

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
July 7, 2008
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Meeting called to order to pay bills for the month of June 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 7:00 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, Dan Waterman Absent: None

Other Officials present: Clerk Joe Burgess, Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer and Assessor Carol Ann Blume

Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes Dated May 15, 2008:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May 15, 2008 Special Board meeting minutes as presented, being none, Howard asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2008 Special Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes Dated June 2, 2008:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the June 2 Board Meeting minutes as presented, being none, Howard asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2008 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. 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, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Approval of Town and Road & Bridge Budget Hearing Minutes Dated June 2, 2008:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Town or Road & Bridge Budget Hearing minutes as presented, being none, Howard asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated June 2, 2008.

Motion:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve the Town and Road & Bridge Budget Hearing minutes dated June 2, 2008 as presented. 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, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy complained of recent vandalism to his property on State Line Road. Mr. Willy explained that he felt the acts were deliberate and not random because he is an opponent of the proposed Peotone Airport and the intermodal facility being planned for the Beecher area. He has contacted the Will County Police about the vandalism and wanted the Board to also be aware of the incidents to his property and supplied Clerk Burgess with a letter detailing the incidents and pictures of damage to his property. The Clerk will file the information.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer discussed his written report (attached). Meyer reported that hot patch mix is now costing the district \$48 per ton which is double the price of two years ago. The shoulder stone has been applied to the areas of Yates and Brunswick roads that were recently resurfaced with blacktop. The first roadside weed cutting project is complete and stone and slag are being hauled into the yard to be used for Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) projects. Road improvements to Klemme Road, south of Corning Road will begin this week and this is an MFT project. Commissioner Meyer also told the board that a small area of Stoney Island has been tar and chipped and he will be monitoring the repair to ensure there are no deterioration issues that occurred during the tar and chip process last summer. Meyer said there was a noticeable difference in the quality of oil being used this year vs. last year.
2. Assessor – Assessor Blume reported that she anticipated that the township's EAV would grow about \$22.7 million dollars this year, which is approximately the same growth as last year. Blume said that new construction in the Village of Beecher was down considerably over 2007 but growth in the rural township has continued. Also, the county has closed the tax roles for reassessments and only new construction can be added until the books are reopened in August.
3. Town Clerk – Clerk Burgess reported that the 2008 Prevailing Wage Ordinances have been filed with the state agencies as required by law and public notices have been published in the local paper. The redesigned web site will be activated on Friday, July 11 and Burgess offered to preview the website to the board and any interested visitors after the board meeting concluded.

Burgess said that Deputy Clerk JoAnn Mueller has begun tracking service activity at the township offices and invited her to give her first report. JoAnn reported that during the month of June, seven people have signed up for RTA permits, two people registered to vote and the medical closet loaned out eight pieces of equipment and one piece was returned.

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 discussed his attached written report. The Dial-a-Ride program began in June with the arrival of the Pace bus and Howard thanked everyone who participated in bringing the program to the township. The first Senior Prom was a very successful event and generated many positive comments from people who attended. The township is now offering new services such as voter's registration, temporary parking placards and RTA Senior passes. There has been a significant increase in general assistance and emergency assistance cases. Supervisor Howard recently attended a Supervision Convention and there has been talk by some lawmakers to open the constitution up for amending and the need for township government may come under scrutiny during a constitutional convention, as some lawmakers believe there is no longer a need for township government. The supervisor also attended Pace bus training and is now qualified to drive the township's Pace bus. Howard also donated his time to transport a World War II veteran to the airport who was going on a trip to visit the World War II Memorial. The veteran's trip was arranged and paid for by "Honor Flight Chicago", a not-for-profit organization which raises funds to take World War II veterans to Washington DC to visit the World War II Memorial.
8. Open Space Initiative Committee – Mike Mach reported that the committee has received volunteer help from marketing professional Jim Price. Mr. Price has designed professional brochures and posters about the Open Space Initiative and has provided this information to the committee at his own expense. Mike said Mr. Price is a strong backer of the initiative and will continue to be active with the committee. The next Open Space Committee meeting will be held on July 21 at the Washington Township Center.
9. Transportation Report – Transportation Director Pat Peters thanked the board and everyone involved in bringing the new Pace bus to Washington Township. Pat has hired one driver and is currently interviewing other candidates to fill one remaining driver position. The bus ran non-stop during the Beecher 4th of July Festival and will be utilized at upcoming local events. The first rider boarded the bus on June 12 and there were a total of 32 riders for the remainder of June. Trustee Deery asked about the transportation budget and Supervisor Howard will have current transportation budget numbers available at the August board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Establish Guidelines to utilize the Washington Township Center as a Heating/Cooling Center – Supervisor Howard presented the attached Heating & Cooling Center guidelines for the board to consider for approval. Howard said many heating & cooling centers do not have guidelines so gathering information took additional time but the guidelines being presented would serve the township well. The board reviewed the proposed guidelines and no changes were recommended.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the *Heating & Cooling Center Guidelines*, as presented. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations* – There were no Planning Commission recommendations to be acted upon.
2. *Consideration and Approval to Purchase a Computer for Clerk's Office* – Clerk Burgess asked for approval to purchase a laptop computer for his office. The Clerk's office has no computer at this time and Burgess does all township work on his personal computer. The board agreed a computer should be purchased and left it at the Clerk's discretion to choose a unit that would be most beneficial to the office.

MOTION:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve the purchase of a computer for the Clerk's office not to exceed \$1000. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Koehn – yes, Waterman – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

3. *Consideration of Donation to the Beecher Scholarship Association* – At the last board meeting the board decided to discuss giving a donation to the Beecher Scholarship Association. School Board President Tom Stluka addressed the board and explained that any donation is accepted but if the township gave a \$500 donation (minimum for a junior college award) or \$1000 donation (minimum for a 4-year school) and joined the Beecher Scholarship Association, then a scholarship in the name of Washington Township could be awarded at the graduation exercises. Stluka explained that by joining the association the award would only be given to a student who meets the rigid criteria that has been set by the association and the township could then set their own selection criteria based on the field the applicant is going into and/or choose who the student is that receives the scholarship. If the township does not join the association, the township can donate any dollar amount and set their own scholarship amount and their own selection criteria and it can be given to any student who applies, but the scholarship must be given at Senior Recognition Night, which is held prior to graduation. The key difference between the two options is that the rigid criterion set by the association for awarding a scholarship does not apply if you do not join the association. Because graduation commencement was recently held in June, Trustee Deery preferred to give a donation when the scholarship drive is actively seeking donations closer to next year's graduation. The board also asked to see the criteria that the association has set for applicants. It was suggested that the board table this item until additional information about the scholarship criteria could be reviewed and to also wait until the scholarship drive starts for next year's senior class.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to table this item until a future meeting. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman - yes, Deery – yes, Koehn - yes, Becker – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

4. *Consideration and Approval of Transportation Director's Salary* – Clerk Burgess explained that Pat Peters was hired as the Washington Township Transportation Coordinator/Director at the May 5, 2008 meeting; however, the Board deferred setting a salary for the position until the budget was approved. At that time, a tentative salary of \$1500 per year was being considered for the position. Burgess suggested setting the

salary at \$1500 per year and also recommended making the salary retroactive to June 1, 2008 as Ms. Peters has been actively performing her duties since the beginning of June and the bus was received at the end of May. The board had no objections to the Clerk's recommendations.

MOTION:

Trustee Becker made a motion to set the salary of the Washington Township Transportation Coordinator at \$1500 per year, retroactive to June 1, 2008. 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, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

5. *Consideration to Assist Dallas City, IL* – The Village of Beecher has begun a fund raising drive for it's newly adopted sister city, Dallas City, IL, which has received substantial damage from rising flood waters of the Mississippi River caused by recent heavy rains. The town was chosen because it is similar in size and population to the Village of Beecher. (Dallas City is located across from Burlington Iowa and is 253 miles from Beecher.) A Committee has been set-up by the village to organize the fund drive and letters have been sent to area businesses asking for donations to help the flood ravaged community. All funds collected will be given to the Village of Dallas City and can only be used by the village to offset costs incurred from the flooding. Village President Paul Lohmann asked the board to consider a donation to the flood relief efforts and said it was his intention to ask the village board to donate \$5000 to the fund. The board discussed the request and reviewed the budget to determine where and if funds were available to make a donation.

MOTION:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to donate \$2500 to the Dallas City Relief Fund. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Koehn - yes, Becker – yes, Waterman - yes, Howard – yes, Deery – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

6. *Washington Township Mission Statement (Purpose of Senior Citizen Services* – Supervisor Howard presented a proposed Washington Township Mission Statement outlining the “Purpose of Senior Citizen Services”. Howard said the statement was modeled after state statute, which outlines the purpose of providing senior citizen services in a township. Howard asked the board to review the proposed mission statement and will place it on next month's agenda for discussion.
7. *Senior Ice Cream Social* – Supervisor Howard proposed holding a Senior Ice Cream Social during the Lion's Annual Beef Roast on Aug 2, 2008. Free ice cream would be given to all seniors in attendance. The board had no objections to the request and Clerk Burgess will contact the Lion's Club to request permission to hold the social during their event.

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 **\$38,729.75**. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Commissioner Meyer.

MOTION:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, and appropriate transfers or debits as presented for the **Road & Bridge Account** totaling **\$41,088.02**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Announcements:

None.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. August 4, 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 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____