

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees

May 4, 2009

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

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

In the absence of Supervisor Howard, Trustee Koehn called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and then 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: Trustees: Elmer Becker, Dan Waterman, Dennis Koehn and Ted Deery

Absent: Supervisor Bob Howard

Other Officials present:

Clerk Joe Burgess and Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated March 23, 2009:

Trustee Koehn asked if there were any corrections or additions to the March 23, 2009 board meeting minutes as presented. Being none, Koehn asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery – yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of the Special Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated April 20, 2009:

Trustee Koehn asked if there were any corrections or additions to the April 20, 2009 board meeting minutes as presented. Being none, Koehn asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Becker made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2009 Special Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy recently attended a meeting at Will Township and expressed his concerns that invited officials in attendance were prepared to use eminent domain to secure property for the proposed airport. Willy was upset about the lack of action by local residents and area officials for not speaking out against the airport and said “no one” is talking about the damaging effects that will be caused by air pollution if the airport was to be built in our area.

Public Commentary: cont.

Beecher resident Paul Lohmann expressed his concern regarding his recent property tax bill and said the bill was too high and the current system does not work. Lohmann said there was no way his house would sell for the estimated price that was listed on his bill. Trustee Waterman told Lohmann he should call the assessor's office and that the recent newsletter explained that current bills were still based on home values from the previous three years in which two of those years showed significant growth in the township and the housing market in general.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer discussed his written report (attached). In addition to his written report, Meyer said he hired a company that used a new technology to repair potholes and other bad spots on Corning Road. The company used a Warren “Total Patcher” which uses spray injection to clean and fill potholes with chips and oil and Warren claims that this patch will last significantly longer than just filling a hole with cold patch mix. Meyer said he is considering purchasing a unit for the township and it will cost approximately \$52,000 but the unit would save the township money through savings in time and materials. Meyer said the unit would repair bad spots on roads for approximately half the cost of traditional cold patch methods. A recent “Flagging Class” was held at the Washington Township Center and several employees from the Village of Beecher and other local townships were in attendance. The class was designed to train workers on properly flagging traffic in road construction zones and was sponsored by our insurance company.
2. Assessor – No report – Assessor Blume was not in attendance.
3. Town Clerk – The results from the 2009 Consolidated Elections have been certified by the Will County Clerk's Office and Burgess will administer the “Official Oaths of Office” to all newly elected board members after the meeting concluded. The Spring / Summer edition of the Washington Township Newsletter was printed and would be mailed within the next few days. Clerk Burgess reminded the Board that the Senior Prom would be held at Cardinal Creek Golf Course on May 16 starting at 7 pm and encouraged all Board members to attend. Thirteen area seniors attended the last Senior Movie Night and watched “Driving Miss Daisy”.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.
5. Drainage District – No report.
6. Supervisor's Report – No report – Supervisor Howard was not in attendance.
7. Open Space Initiative Committee – No report.
8. Transportation Report – No report - Transportation Director Pat Peters was not in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Washington Township Employee Handbook – Trustee Waterman is working on the preliminary outline of the handbook and expects to have a draft of the handbook available at the June meeting.

2. Consideration and Approval of Maintenance Contract for Washington Township Generator – The board reviewed two maintenance contract proposals (attached) to service the generator located at the township center. One proposal from Pure Power Systems included 4 visits per year for a total of \$1330 annually. The second proposal from Alternative Energy Solutions offered an option of either one or two visits per year and was for a total of \$291 for one visit or \$532 for two visits. The board discussed the proposals and Trustee Becker recommended that the board consider the one visit option from Alternative Energy Solutions because the generator was still new and he didn't believe there was any reason to schedule additional visits or pay the extra costs associated with those visits.

Motion:

Trustee Becker made a motion to accept the Generator Maintenance Agreement from Alternative Energy Solutions with the option of one yearly visit for a cost of \$291. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery – 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. Senior Fitness Program – Clerk Burgess attended a Senior Fitness Open House program presented by Scott Kausal owner of Phoenix Fitness, and a local resident who is a certified personal trainer. Approximately 14 seniors attended the Open House and listened to Kausal explain the importance of seniors being active and the benefits of exercise as the body ages. Kausal has proposed offering Senior Fitness classes two days a week at the Washington Township Center and would charge attendees \$40 per month for the classes. Burgess said that several seniors signed up for the classes and after talking to Supervisor Howard, they would like the Board to consider paying for the “first” fitness class (cost \$5) for any Washington Township senior who attends. Burgess explained this would allow seniors to attend their first class at no cost and they could then decide if they wanted to continue the program and pay their own way. Trustee Koehn agreed with the idea behind the program but questioned allowing someone to use the facility to “make money”. Koehn said allowing this activity was not consistent with the Facilities Use Policy and allowing it would set a precedent. Trustee Deery said the township should encourage seniors to attend these classes and it was another opportunity to offer programs to the township seniors. Other discussion included waiting to see how many seniors attended the classes and possibly hiring Kausal to run a program for Washington Township and eliminating all charges to the seniors.

Motion:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve the usage of the Washington Township Center for monthly Senior Fitness Programs as offered by Scott Kausal (Phoenix Fitness) and that Washington Township would pay for the INITIAL class for any Washington Township senior who attends the program. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Deery – yes, Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Becker – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

3. Consideration of Donation Request from the Beecher 4th of July Commission – A donation request was received from the Beecher 4th of July Commission for the 2009 celebration. It was noted that the Board donated \$500 to the commission last year and that level of sponsorship includes recognition on 4th of July banners, event flyers and newspaper articles. Clerk Burgess told the board that the tentative budget included a \$2000 line item for donations.

Motion:

Trustee Becker made a motion to donate \$500 to the *Beecher 4th of July Commission*. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

4. A Resolution Adopting a Community-wide Strategic Plan for the Beecher Community – Clerk Burgess passed out a proposed resolution as prepared by the local taxing bodies which outlines a 2030 community-wide strategic plan for the Beecher area including Washington Township. Burgess recommended that the board review the resolution over the next month and consider any action on the resolution at the June 1 Board meeting. The board agreed to the Clerk’s recommendation.

Payment of Bills:

Town Account

The Board reviewed the bills as presented by the Clerk Burgess.

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 **\$35,847.89**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Koehn – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Commissioner Meyer. A question arose regarding a \$4,346 bill from NICOR and Meyer explained that all previous bills were estimated and that NICOR finally came out and read the meter. The bill was then divided between the township, Road District and school district.

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 **\$45,428.27**. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – ABSTAIN.

Motion passed 3-0.

Announcements:

None.

Acknowledgements:

Commissioner Jerry Meyer publicly thanked Trustee Dennis Koehn for all of his assistance and support he has shown to the Washington Township Road District during his 20-year tenure as a Trustee. Meyer said his presence on the board would be missed.

Village Mayor Paul Lohmann, speaking on behalf of the Village of Beecher, thanked Trustee Koehn for the support and cooperation he has shown towards the Village of Beecher and the Beecher Village Board. Lohmann congratulated Koehn on his 20-year career as a Trustee and wished him well as he steps down from his position.

Clerk Joe Burgess thanked Trustee Koehn for his dedication to serve the residents of Washington Township and personally thanked Trustee Koehn for his support, assistance and friendship while serving together on the board. Burgess said Koehn was always prepared for meetings and was an excellent Trustee and “in his opinion” anyone replacing Trustee Koehn had “big shoes to fill”.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. June 1, 2009 – Town Budget Hearing – 6:30 pm at the Washington Township Center
2. June 1, 2009 – Road District Budget Hearing – 6:45 pm at the Washington Township Center
3. June 1, 2009 – Washington Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.

Adjournment:

Being no further business or discussion, Trustee Koehn, in his last official act as a Washington Township Trustee made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Becker, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____