

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees

March 3, 2008

**Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL**

Meeting called to order to pay bills for the month of February and transact any other business that may come before the Board of Trustees. Meeting agenda and guest sign-in sheet are attached.

Supervisor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces and for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Roll call:

Present: Supervisor Bob Howard Trustees: Elmer Becker, Dan Waterman, Ted Deery

Absent: Dennis Koehn

Other Officials present:

Clerk Joe Burgess, Commissioner Jerry Meyer, and Assessor Carol Blume

Approval of the February 4, 2008, Board Meeting Minutes:

Motion:

Trustee Becker made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2008 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Howard - yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy attended a recent Village Planning & Zoning Committee meeting and told the board the proposed Beecher Intermodal facility was looking to expand farther south than originally planned. It was Mr. Willy's opinion that the proposed intermodal facility was detrimental to the residents of Beecher and Washington Township as it will increase traffic, pollute the air and reduce land values in the area. Willy was also against any TIFF district being considered for the intermodal site in question.

Reports:

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer discussed his written report (attached). A representative from Prime Tack and Seal is scheduled to meet with Meyer and try to determine why the roads that were tar & chipped last year have failed in less than six months. Portions of Yates and Brunswick Roads will be resurfaced with 3" of blacktop in 2008. A total of 1 3/4 miles is slated to be resurfaced and the project will be funded with MFT (Motor Fuel Tax) money. A one-mile section of east Corning Road, from Klemme to the State Line will be upgraded with an additional 8" of stone. Meyer is applying for grant money in excess of \$100,000 that is to be used to upgrade all signage within the township. The township still has a supply of salt and salt for next year must be order before the end of March.

2. Assessor – The Assessor and her staff have been busy assessing and reassessing property in the township. Approximately \$2,000,000 of new property has been added to the EAV since the beginning of the year.
3. Town Clerk – Clerk Burgess and Supervisor Howard attended the village board meeting on March 10 and presented the village Trustee’s with the senior citizen’s schedule of events. The goal was to include the village in all senior events and to work with the village to develop more programs for the senior residents in the township. Howard and Burgess will also meet with Police Chief Jeff Weissgerber and Lt. Rick Emerson to develop a partnership for youth activities between the township and police department.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.
5. Drainage District – No report.
6. Park Board Report – No report.
7. Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Howard commented that the township is looking forward to working with the village on senior and youth activities and hoped additional programs could be offered in the coming year. Howard also suggested that long range planning should include finding a building that could be used for a Senior Center. The Senior Breakfast will be held on March 29 at Cardinal Creek Golf Course and presentations will be given by Doc’s Drugs and Accountant Tom Brislane, who will explain the one-time tax refund the IRS is offering this year and what seniors should do to qualify for the refund. The village is considering a referendum on the November ballot asking voters to allow them to reissue bonds that would be used to build a new Public Works garage.
8. Open Space Initiative Committee – The committee is considering mailing the attached letter, which introduces the committee and outlines their goals, to local organizations in an effort to gain support for the development of open space in the township. The letter may also be published as a “Letter to the Editor” in the local paper. After reviewing the letter Trustee Deery recommended that the “goal” be rewritten to address the urge to “enhance the township by preserving open space ” and not to “offset the rapid growth” as indicated. Deery believed the new wording would not sound as though the township is against controlled growth, which Deery said was necessary and beneficial to local businesses. It was also recommended that a list of scheduled meeting dates be included so recipients could attend upcoming meetings of their choice.

The board then reviewed the “Open Space Plan Adoption Procedures” as prepared on January 21, 2008 by Ancel Glink. During discussion, Trustee Deery asked if the referendum for a levy to fund the acquisition of land was being considered for passage at the same time they were seeking approval of the Open Space Plan. Mike Mach indicated that the initial step was to gather enough signatures on a petition, which allows the Township Board to begin preparation of an Open Space Plan. Mach said it was the committee’s desire to first set-up a mechanism that would allow the township to accept donations and contributions towards securing open space.

9. Transportation Report - Pat Peters reported that the newly formed Transportation Committee recently met and began working on the necessary items which are to be attached to the Pace bus application. Items discussed include driver requirements, hours of service, days of service, passenger fees and reviewing a Pace approved Drug and

Alcohol Policy. A brochure outlining the Dial-a-Ride program has also been reviewed and updated. Pat told the board that she has been in contact with Pace and a bus has been reserved for the township.

Clerk Burgess told the board that a Transportation Coordinator needs to be identified in the Pace application and he recommended hiring Pat Peters as the Washington Township Transportation Coordinator. Ms. Peters has several years of experience in transportation with Rich Township and has a good working knowledge of the Pace bus program.

Trustee Deery recommended approaching the Village of Beecher for funding assistance before their budget process ends. Supervisor Howard said he would approach the village about funding at their next meeting on March 10.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Establish Guidelines to utilize the Washington Township Center as a Heating/Cooling Center – Information will be provided to the board at the May meeting.
2. Not for Profit Status – The application has been prepared and Supervisor Howard has to review and sign the application before it is mailed.
3. Pace Bus Application – As reported during the Transportation Report, the committee is working on the checklist items necessary before the application can be mailed to Pace. This also includes providing information to Pace, including hours of service, service area and an overview of the Dial-a-Ride program.
4. 2008 Budget Discussion – Clerk Burgess will have preliminary budget information available for the Trustees at the March 24 meeting. Final 2007-08 budget numbers will be available at the close of the fiscal year (March 31) and will be available at the Budget Workshop Meeting to be held on April 8 immediately following the Annual Town Meeting.
5. Consideration and Approval of Proposal from Ancel Glink – Supervisor Howard told the board that Ancel Glink currently charges \$180 per hour for legal services and Mr. Porter's consultant rate is \$90 an hour. Howard said that it would cost approximately \$4000 if Ancel Glink were used to prepare the documents needed for the Open Space Committee. The board discussed and agreed that Ancel Glink should be used for legal services but determined that the total expenditures for their service should not exceed \$4000, which includes the \$1440 that has already been spent to date.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve Ancel Glink for professional services necessary for the Open Space Committee; services are NOT to exceed \$4000 including current charges of \$1440. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations – There were no Planning Commission recommendations to be acted upon.
2. Consideration and Approval of April 8, 2008 Annual Town Meeting Agenda – Clerk Burgess presented the attached copy of the 2008 Annual Town Meeting Agenda and

asked the board if there was any “new” business that should be included. The board determined the agenda was acceptable as presented.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Trustee Becker to approve the 2008 Annual Town Meeting Agenda as presented, seconded by Trustee Deery. Roll Call vote as follows: Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes, Waterman – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

3. Approval of Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 – The board reviewed the proposed 2008-09 Board of Trustees meeting dates and during discussion it was recommended that the Monday, January 5 meeting be changed to Thursday, January 8, 2009. The board determined all other proposed meeting dates and times were acceptable.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Trustee Deery to approve the proposed 2008-2009 Board of Trustees meeting schedule that included changing the January 5 meeting to January 8 and all other meeting dates approved as presented. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. Roll Call vote as follows: Deery – yes, Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

4. Consideration and Approval of Financial Institution(s) for 2008-09 Fiscal Year - Prior to the discussion of this item, Trustee Becker declared that he was a shareholder of First Community Bancorp and recused himself from the meeting. Although not a voting Board member, Clerk Burgess indicated that his wife was a stockholder of First Community Bancorp and also an officer of First Community Bank and Trust and declared he would not participate in any discussion.

Supervisor Howard reported that he was satisfied with township’s current financial institution.

MOTION:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve First Community Bank and Trust (Beecher, IL) as Washington Township’s approved financial institution for the 2008-09 fiscal year. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. Discussion: Trustee’s Waterman and Deery did not believe that the township should be paying monthly service charges of approximately \$24 per month and asked Supervisor Howard to meet with bank officials to determine if the fees could be waived or reduced. Roll call vote as follows: Deery – yes, Waterman – yes, Howard – yes.

Motion passed 3-0.

5. Consideration and Approval of the Washington Township Drug & Alcohol Policy – The preliminary draft of the Washington Township Drug & Alcohol Policy was presented to the board for review. The policy is required by Pace and must be approved before the Pace bus application can be returned. The board determined that they needed additional time to review the policy and will consider the policy for approval at the March 24 Board Meeting.

Payment of Bills:

Town Account

The Board reviewed the bills as presented by the Supervisor.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, debits and appropriate transfers as presented for the **Town Account** totaling **\$7,869.31**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented. It was noted that the voucher report submitted by Clerk Burgess had the dollar amounts for ComEd and Verizon Wireless reversed. The ComEd bill was \$413.42 and the Verizon bill was \$53.47. Clerk Burgess made the necessary changes on the voucher sheet.

MOTION:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, and appropriate transfers or debits as presented for the **Road & Bridge Account** totaling **\$33,071.06**. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Deery – yes, Waterman – yes, Becker – ABSTAIN, Howard –yes. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Announcements:

None.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. March 24, 2008 – Washington Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.

Adjournment:

Being no further business or discussion, Trustee Waterman made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Deery, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____