

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
May 5, 2008
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.

Supervisor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, Ted Deery, Dennis Koehn

Absent: Trustee Dan Waterman

Other Officials present: Clerk Joe Burgess, Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes Dated March 24, 2008:

Motion:

Trustee Becker made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2008 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, Koehn – yes, Howard - yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes Dated April 8, 2008:

Motion:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting dated April 8, 2008 as presented. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Deery – yes, Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Howard - yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Public Commentary:

Resident George Willy inquired if a local Internet provider (AIRbaud) was going to offer township residents a special rate for their Internet access service. Supervisor Howard indicated that it was being considered but he had no further information.

Reports

1. *Road Commissioner* – Commissioner Meyer discussed his written report (attached). Hot patching has begun and Meyer noted that the cost of patch mix has increased \$17 per ton over the last two years. After investigating roads where tar & chipping failed to bond properly last year, Prime Seal, who supplied the oil for the project, has determined that the failure may have been caused by not applying enough oil during the process. Oil was applied at approximately .30 gallons per square yard and should have been applied at .45 gallons. Meyer is in discussion with Prime Seal to determine the next steps to resurface the roads. The 1987 Mack truck is in need of frame repairs and will not pass safety

inspection without these repairs. Meyer considered replacing the truck but determined that the truck was still in good operational condition and decided that fixing the frame was a better alternative than buying a new truck. Sections of Yates and Brunswick Roads have been approved to receive 3" of blacktop this summer. The total cost of the 1 3/4 mile project is \$196,000 and will be paid with Motor Fuel Tax money.

2. Assessor – No report. Assessor Blum was not in attendance.
3. Town Clerk – Petitions were filed on May 2, 2008 at the Clerk's office recommending that the township board commence the preparation of an open space plan. A public hearing must be held to determine the validity of the petitions and a public notice must be published within five business days of receiving the petitions. The public hearing notice will be in the May 8 edition of the Beecher Herald and the public hearing will be held on May 15 at 7 PM at the Washington Township Center. Clerk Burgess and JoAnn Mueller attended a Deputy Registrar training class on May 3 and are now authorized to register residents to vote. Residents may now apply for reduced rate RTA Permits at the WTC during normal business hours and the Clerk's office will soon be offering short term Disability Parking Placards to qualified residents. All paperwork has been approved and the placards need to be acquired before the service can be started. An ad for part-time bus drivers has been placed in the next edition of all papers published by Russell Publications. Drivers are still needed before the Pace bus application can be submitted for processing.

JoAnn Mueller reported that the over 55 Senior Prom, "An Evening in Paris", would be held on June 7 at 7 pm at the Beecher Jr. High gymnasium. Decorations for the prom were donated by Beecher High School and music and light refreshments will be available. The board also agreed to open the prom to non-township seniors who wished to attend.

4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – WTPC Chairman Mike Stanula reported that the WTPC had met to discuss two requests for zoning variances. (1) Solo and Kim Pena are requesting a Special Use Permit to allow for Echo Housing on their property. There is already a vacant mobile home on the property and they would like to use the home as a resident for an elderly grandmother. Stanula said that the property meets all the requirements to allow for Echo Housing and that the WTPC voted to grant the Special Use Permit and is recommending that the Township Board also approves their request. (2) Dean Bettenhausen has inquired about a frontage variance request for a 10 acre parcel with 265' of frontage (the current minimum for frontage is 330') along Yates Avenue. The 10-acre parcel is rectangular and is adjacent to Bettenhausen's parents' property. Bettenhausen indicated that he wants to build a home on the site so he can be close to his parents and he currently farms all the adjacent property and stores his equipment on the family farm. Stanula said that the property has been in the family for more than 50 years and that the WTPC has received an application and site plan from Bettenhausen and that the WTPC is recommending the approval of the Special Use Permit for a Frontage Variance.
5. Drainage District – No report.
6. Park Board Report – No report.

7. Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Howard spoke about the open space initiative being considered by the township and the positive signal the board was sending to the community by looking to the future to preserve open space for recreation and keeping green areas within the township. Howard reported that a letter he sent to the Will County Forest Preserve last year about completing bike trails is being considered by the Forest Preserve and they are looking to purchase property to connect the Beecher trail to the existing Vincennes Bike Trail by way of Crete Township. There is also talk of extending the Beecher trail along Trim Creek to Eagle Lake and possibly looking to start expanding the trail south towards the Kankakee River. The Forest Preserve has the financial resources to move forward and Supervisor Howard will be working with the Forest Preserve in the coming months.
8. Open Space Initiative Committee – As reported by Clerk Burgess, petitions requesting that the township board begin the preparation of an open space plan were filed in his office on May 2, 2008.
9. Transportation Report – Pat Peters told the board that the Pace application will be completed at the end of the week and she will submit it to Pace once it has been signed by the Supervisor, Clerk and township attorney.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Establish Guidelines to utilize the Washington Township Center as a Heating/Cooling Center – Information was not yet available and will be submitted to the board at an upcoming meeting.
2. Not for Profit Status – The not-for-profit application has been submitted to the state and Supervisor Howard is waiting for their response.
3. Pace Bus Application – As reported by Pat Peters during the Transportation Report, the Pace application has been completed and will be submitted to Pace once signed by the necessary officials. Ms. Peters expects to submit the application to Pace by May 8.
4. 2008 Budget Discussion – The 2008 preliminary Town and Road & Bridge Budget Ordinances will be available for public inspection at the Beecher Library for the next 31 days. Residents can also view the budgets by contacting Clerk Burgess and making an appointment to review the documents.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations – Supervisor Howard asked the Board to consider action on the two recommendations made earlier by the WTPC to approve Special Use Permits for Solo and Kim Pena and Dean Bettenhausen.

MOTION:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve a Special Use Permit for a 265' Frontage Variance to Dean Bettenhausen. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

MOTION:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve a Special Use Permit for Echo Housing to Solo and Kim Pena. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Deery – yes, Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

2. *Employment of Transportation Coordinator for Township Dial-a-Ride Program* – Clerk Burgess reported that Pace requires that a Transportation Coordinator be named in the Pace Agreement and that this person would be the main contact for any communication with Pace. (Ms. Peters has applied for the Transportation Coordinator position for Washington Township.) Clerk Burgess recommended hiring Peters as the Transportation Coordinator because of her experience working with Pace as the Transportation Director at Rich Township for many years, which is the second largest Pace bus center in the Pace system.

MOTION:

Trustee Becker made a motion to hire Pat Peters as the Washington Township Transportation Coordinator, effective when the “Pace Locally Based Service Program Agreement” was approved. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. Trustee Deery asked about salary requirements for the Transportation Coordinator. The preliminary budget does include \$1500 annually for this position but it was decided during discussion to defer setting a salary for the Transportation Coordinator until after the budget was approved. Roll Call vote as follows: Becker – yes, Koehn-yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

3. *Set Date and Time for Town Account Budget Hearing* - – Clerk Burgess recommended holding the Town Budget Hearing on June 2, 2008 at 6:30 pm at the Washington Township Center. This will satisfy all legal requirements pertaining to the Budget being available for public inspection for 30 days prior to the hearing.

MOTION:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to hold the Public Hearing for the proposed *Washington Township Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #08-01*, at 6:30 pm, on June 2, 2008, at the Washington Township Center. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

4. *Set Date and Time for Road District Budget Hearing* – Highway Commissioner Meyer told the Board that the Public Hearing for the proposed *Washington Township Road District Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #08-02* would be held at 6:45 pm on June 2, 2008 at the Washington Township Center.
5. *Consideration and Approval of Donation to Beecher Police Department for Youth Activities* – Beecher Police Chief Jeff Weissgerber addressed the board regarding several youth programs currently being offered by the Beecher Police Department and the Village of Beecher. The village has given \$15,000 to the programs over the last three years but this year’s budget had to be reduced for financial reasons. Weissgerber asked the board to consider assisting the village in funding the program so activities would not have to be cut. It was noted that the activities offered by the Beecher Police are open to

all children who reside in Washington Township. Supervisor Howard recommended that the Board help fund the program and said this was not a donation but a partnership with the Village of Beecher and the Beecher Police Department to continue offering and expanding youth activities within Washington Township and that the township may also participate with these programs as necessary. The proposed township budget has \$5000 allocated towards youth programs and the board discussed how much should be allocated towards Chief Weissgerber's request.

MOTION:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to contribute \$4000 to the Beecher Police Department to be used for Youth Programs in Washington Township. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Payment of Bills:

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Commissioner Meyer.

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 **\$39,541.80**. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Deery – yes, Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Howard –yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Town Account

The Board reviewed the bills as presented by the Supervisor.

MOTION:

Trustee Becker made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, debits and appropriate transfers as presented for the **Town Account** totaling **\$15,689.91**. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion.

Roll Call vote: Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Koehn – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Insurance Fund

The board reviewed the bills as presented.

MOTION:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve payment of all bills as presented for the **Insurance Fund** totaling **\$340.00**. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Deery – yes, Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Howard –yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Announcements:

None.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. May 15, 2008 – Public Hearing to Determine the Validity of Open Space Petitions - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.
2. June 2, 2008 – Washington Township Budget Hearing – 6:30 pm at the Washington Township Center.
3. June 2, 2008 – Washington Township Road & Bridge Budget Hearing – 6:45 pm at the Washington Township Center.
4. June 2, 2008 – Washington Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.

Adjournment:

Being no further business or discussion, Trustee Koehn made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Becker, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____