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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 11, 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 Kraus, Gardner, Stacey, Tieri and Gianotti.

ABSENT: Trustee Juzeszyn.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett McCawley, Administrator Charity Mitchell, Deputy Administrator Robert Barber, Public Works Superintendent Matt Conner, Chief Terry Lemming, Treasurer Donna Rooney, Deputy Clerk Patty Meyer, Code Enforcement Officer David Harrison, Attorney Tim Kuiper and EMA Director Bob Heim.

GUESTS: Kurt Carrol, Matt Fritz, George Schuitema and Tom Durkin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 27, 2023 Board meeting. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Gardner seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

VILLAGE CLERK REPORT

- 1) Clerk McCawley reported on tax income received in November, 2023.
- 2) Dog tags are now on sale at the Village Hall.
- 3) The Administrator's retirement open house will be held on Sunday, December 17 at the Amvets Hall.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

Administrators Kurt Carrol, Tom Durkin and Matt Fritz presented Deputy Village Administrator Barber with a plaque from ICMA recognizing his contributions towards professional management in government and a donation will be made to ICMA in Administrator Barber's name towards an educational fund for professional management. They also thanked current and previous Boards for allowing Administrator Barber's involvement in local groups including; health insurance, Will County 911 Board, WCGL Board, IML Legislative Committee, Transportation Committee as well as many other boards and spoke highly of his work over the years.

Barber then provided a speech about his 35+ years at the Village and all of the meetings, agendas, etc. and changes over the years since he began at the Village. JM

President Meyer read aloud a Proclamation declaring “Bob Barber week” in Beecher, and presented him a plaque.

Tom Durkin thanked Administrator Barber for all his work and dedication over the years.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

Trustee Kraus provided a 4th of July Commission report. A meeting was held last month, and the Commission went over their budget. Next meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2024.

There was no report for the Youth Commission.

Trustee Gardner provided a Historic Preservation Commission report. Commission members will be getting together on January 3rd to set up a display at the library, which will be displayed the whole month of January. Next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2024.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT

President Meyer provided a report on the 2023 holiday lights decoration contest winners. Everyone was encouraged to drive around and look at all the great light displays.

A report was provided on the Community Mental Health Program meeting held the previous week with local taxing bodies. Joliet Fire District provided a presentation at the meeting. There are a lot of 911 calls regarding mental health problems. This program would provide those who need it, mental health services whether or not they have insurance. They would be able to reach a mental health provider within 24 hours of having a crisis. More meetings will be held to learn more about the program.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Kraus made a motion approving the Treasurer’s report. Treasurer Rooney was present and provided a report. Trustee Tieri seconded.

AYES: (5) Trustees 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 \$468,797.65 and payroll since the last meeting. Trustee Tieri seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

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Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve Ordinance #1396. An Ordinance adopting a tax levy for 2023 collectible in 2024 for a 0% levy increase.. Trustee Gardner seconded.

AYES: (2) Trustees Kraus and Gardner.

NAYS: (3) Trustees Stacey, Tieri and Gianotti.

Motion failed.

ORDINANCE #1396 – An Ordinance adopting a 3% tax levy to be designated to the Corporate Fund in the levy. Trustee Stacey made a motion and Trustee Gianotti seconded to approve.

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

NAYS: (2) Trustees Kraus and Gardner.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #1397 – An Ordinance pertaining to the Illinois Paid Leave For All Workers Act. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve. Trustee Gianotti seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #1398 – An Ordinance authorizing the borrowing of funds from First Community Bank and Trust in the amount of \$650,000 for the Penfield Street improvement project. The loan will have an interest rate of 4.05% and will be repaid in ten years. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve. Trustee Tieri seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-16 – A Resolution for Local Public Agency of intent authorizing the use of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds to repay the \$650,000 loan for the Penfield Street improvement project. Trustee Kraus made a motion to adopt Resolution #2023-16. Trustee Stacey seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-17 – A Resolution authorizing line-item transfers to the budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 to cover the overlap of Village Administrators. Total amount to be transferred is \$21,222.77. Trustee Kraus made a motion and Trustee Gardner seconded to adopt Resolution.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A Police Department construction update was provided. The letting of bids is planned for January 8, 2024, with a bid opening date of January 24, 2024. There was an amendment from JMA Architects for architect costs plus engineering in the amount of \$38,000. There were no objections to the amendment and the item will be placed on the agenda at next meeting for formal approval.

The status of final closeout of ARPA projects was provided by Superintendent Conner. He went over all the projects completed with the ARPA funds. The only outstanding project is electric panels in Firemen's Park. Projects came in just under budget.

A Country Lane plat of vacation update was provided. Attorney Kuiper explained the property would need to be vacated as a 60' right of way with a 20' easement within the right of way. The attorney recommended to not vacate the property alone since it wouldn't be able to be done with the three property owners involved.

PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

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

A Zoning Ordinance update was provided. The Zoning Ordinance Steering Committee met on December 6, 2023. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

Snow parking ban for the winter season is now in effect. No parking is allowed for 24 hours within a snowfall of 2" or more. Last year only warnings were given. This year tickets will be issued for those violating the ordinance. Penfield and Gould Street business district areas would be exempted.

An administrative adjudication update was provided. Staff is still waiting on Peotone to provide the intergovernmental agreement.

A Beecher Blessings update was provided. Event will be held on Sunday morning with gifts to be delivered to recipients. Board members were welcome to attend breakfast being provided at the Fire Station.

Santa will be riding the streets of town on Christmas Eve in a fire engine again this year.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

A Penfield Street improvement project update was provided. Sod was laid earlier in the day. Striping will occur this week. A meeting will be held on Tuesday about the final surface and other items that need to be completed next year. Railroad has been sent a letter requesting to reinstate the quiet zone. They haven't responded or come out to do an inspection yet.

Final leaf collection update was provided. Forty loads of leaves were collected with the new machine. New machine is much larger than old machine.

The Board discussed bids for the Dixie Highway watermain crossover project. The bid opening for this project was held on November 30, 2023. A bid tabulation sheet and letter of recommendation from the engineer were provided. JM

Trustee Stacey made a motion approving the proposal from Reichelt Plumbing Inc. to replace the chlorine supply lines at well #4 and well #5 in the amount of \$7,500. Trustee Gardner seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Stacey made a motion to waive the formal bid process to complete emergency rehab work at the Fairway Drive lift station. The rehab will be replacing two pumps and necessary materials, most of which are original from 1994. Trustee Gardner seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Stacey made a motion approving Superior Pumping Services to complete emergency rehab work at the Fairway Drive lift station in an amount not to exceed \$85,000. The electrical control portion of the rehab is not expected to exceed \$15,000 and funds will be borrowed from the General Fund to complete this project. Trustee Gardner seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Donna Rooney provided an update on the Beecher Community Joint Fuel Committee meeting. She discussed bid letting and condition of fuel checking account. Fuel Account is the lowest it has been in years. She explained some of the possible reasons. Fuel Committee decided to decrease payment from \$400 to \$200 per month to manage the fuel system and increase the surcharge to the users to bring the fund into a better financial position.

Trustee Stacey made a motion approving IDOT Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement supplement #1 with Baxter and Woodman Inc. in the amount of \$73,750 for construction management services on the Penfield Street project. Trustee Gardner seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Stacey made a motion approving IDOT Local Public Agency Amendment #1 in the amount of \$72,000 for preliminary engineering (Phase II) cost increase pertaining to Penfield Street improvement project. This agreement is required to receive the 80% reimbursement for the project. Trustee Gardner seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

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Trustee Stacey made a motion approving IDOT Local Public Agency Amendment #1 in the amount of \$443,994 for construction cost increase pertaining to Penfield Street improvement project. Trustee Gardner seconded.

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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

A report on Will County Center for Economic Development Annual Report to investors meeting was provided by Administrator Mitchell. Information was provided about current projects in Will County, manufacturing jobs and economic development. Will County is leading the state in job creation and residential home building.

OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Kraus asked about the watermain crossover project. Superintendent Conner and Deputy Administrator Barber reported that bids came in at \$1.22 million and \$1.4 million, which was what was anticipated. The Village is not ready to consider a bid award at this time. Another month is needed to evaluate bids. Lowest bidder walked the project area and came up with some ideas for reducing the costs to reduce their bid number.

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Village Administrator Barber thanked the Village for letting him serve for the many years as Village Administrator.

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


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

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Janett McCawley
Village Clerk