

**Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees**  
**September 4, 2008**  
**Washington Township Center**  
**30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL**

Meeting called to order to pay bills for the month of August 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, Dan Waterman, Ted Deery, Dennis Koehn. Absent: none

**Other Officials present:**

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

**Approval of Board Meeting Minutes Dated August 4, 2008:**

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the August 4 Board Meeting minutes as presented, being none, Howard asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**Motion:**

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2008 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**Public Commentary:**

Township resident George Willy asked if AIRbaud, a local Internet provider, was going to offer a group rate to Washington Township residents. Supervisor Howard explained that he attempted to obtain information regarding this service but the individual he needed to talk to was on vacation when he called and will call back in a week.

**Reports**

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer discussed his written report (attached). Slag and stone is being hauled into the yard to be used on upcoming MFT projects. Work on widening and improving Corning Road east of Klemme is progressing and new ditches are being formed to improve drainage. Klemme Road was recently topped with stone and additional work is scheduled after ComEd repositions several utility poles along the roadside. Several ditches in the township have been scheduled to be cleaned and widened and this work will begin in the coming month. Preliminary cost numbers are being obtained to tar and chip a 2400' section of Ashland Avenue. The price of road salt has been escalating and will be in short supply this winter. Last year salt was selling for \$43 per ton and initial estimates for salt this year are ranging from \$53 to \$143 per ton. Meyer

submitted his salt contract to the state last April and still has not heard back on the status of the contract.

2. Assessor – Assessor Blume presented the Board a current Abstract of 2008 Assessments for Washington Township, which indicated that the current EAV of the township is just over \$191 million. IL Senate Bill 2820 has been amended but many local assessor’s are still against this legislation which requires that pictures and property details be available on a website data base. Blume said that she would need additional staff to complete the provisions set forth by this bill and the bill offers no financial assistance to complete the work. Currently there are over 3400 parcels in Washington Township and this bill would require that information be provided for more than 2700 of these parcels.
3. Town Clerk – Burgess met with Sally Fuhrman and JoAnn Mueller to discuss the development of a township newsletter. The initial idea is to put out the newsletter two times a year with the focus on the first newsletter to explain many of the new services implemented by the township board in the last several months. It would also include information provided by the Assessor, Highway Commissioner and Supervisor. The Will County Clerk’s office is providing a training session on September 16 for the April 7, 2009 Consolidated Elections and Clerk Burgess will be attending the session. Information has been received from the National Academy of Elderly Law Attorneys, which is a group that is offering free courses designed to educate senior citizens about issues such as public benefits, probate, guardianship and health care. More information has been requested from the group and if the information is favorable, Burgess will schedule and offer free sessions to the seniors in the township. The new website has been well received and the clerk is now working on adding information about the Community Building (and the Board of Managers) and the Washington Township Planning Commission to the site. Burgess reported that he attended the Intergovernmental Bodies Meeting on August 26 and the Open Space Initiative was discussed at length and appears to be gaining support from the other governmental bodies in the community. There was also a discussion on setting up a meeting with the Will County Forest Preserve District to discuss the possibility of that group purchasing land in the township that would be part of the Forest Preserve District.
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 reported that the Open Space Committee has been very active and recently met with Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and is looking for outside assistance for public support, funding and publicity. The committee along with the Village of Beecher has also arranged a meeting with CMAP to discuss open space and other planning issues in Washington Township and surrounding areas. The meeting will be held at the Washington Township Center at 7 pm on September 23.
8. Open Space Initiative Committee – This item was addressed under the Supervisor’s report.

9. Transportation Report – Clerk Burgess read the PACE VIP Monthly Shuttle Report as provided by Transportation Director Pat Peters. The township Pace bus made 100 trips in August and traveled 456 miles while running a total of twelve days. Passenger revenue received totaled \$313. The 2001 GMC van has a mechanical issue and will be taken to Becker’s Automotive for repairs.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Consideration of Donation to the Beecher Scholarship Association – The Board was given a copy of the Beecher Scholarship Association’s Constitution, which outlines the association’s purpose, operation and scholarship criteria. The Board discussed donating to the association but preferred to wait until next spring when the scholarship drive was underway and the new township budget would be under consideration. It was suggested that this item be tabled until January of 2009.

#### **MOTION:**

Trustee Waterman made a motion to table the Consideration of Donation to the Beecher Scholarship Association until the January 2009 Board meeting. 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.**

2. Washington Township Mission Statement (Purpose of Senior Citizen Services) – The proposed Washington Township Mission Statement (attached) was reviewed by the board and no changes were recommended to the statement. Being no further discussion or changes, Supervisor Howard asked for a motion to pass the mission statement as presented.

#### **MOTION:**

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve the Washington Township Mission Statement (Purpose of Senior Citizens Services) as presented. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Waterman – 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. Washington Township Senior ID Program - Supervisor Howard talked to the board about creating a Senior ID Program and showed samples of ID badges and applications used by other townships. The ID would include the cardholder’s picture, name and address and can be designed with a barcode for scanning purposes. The cost of a blank ID badge is \$.53 and the necessary software and hardware to produce the badges would run from \$500 to \$2000, which would be a one-time cost. The program, if implemented, would also build a database of area seniors that could be used to contact them during severe weather and to help target necessary programs for the seniors. The board discussed the potential of the program and it was also noted that ID badges could also be produced for all township officials and employees as well. Supervisor Howard will present more

specific information regarding the equipment needed and the cost of said equipment at the next board meeting.

3. Beecher Community Strategic Plan – During the August Intergovernmental Bodies Meeting it was suggested that the member bodies update the “Beecher Community Strategic Plan for the Year 2005” with new five year goals and implementation actions. Copies of the 2005 plan will be distributed to the board for review so discussions can take place at upcoming meetings. The next Intergovernmental Bodies Meeting is not scheduled until January 2009.
4. Senior Breakfast – Supervisor Howard recommended holding a Senior Breakfast in September and September 27 has been tentatively booked at Cardinal Creek Golf Course. The board supported the breakfast but agreed that more time should be allowed to plan and advertise the breakfast and requested that a Saturday in mid-October be investigated. Deputy Clerk Mueller told the board that Oct 4 was not available but she will call about booking a Saturday in late October. The board then discussed what topics should be discussed with the seniors and the consensus was that township programs and coming events should be the focus of the event. Due to the upcoming elections many board members expressed their concerns about the breakfast becoming a political forum and were not in favor of allowing candidates an opportunity to speak at the event. Deputy Clerk Mueller will work on a list of topics that could be covered at the breakfast and forward the information to the board for feedback.
5. Flu Shot program – A one time flu shot program is being considered for the senior citizens of the township. An approved and registered company would be hired at a rate of \$50 per hour and their nurses would administer free flu shots to senior citizens and a small fee would be charged to any other residents wishing to have a flu shot. Clerk Burgess will provide more information at the October meeting.
6. Appreciation Dinner – Trustee Koehn distributed a list of names of township employees, officials, volunteers, committee members and local elected officials to invite to the township’s Annual Appreciation Dinner held in December. Koehn asked the board to review the list for accuracy and be prepared to make additions and corrections at the October meeting so invitations could be prepared early.
7. Washington Township Motor Vehicle Policy – A recommendation was made to consider passage of a Motor Vehicle Policy now that the township owns a vehicle. A copy of a proposed Washington Township Motor Vehicle Policy was distributed to the board and Supervisor Howard asked the Board to review the policy and be prepared to discuss and consider passage of the policy at the October meeting.

### **Payment of Bills:**

### **Road & Bridge**

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Road Commissioner Jerry Meyer.

### **MOTION:**

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, and appropriate transfers or debits as presented for the **Road & Bridge Account** totaling **\$39,050.85**. 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.**

**Town Account**

The Board reviewed the bills as presented by the Supervisor.

**MOTION:**

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, debits and appropriate transfers as presented for the **Town Account** totaling **\$11,386.91**. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Koehn – yes, Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**Announcements:**

None.

**Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:**

1. September 23, 2008 – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center. Sponsored by Washington Township and the Village of Beecher.
2. October 6, 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 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees    Date: \_\_\_\_\_