

gm

**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
NOVEMBER 13, 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: Clerk Janett McCawley, Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Matt Conner, Chief Terry Lemming, Treasurer Donna Rooney, EMA Director Bob Heim, Charity Mitchell and Code Enforcement Officer David Harrison.

GUEST: Tom Simone and petitioners for Godfather Cigars and Tobacco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 23, 2023 Board meeting. Trustee Gianotti made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Stacey seconded.
AYES: (6) Trustees Juzeszyn, Kraus, Gardner, Stacey, Tieri and Gianotti.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion carried.

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 19, 2023 Special meeting. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded.
AYES: (6) Trustees Juzeszyn, Kraus, Gardner, Stacey, Tieri and Gianotti.
NAYS: (0) None.
Motion carried.

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 30, 2023 Special meeting. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Gianotti seconded.
AYES: (4) Trustees Kraus, Gardner, Stacey and Gianotti.
NAYS: (0) None.
ABSTAIN: (2) Trustees Juzeszyn and Tieri.
Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

Tom Simone, resident living next to the new parking lot by post office, was present. He requested a guardrail or bumper poles be put on south side of the parking lot for safety reasons. President

AM

Meyer discussed his concerns. Installing barrier bollards was discussed. The parking spot near his property was marked out so it can't be used. The lot is currently closed due to construction, but the resident was asked to wait and see how things work once the lot and road is reopened.

VILLAGE CLERK REPORT

A report on tax income received in September, 2023 was provided.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

The next 4th of July Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The next Youth Commission meeting is scheduled for November 21st at 7:30 p.m. The Glow Bike Ride was a big success. Trustee Juzeszyn thanked Beecher EMA and Police Department for their help on this event.

The next Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15th, at 6 p.m. at the Depot.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT

President Meyer appointed Charity Mitchell as new Village Administrator. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve President Meyer's appointment. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Charity Mitchell was introduced as the new Village Administrator replacing Bob Barber. She will begin work November 20, 2023.

It was reported that Ashley Woodman has resigned from the Beecher Youth Commission.

President Meyer appointed Trustee Tieri as Beecher's representative to Laraway Communications Board and Charity Mitchell as the designated alternate. Trustee Gianotti made a motion to approve President Meyer's appointment. Trustee Stacey seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

ABSTAIN: (1) Trustee Tieri.

Motion carried.

PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

ORDINANCE #1393 – An Ordinance granting a special use with conditions for a tobacco store at 997 Dixie Highway. The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing and has

AM

recommended approval of the special use permit with certain conditions as contained in the ordinance. The applicant has agreed to these conditions which will run with the location and not the business or the owner. Trustee Gardner made a motion to approve Ordinance #1393. Trustee Stacey seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

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

A public hearing for a cannabis craft grow facility special use permit at 744 W. Church Road is scheduled by the PZC for Thursday, November 16th at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The next Zoning Ordinance Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16th at 3 p.m. at the Village Hall.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded. Treasurer was present and provided a report.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Variance reports were provided in the packet for review.

Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve payment of the list of bills in the amount of \$125,428.28 and payrolls for the previous month. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Kraus made a motion to table action on adopting a tax levy for 2023 collectible in 2024 until the next meeting to take more time to look closer into the budget. Trustee Juzeszyn seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Administrator Barber said he has had multiple conversations with First Community Bank and Trust about a \$650,000 loan for the Penfield Street project. He is working on putting figures together to determine how much of a loan is needed. It would be difficult to get a loan with other banks due to them needing collateral for the loan. There were no objections by any Board members to obtaining a loan from First Community Bank and Trust.

AM

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Gianotti made a motion establishing a season for the pickleball and multi-use court at the High School. The courts will close the fourth Monday of November and open the first Monday in April each year. Trustee Kraus seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Gianotti made a motion to reject all bids for the new police station. Trustee Stacey seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

The Board considered a new bid process for the police station to take place in January with a downsized building and fewer improvements. The Board reviewed the corrected blueprint and site plan for a modified building provided by JMA Architects. This is to meet the \$4 million target placed on the project by the bond issue. Any office equipment would have to come from cash reserves in the General Fund. There were no objections to the concept plan presented.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Beecher Blessings program is now up and running. The group is applying for tax exempt status. Chief Lemming urged everyone to get the word out so they can help needy families in the community.

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

ORDINANCE #1394 – An Ordinance regulating food trucks in the Village of Beecher, with the change to Section 6-8-5-Penalties: changing “five hundred dollars” to “one hundred dollars”. Trustee Tieri made a motion to approve Ordinance #1394. Trustee Stacey seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-15 – A Resolution authorizing the Village President and Clerk to sign an agreement for the establishment of a parade policy for the Village, relating to celebratory parades. Trustee Tieri made a motion to adopt Resolution #2023-15. Trustee Stacey seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

There were no incidents to report for Halloween.

Chief Lemming provided a School Resource Officer (SRO) update. He will be having a meeting with School Superintendent Gaham at the end of November to discuss the agreement. JML

The next meeting regarding the adjudication program with Peotone will be held on Wednesday, November 15th.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

A Penfield Street improvement project update was provided. Administrator Barber reported that most of the cement west of the post office has been poured. Concerns regarding turning radius on Woodward Street have been expressed by Fire Department, so that will be addressed this week. Business operations should no longer be affected by the project.

An update was provided on the Indiana Avenue railroad quiet zone. The Village is still waiting on the Union Pacific Railroad. Delineators were temporarily removed on Penfield Street, so not sure if that is why the train horns are still being sounded.

A leaf collection program update was provided. Crews have been out every day in the last two weeks. It is taking a little over a week to get through the entire town. First week of December is estimated to be when leaf collection will end.

The Dixie Highway watermain crossover project has gone out to bid and bids will be opened on Thursday, November 30th at 10 a.m. Staff is still waiting on IDOT permit, which is holding things up.

Superintendent Conner said two new Public Works employees started that day. Mike Alberts is the new Water Operator. The Village will currently continue to use Test, Inc. for water testing. Travis Martin also started, who previously worked in Street Department in Valparaiso. Troy Larrigan will begin employment on November 27th. Troy is a 23-year employee from Village of Bradley.

Trustee Stacey thanked Administrator Barber for all of his hard work on the Penfield Street project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Fall newsletter was mailed two weeks ago.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, November 26th at 5 p.m. Park decorations have been received, which were paid for by a grant. Parade route will be determined depending on Penfield Street construction. Joe Burgess will provide firewood for the bonfire.

A Union Electronics building update was provided. Building prints were received at the Village Hall. The applicant is requesting an early start foundation permit to get things done before the ground freezes.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning at Faith Church. Board members who plan on attending were encouraged to let Administrator Barber know this week.

Administrator Barber said grant celebrations will be held at Brookfield Zoo relating to the police retention grant and holiday decorations grant, in case anyone is interested in attending.

Administrator Barber reported that the Village joined in a class action lawsuit for PFAS in water.

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

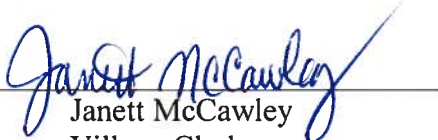
AYES: (6) Trustees Juzeszyn, Kraus, Gardner, Stacey, Tieri and Gianotti.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett McCawley
Village Clerk