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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  
DECEMBER 12, 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 McCawley, Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Matt Conner, Treasurer Donna Rooney, Chief Terry Lemming and EMA Director Bob Heim. Officer Jeff Young and other Beecher Police officers were present at the beginning of the meeting to attend Officer Young's certificate presentation.

**GUESTS:** Jennifer Young, Frank Cochrane, Sr., Frank Cochrane, Jr., Erik Gardner and George Schuitema.

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 28, 2022 Board meeting. Trustee Tieri made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Gianotti seconded.

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

**ABSTAIN:** (1) Trustee Stacey.

Motion carried.

**RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE**

Chief Lemming honored part-time police officer Jeff Young for 30 years of service to the Village of Beecher with a certificate and thanked him for his long service.

Frank Cochrane, Sr. and Frank Cochrane, Jr. explained that they are opening a business in town and running into some differences of opinion as to what the Fire Inspector is requiring. They purchased 516 Hodges Street and are going to use the building for computer equipment for crypto currency mining. They only will be using 5% of the building at this point and will not be open to the public. They showed the Board the type of equipment they will be putting in the building. They upgraded to 800 amp electric service on 3-phase electric to plan for future expansion of the business and haven't done any other work inside the building. Frank Cochrane, Jr. explained how the equipment will work. They only plan to have 5-10 machines to start which would only require 150 amps. They met with Fire Inspector in June and he told them he wouldn't need to do much to comply with the Fire District but the inspector has changed what he is requiring over the last few

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months. They always planned to put in a fire alarm. The inspector is classifying the business as a data center, but they said that is not the intent of this business. It was unknown how many computers there needs to be to designate it as a data center and the Fire Inspector has not provided documentation on how to answer that question. There have been many discussions between the business owner and Fire Inspector and they claim the inspector is asking for things to be done he has not proved is in the code and keeps changing the requirements. Also, some of the requirements he is asking for would exceed the value of what they paid for the property.

President Meyer attended a meeting between the business owners and the Fire District the previous week to learn about the problem. She is concerned with changing requirements from the Fire District and asked for input from the Board. Trustee Kypuros questioned if this business needs to be licensed. In June the Fire Inspector only requested a fire alarm and is now requesting a two-hour fire wall and fire suppression system. The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) was for the 2015 fire code but a later edition was being requested by the Fire Inspector. President Meyer felt the Village may need to go back to the IGA and clean up some things. Trustee Kypuros requested that termination of the Intergovernmental Agreement be placed on the Board agenda for the first meeting in January. Another meeting will be held with the Fire Chief and Fire Inspector on Wednesday to discuss this further. Interpretation of what qualifies as a data center is main issue. The Village will be in touch with the owners about this issue.

**CLERK’S REPORT**

1) A report was provided of income received in November, 2022. 2) Clerk McCawley reported that dog tags are now on sale for \$10 each and can be purchased in person at the Village Hall or on-line through the EPay system. The deadline is March 15, 2023.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS**

There was no report for Beautification Commission.

Trustee Gianotti provided a list of the planned improvements to be made in Firemen’s Park by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Commission in the coming year.

Trustee Kraus made a motion approving a three-year contract for a fireworks display with Pyrotecnico in the amounts of \$35,000 in 2023 and 2024, and \$38,500 in 2025. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the contract. A copy of the contract was provided in the packet for review. Trustee Tieri 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. BYC provided candy donations and volunteer labor for the Lions Club Breakfast with Santa. Their next meeting is December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Clerk McCawley reported that the next meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be held on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

## VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT

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President Meyer met with the County and Eastern Will County mayors to discuss east-west truck traffic movements through the County. A map of proposed east-west truck routes from the County was provided for review but it was learned at the meeting that Crete-Monee Road was selected as the preferred route by the County and that an environmental study may soon begin. There were many concerns regarding this proposed route including how trucks will move through Monee and how they will get over to IL-394. There was also much discussion about traffic issues along the state line.

President Meyer reminded the Board that there will be no meeting on December 26<sup>th</sup> and that the next regular Village Board meeting will be on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.

President Meyer announced the resignations of Hebah Arroyo from the Youth Commission, and Nelson Collins, Barb Hodgett, Margie Cook and Debbie Falaschetti from the 4th of July Commission. The Village is accepting applications for anyone interested in becoming part of either commission.

President Meyer appointed Todd Kraus and Tom Johnson as the at-large representatives to the newly-created Police Commission. Their terms would run until April 30, 2023. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve President Meyer's appointments. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri, Stacey 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 and provided a report. 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 read aloud bills added to the list since Friday. Trustee Kypuros made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills in the amount of \$509,883.87 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 five-year financial plan first draft is complete and will be presented to the Committee for review and amendment before going to the full Board on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

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A bond sale update was provided. First Midstate is presenting our bond offering to approximately 300 potential bond purchases in hopes that a private placement can be recommended to the Village Board. We should be able to get a rate below 5.9%. The bond will most likely be sold at the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting by adopting an ordinance accepting the private placement recommendation. Bond Counsel will be present at that meeting to walk through the process of adopting the necessary ordinances. By the end of January the funds will be placed in escrow and ready for use on the project. The two local banks will be offered bond placement.

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

A public safety facility update was provided by Trustee Gianotti. A coordination meeting between the architect and engineer will occur before the first of the year. Survey work won't be done until after the first of the year. Meeting will be held on December 21<sup>st</sup> to go over floorplan layout.

Trustee Gianotti provided a "project pickle" (pickle ball courts) update. Trustee Kraus reported that the school had a facilities meeting and School Board liked the project and plans to approve it. The location is at the existing tennis courts at the high school. An IGA with the school needs to be drafted for the project. Administrator Barber recommended to talk to company who puts these courts together to determine how long the court should last and determine on-going maintenance costs since Village plans to perpetually maintain the courts.

A park improvement plan update was provided. Trustee Gianotti and Superintendent Conner marked out light poles in Firemen's Park, and are awaiting prices. Moving backstops in Welton Stedt Park to Firemen's Park was discussed. The Superintendent will have a company provide a proposal for moving the backstops. A meeting will also be set up regarding playground equipment.

There was nothing new to report on a HVAC grant for the food stand.

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

The Building Department monthly report 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.

Chief Lemming reported that the new squad car came in today and graphics have been put on. Equipment will be installed this week. Old squad will be given to EMA.

The new snow season parking ban is now in effect. No parking is allowed for 24 hours after a snowfall of 2" or more. Chief Lemming said warnings will be issued the first time, and tickets the second time. It was discussed to have Code Enforcement provide a list of license plates given warnings the first time to be referenced the second snowfall, so residents who never received warnings aren't issued tickets.

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EMA Director Heim provided an update on the Holiday with Heroes program. He contacted 12 families through the school and eight families responded, 21 children. Over \$1,700 was made at the Dunkin' fundraiser. Letters were also sent out to businesses that are still sending in donations. Volunteers are out shopping for the families. Families are to be given gifts this Saturday at the Fire Station.

It was reported that Santa will be riding the streets of town on Christmas Eve in a fire engine.

Trustee Tieri requested an Executive Session be held at the end of the meeting to discuss the resignation of a part-time Police officer.

**E. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

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

Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve a payment in the amount of \$201,956.88 to Brandt Excavating as partial payment on the lead service line replacement program contingent on receipt of IEPA funds. Trustee Kypuros seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

The Village leaf collection program has ended for the year. The Public Works Department has received a donation of a leaf machine from the Village of Thornton. The machine needs work and will act as a backup machine.

A Penfield Street STP update was provided. The Will County Governmental League Transportation Committee approved an additional \$570,542 in federal funds for the Penfield Street project which reduced our local match from \$1,757,622 to \$1,187,080.

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

Trustee Juzeszyn provided a report on the Will County Center for Economic Development meeting he attended. A 2022 Annual Report book was provided to the Board members for review. Trustee Juzeszyn thanked Administrator Barber for driving to the meeting.

**G. OLD BUSINESS**

Trustee Kraus asked about extending Village Hall hours as he previously asked. This was referred to committee. Staff will provide the committee a recommendation for discussion.

Clerk McCawley thanked Public Works for replacing the stairs at the caboose by the Depot.

## I. NEW BUSINESS

Chief Lemming thanked Public Works for quickly installing “slow, children playing” signs with the spinner on top, in response to a speeding complaint discussed at previous meeting.

Superintendent Conner noted that a fire hydrant repair needed to be done when an unmarked ComEd line was hit. He is working on resolving this with ComEd, who is claiming lights are not theirs.

President Meyer commented on Juan Hernandez’s purchase of the building south of the Amvets Hall. He is opening a karate studio and community center. Mr. Hernandez plans to have a room for senior events, a room for children with autism and other underserved members of the community. President Meyer stated that Mr. Hernandez is doing great work on the building and services to be provided, all done by donations and to be free to the public.

There being no further business to discuss in regular session, Trustee Tieri made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. to discuss the resignation of a part-time Police officer. Trustee Kraus seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Tieri made a motion to return to regular session at 9:14 p.m. Trustee Stacey seconded.

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 Tieri seconded the motion.

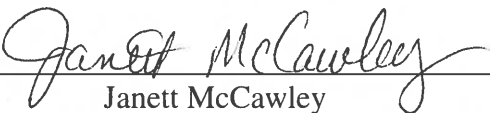
AYES: (6) Trustees Kypuros, Juzeszyn, Gianotti, Tieri, Stacey and Kraus.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Janett McCawley  
Village Clerk