

**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 14, 2025 -- 6:00 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 Tieri, Smith, Kraus, Diachenko, Stacey and Gardner.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Janett McCawley, Deputy Clerk Denise Abbink, Public Works Superintendent Matt Conner, Treasurer Donna Lippelt, Administrator Charity Mitchell, Chief Terry Lemming, EMA Director Bob Heim Code Enforcement Officer Dave Harrison, and Attorney Tim Kuiper

GUESTS: George Schuitema, Jennifer Doss and Dale Gerretse from Groskreutz, Abraham, Eshleman, and Gerretse LLC, and Ryan Dunfee from Earthrise Energy

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Meyer asked for consideration of the minutes of the September 22, 2025, Board meeting. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Stacey seconded.

AYES: (6) Trustees Tieri, Smith, Kraus, Diachenko, Stacey and Gardner.

NAYS: (0) None

Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE – None

VILLAGE CLERK REPORT

Tax income received in October totaled \$779,506.21, the majority of which came from real estate taxes that were due.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ryan Dunfee, a representative of Earthrise Energy, presented information on the proposed Plum Valley Solar Project. The proposed project site is located within the Village of Beecher's 1.5 miles planning jurisdiction, situated to the north and west of the Village. Community Benefit Agreement with Sparrow Property Management, LLC was presented to the Board to be discussed later in the meeting.

10A

President Meyer informed the Board that she met with Fire Chief Falaschetti a few weeks ago to discuss the upcoming closure of the hospital in Dyer, IN, and its potential impact on emergency response times. Board was informed a part-time BFPD firefighter currently attending school to become a certified fire inspector will begin shadowing an inspector from the B&F later this week as part of their training.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE COMMISSIONS

4th of July Commission- No report.

A Youth Commission report was provided by Trustee Smith. The next meeting will be held on October 21, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. The BYC will host “Family Night At The Farm” at Windmill Acres on October 17th and Junior High Skate Night at Lynwood Sport Center on November 21st.

Trustee Gardner reported the next Historic Preservation meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2025.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Seconded by Trustee Diachenko. Treasurer Lippelt was present and provided a summary.

AYES: (6) Trustees Tieri, Smith, Kraus, Diachenko, Stacey and Gardner.

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 \$167,810.72 and payroll since the last meeting. Seconded by Trustee Stacey.

AYES: (6) Trustees Tieri, Smith, Kraus, Diachenko, Stacey and Gardner.

NAYS: (0) None

Motion carried.

Jennifer Doss, CPA from Groskreutz, Abraham, Eshleman, and Gerretse LLC presented and provided a report on the Fiscal Year 2024/25 audit to the Board. Village is in good financial position according to the audit report. Trustee Kraus made a motion to approve the FY24-25 financial audit. Seconded by Trustee Stacey.

AYES: (6) Trustees Tieri, Smith, Kraus, Diachenko, Stacey and Gardner.

NAYS: (0) None

Motion carried.

Administrator Mitchell reported on plans to begin recruitment for a full-time administrative assistant for the Village Hall. There were no objections to staff moving forward with the hiring process.

OA

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Diachenko requested an executive session to discuss the establishment of terms for the sale of village-owned property.

PLANNING, BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

The Building Department monthly report was provided for review.

ORDINANCE #1441- An Ordinance granting a special use in the B-3 general business and service district for a daycare facility located at 993 Dixie Highway. Trustee Stacey made a motion approving Ordinance #1441. Trustee Smith seconded.

AYES: (6) Trustees Tieri, Smith, Kraus, Diachenko, Stacey and Gardner.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Last Tuesday, the Village President, Trustees, representatives from the Fire Department, SAFEbuilt, and Village staff participated in a walkthrough of the Lennar model home in the Hunters Chase East subdivision. During the visit, many questions were answered by the developers. Several attendees also toured additional homes under construction in the development.

The next PZC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

Village Attorney was authorized to draft an ordinance as it pertains to electric bicycles based on Public Safety Committee recommendations.

Chief Lemming reported on the new squad car. A Dodge truck has been received and will be assigned to Sgt. DaCorte after all equipment is installed and is expected to be brought into service by October 23, 2025. The old squad will be transferred to Director Heim for EMA use. One additional squad is planned for next year, with two more the following year to maintain a reliable fleet.

The Department of Public Works will purchase the 2009 Chevy HHR, formerly used by EMA, for \$2,000. The vehicle will be used for meter reading and utility locates.

Trustee Tieri requested an executive session to discuss a possible candidate for part-time employment.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works, Water Department and Wastewater Treatment Plant monthly reports were provided for review.

10A

Trustee Gardner made a motion to declare two Spartan mowers as surplus property and set minimum bids of \$2,000 for the 2019 and \$3,500 for the 2020 mowers. Seconded by Trustee Stacey.

AYES: (6) Trustees Tieri, Smith, Kraus, Diachenko, Stacey and Gardner.

NAYS: (0) None

Motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Smith provided an update regarding the installation of the new wayfinding sign for downtown businesses. Public Works staff installed the sign on October 9th at the corner of Dixie Highway and Penfield Street. The purchase of the sign was funded through the TIF District.

Discussion and consideration of a potential Village project, to be funded through a donation provided as part of a Community Benefit Agreement with Sparrow Property Management, LLC, was tabled for further consideration.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

There being no further business to discuss in regular session, Trustee Diachenko made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. to discuss personnel and sale of Village property. Trustee Tieri seconded.

AYES: (6) Trustees Tieri, Smith, Kraus, Diachenko, Stacey and Gardner.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Trustee Stacey made a motion to return from Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. Trustee Smith seconded.

AYES: (6) Trustees Tieri, Smith, Kraus, Diachenko, Stacey and Gardner.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS - None

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

AYES: (6) Trustees Tieri, Smith, Kraus, Diachenko, Stacey and Gardner.

NAYS: (0) None.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



By Denise Abbink, Deputy Clerk
for Janett McCawley, Village Clerk