification to the PUD and will not require any hearings or new special uses. A building permit for the new kitchen area and drive-thru vestibule is all that is needed. A copy of the site plan was provided in the packet for review.

#### **D. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

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

An animal control comparison report was provided in the packet for review. Since 2007, 581 animals have been cared for in the Village through this program. This program is paid for with the sale of dog tags.

A report was provided on the status of hiring a full-time officer. Officer Gabriel Smycz will begin on August 1<sup>st</sup>. He is coming from Chicago Police Department.

Chief Lemming requested hiring of a new part time officer be discussed in Executive Session.

Chief Lemming provided a report on the Fourth of July festival security. There were a few incidents in the beer garden and some people had to be removed but overall everything went well.

Chief Lemming reported on obtaining a new squad car. He previously received permission to order a new squad car but has found another state bid squad that he can get a lot sooner. This other vehicle he found will be available in September. He'd like to order this different vehicle on Tuesday and cancel the previous order with Currie Motors. There were no objections to going ahead to order the vehicle.

EMA Director Bob Heim reported that on the first night of the festival the light tower they use caught on fire so they obtained a light tower from Crete through mutual aid. He is getting prices to get the tower repaired. He also asked permission to attend the EMA conference in Springfield. The conference is free but the hotel will be the cost. There was no objection to him using his budget money for this expense.

#### **E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

The Public Works Department monthly work flow report was provided in the packet for review.

The Water and Sewer Department monthly reports were provided in the packet for review.

A Gould Street watermain replacement update was provided. There have been a number of watermain breaks under or near the railroad tracks on both Penfield and Indiana which has complicated the project. Three main breaks on Penfield Street were repaired by M&J Underground. There haven't been any further issues at that location. There were three breaks within a five-hour period on Indiana Avenue. The railroad shut down the project because of proximity to the tracks and didn't allow connection to the main. Main was capped on the east side of the tracks, an area of main was abandoned, so they didn't have to connect to main under the tracks. Additional costs will be incurred due to these problems. They are still drilling main in, according to Superintendent Conner. Project should be substantially completed by the middle of August. Union Pacific Railroad put a person on-site for 24 hours for three days to make sure it didn't affect the tracks.

The lead service line replacement program is complete as of today. Superintendent Conner reported on the number of services replaced. It was found that a lot of residents replaced their own service line in the past. A total of 124 lead lines were replaced in the system. There is one non-compliant property on Dixie Highway. Sod restoration has begun. There will not be any more sod work done until September or October, when it cools down.

A report on the road resurfacing program for 2022 was provided. Superintendent Conner is in the process of recommending to the Committee what roads are to be repaved with the \$100,000 budgeted for this year. With rising prices, this budgeted amount will not allow as much to be completed as was originally thought.

A Penfield Street STP project update was provided. The feds and IDOT are continuing their review of the bid prior to award and keep asking for more information. Project is taking a long time to complete.

Superintendent Conner provided a well #3 variable speed drive update. The new variable drive is in place but not hooked up yet. It will be put online this week.

A report was provided on the remaining ductile mains in the water system. There is still 63,770 feet of ductile iron pipe remaining in the system and depending upon the cost per foot used it could cost anywhere from \$3 to \$10 million to replace it all. The engineer's estimate of probable cost for Dixie Highway crossovers is \$750,000 and for Miller from Dixie to Reed is \$740,000.

An update on road conditions and a pavement plan was provided. It was estimated to repave all roads would cost \$7,152,000. To resurface all roads that currently need resurfacing, the cost would be \$8,477,025. To resurface roads that are in immediate need of repair the cost would be \$1,372,693.

It was reported that the well #5 pump and motor is now ten years old. Since it has a life cycle of about ten years, it will soon be time to obtain budget pricing to replace the pump and motor and keep the old one as an emergency spare. It was estimated that the purchase of the equipment alone will run about \$46,000. This can be discussed further by the Committee before budget time.

The Board was asked to consider an application to Will County for ARPA funds for water and sewer infrastructure projects. Dixie Highway and Miller Street watermain projects are ready to go. A well #5 improvement project for \$500,000, which would include new pump and motor, new well casing and a new generator for well #5 which would increase reliability and pumping capacity of this well could be added. Letters of intent are due July 22, 2022. Superintendent Conner ranked the projects in priority order as: 1) Dixie Highway watermain; 2) Well #5 improvements; and 3) Miller Street watermain. Trustee Kraus made a motion to submit letter of intent to Will County for ARPA funds for all three water/sewer infrastructure projects: Dixie Highway watermain, Well #5 improvements, and Miller Street watermain. Trustee Stacey seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

## **F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The results of the July 2<sup>nd</sup> band sponsored by the Summer Concert Series was provided by Trustee Juzeszyn. Trustee Gianotti reported that the concert was well attended and preliminary numbers for the beer stand show a large attendance. Trustee Gianotti said he was asked by some attendees to bring the band back. That night was the top night during the fest in both the beer garden and throughout the festival grounds.

Trustee Juzeszyn reported that the next Concert in the Park will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m. "Just Roll with It" will be playing. On August 14<sup>th</sup>, the "EZ Tones Polka Band" will be playing.

The full presentation from the Will County CED was provided in the packet for review.

President Meyer requested a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the sale of Village property, pending litigation and hiring of personnel. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. Trustee Tieri seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Stacey made a motion to return to regular session at 8:27 p.m. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

President Meyer reported on an economic interest inquiry she received. They are looking at land options for this possible business. The Board discussed having these types of businesses in Beecher and if it would be a good direction to go into for the Village. All Board members are very interested in this kind of business. She will send a follow up email to him and set up a meeting.

Administrator Barber also reported on a request to annex 60 acres to the Village. The requestor only wants water and not sewer. It is an unusual request and not sure of his intentions. Some Board members expressed that he will be able to build a house one way or the other. He can get permits through the Village or the County. At least the Village would have more control if the property is annexed. Administrator Barber will get more information on this.

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

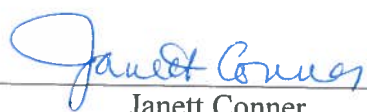
AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



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Janett Conner  
Village Clerk