

**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  
OCTOBER 23, 2023 -- 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 Juzeszyn, Kraus, Gardner, Stacey, Tieri and Gianotti.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Deputy Clerk Patty Meyer, Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Matt Conner, Chief Terry Lemming and EMA Director Bob Heim.

**GUESTS:** Jennifer Doss and Dale Gerretse from Groskreutz, Abraham, Eshleman and Gerretse LLC, Pastor Mike Stein and family, Pastor Brian Dennert, Pastor Ronald Rock, Officer Ryan Drew, Jim and Jerry Maciejewski and Wayne Bobiak from JMA Architects, Irene Eich, Judy Kutz, Jeff and Kim Paris.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 10, 2023 Board meeting. Trustee Gianotti made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion with one correction under Beecher Youth Commission report should state over \$3,000 was raised, not "over \$4,000 was raised".

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

**NAYS:** (0) None.

Motion carried.

**RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE** – None.

**VILLAGE CLERK REPORT** – None.

**VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT**

Chief Lemming administered the Oath of Office to Beecher Police Department Chaplains, Pastor Brian Dennert, Pastor Mike Stein and Pastor Ronald Rock. The Chaplains minister to our officers as well as our residents.

Pastor Stein said a brief prayer.

President Meyer provided an update on Elsie's Place, to be located at 1140 Dixie Highway. They have received their lease and are getting their buildout plans together. A sample menu was provided to the Board for review. They are projected to open in 5-6 months.

President Meyer requested an Executive Session be held to discuss a Village Administrator candidate and terms and conditions for employment.

#### **A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills in the amount of \$291,934.13 and payrolls for the previous month. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Kraus made a motion to accept the Village's audit for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2023. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Copies of the audit were provided to the Board for review. Auditor Jennifer Doss highlighted the audit report and stated that the Village is operating in a healthy financial position.

The Board discussed tax levy for 2023 collectible in 2024. Trustee Kraus suggested not to increase the levy. The Board discussed the anticipated dispatch service costs. Administrator Barber suggested any increase be applied towards police protection. Trustee Juzeszyn made a motion to draft an ordinance for a 2% tax levy increase for police protection. Trustee Kraus commented that the increase in the past few years went towards police protection and there are other departments that are in need of an increase. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

AYES: (4) Trustees Juzeszyn, Tieri, Gianotti and President Meyer.

NAYS: (3) Trustees Kraus, Gardner and Stacey.

Motion carried.

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

The Board discussed the bids for the new public safety facility, which were opened on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The bids came in very high in comparison to projected cost. Jim and Jerry Maciejewski and Wayne Bobiak from JMA Architects were present. Spreadsheet was provided for review with June budget for the building and the bids received. An analysis of where costs increased was included in the

gm

spreadsheet.

Trustee Gianotti expressed concerns regarding making the facility an EOC and the impact on costs.

Administrator Barber explained the possibility of removing one sallyport and the detention area, having a bench for a holding area, to eliminate square footage. Cash reserves from General Fund could go towards furnishings. If west end of building is eliminated and bids are still too high, the project would possibly be re-bid in January, 2024. The Board discussed moving the building east and having dry detention, thus eliminating the need for rip rap.

The Architect will rework numbers removing west portion of building and will provide recommendation at the first meeting in November.

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

The next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. A public hearing will be held for the proposed tobacco store at 997 Dixie Highway. There will also be a workshop on a cannabis craft grow facility on Church Road, which does comply with our special use ordinance pertaining to the cannabis business.

The Zoning Ordinance Steering Committee has reviewed the first five chapters of the new code. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.

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

ORDINANCE #1391 – An Ordinance amending the Police Commission to include the appointment and testing of corporals. Last sentence in ordinance was changed to read: The Police Chief shall appoint corporals based upon results of Police Commission testing. Trustee Tieri made a motion to approve Ordinance #1391. Trustee Stacey seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Chief Lemming provided an update on the administrative adjudication between Beecher and Peotone Police Departments. Chief Lemming feels it would be good for the Village.

Trustee Tieri provided a Halloween update. Trick or Treat hours are 4-7 p.m. on October 31<sup>st</sup>, with free hot dogs provided by the Lions Club in Firemen's Park beginning at 5 p.m.

Trustee Tieri made a motion to include an economic package to be attached to an Intergovernmental Agreement with the School District for reimbursement for the School Resource Officer program. Staff has proposed a three-year extension of the current agreement at actual costs for fiscal year 2024/2025, and a 4% increase in fiscal years 2025/2026 and 2026/2027. A chart

fan

was provided in the packet for review. The current program ends April 2024. Trustee Kraus seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Chief Lemming spoke about the Beecher Blessings program by the Police Department and Fire Department. This program will be replacing the Holiday with Heroes program. Anyone living within the school and fire district boundaries would be eligible. Letters are to be submitted to the Police Department. Nominated families would be visited, and gifts would be delivered by Santa and a fire truck. Board was asked to spread the word about this program.

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

A Penfield Street reconstruction update was provided.

An Indiana Avenue resurfacing/quiet zone implementation update was provided. Superintendent Conner said the reflectors were installed today. Public Works is hoping to put delineators back up on Thursday, weather permitting. He is hoping the railroad will reinstate the quiet zone shortly thereafter.

The 2023 resurfacing program has been completed.

A leaf collection program update was provided. Superintendent Conner reported that not many leaves are on the ground at this time. Public Works plans to begin the week of October 30<sup>th</sup> to get the machine out and make first pass of leaf pickup.

Last brush pickup of the season will be Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. The chipper will then be replaced with the leaf collection machine. Public Works purchased “brush collection has ended” signs to be posted within the Village.

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

The Fall newsletter is scheduled to be mailed this week.

Trustee Juzeszyn provided an update on the holiday tree lighting ceremony. Details for the event have been laid out. Businesses and residents were encouraged to decorate their homes and businesses.

An update on the Union Electronics building was provided. Property is ready for mass grading, but weather is currently hindering progress.

#### **G. OLD BUSINESS** – None.

## **H. ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Juzeszyn made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. to discuss Public Works personnel and Village Administrator terms and conditions for employment. Trustee Stacey seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Gianotti made a motion to return to regular session at 8:55 p.m. Trustee Tieri seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

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 the motion.

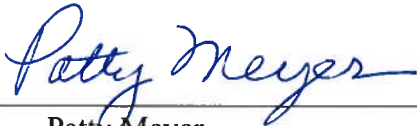
AYES: (6) Trustees Juzeszyn, Kraus, Gardner, Stacey, Tieri and Gianotti.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



---

Patty Meyer  
Deputy Village Clerk