

BETHALTO VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Council Chambers, 213 N. Prairie Street
Bethalto, IL
January 13, 2020

The Village Board of Trustees met on the above date in the Council Room at Village Hall in a regular meeting called to order by Mayor Winslow at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the “Pledge of Allegiance”. Roll call was taken by Village Clerk Sue Lowrance. Present: Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Stassi and Mayor Winslow. Trustee Gibbons was absent. Also present: Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Village Attorney Ken Balsters, Village Treasurer Joe Hughes, Police Chief Mike Dixon, Fire Chief James Schulte, ESDA Coordinator & Deputy Fire Chief Brian Buhs.

Motion made by Bost, seconded by Dugger, to approve the village board meeting minutes of December 9, 2019 as printed. All members voted aye viva voce. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Perkhiser, seconded by Stassi, to approve the special board meeting minutes of December 30, 2019 as printed. All members voted aye viva voce. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISORS:

Fire Chief James Schulte presented the monthly report, noting 110 calls and a year-ending total of 1295. Calls have increased by over 250 over the past two years. The department currently has 14 volunteers, 3 probationary members, and 23 part-timers. There were no resignations this month. There was 1 fire with an approximate fire loss of \$25,000 in contents. There were two missed runs on Christmas Day due to lack of staffing. Schulte is working on a training schedule for the entire department. There were no questions.

Police Chief Mike Dixon presented his monthly activity report along with the annual report for his department. There are some increased crime statistics that are concerning: sex

offenses, vehicle burglaries, thefts have all increased as well as the total number of calls. There was one fatal vehicle accident along with a triple homicide this year. The defendants in the homicide case are being held at the Madison County Jail; Dixon noted cases like this can take 3-5 years to complete. He is sending his detectives to Clarksville, TN later this month to assist with further investigations on the case. One squad car was hit during a recent snow event and insurance has finally been worked out with the other party and the vehicle will be fixed soon. An \$11,500 down payment has been made on the radio upgrades; \$25,000 has been budgeted for this project. The police department has been given a facelift thanks to a generous donation by resident Andrew Augustine. Along with Public Works, the department is creating animal kennels at Mill Street so that animals are no longer housed in the sally ports. There were no questions.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his departmental reports. Crews have taken down all the holiday season decorations. Work continues on building animal control kennels at the Mill Street shed. Pot holes are being patched and storm sewer work continues. The clogged pipe by Creative Flooring has been fixed; the line was 15' deep and was clogged from 12" down to 2". There were 4 main breaks this month that were fairly substantial. The Crystal Ball system is up and running. There were two snow events this past month, with 6" of snow accumulation between the two storms. Trustee Perkhiser asked if the situation with Creative Flooring had been discussed with them; Cheatham stated yes; it had been unclear how severe the situation was until crews actually got into the line. There were no further questions.

Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick reviewed his monthly report, noting an updated report format that should be easier to read and compare this year's totals with last year's. Reddick noted that rental housing units in town seem to be increasing, and a lot of owners are from out of the area. All new, updated permit applications have been authored & are being utilized

now. Reddick wants to make sure they are all accurate and no further improvements are needed prior to having them posted on the Village website. He added that these documents are all done in Excel, and stated that the Village should look into professional tracking software in the near future. Anderson Wellness Center opened January 10 and is quite an impressive facility; they will operate this wellness center in addition to the urgent care currently located in town. There are two commercial projects currently in the review process. There was further discussion regarding publishing the permit applications online as well as the number of trash can ordinance violations in December. There were no further questions.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no guests or public comment.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2020-01 A Resolution Authorizing Application for PEP Grant was presented. This allows the Village to apply for PEP Grant funding of \$38,320 through Madison County. Projects to be completed with this grant funding include multi-use courts at the skate park (futsal, basketball, pickleball), additional splash pad lighting, and some playground equipment. These projects are estimated to cost approximately \$45,000; Mayor noted that additional funds can be budgeted through the General Fund, or projects can be cut to match the funds granted through the County. **Motion made by Bost, seconded by Lowrance, to approve Resolution 2020-01 A Resolution Authorizing Application for PEP Grant.** Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

ORDINANCES

There were no ordinances presented for consideration.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Village offices will be closed January 20 for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented the bids for electrical work in Central Park. This bid consists of decorative lighting and electrical upgrades for events such as Homecoming. Three bids were received, one was not IDOT certified as required. The lowest eligible bid was from Electrico at \$484,981.46, which is \$60-70,000 less than engineer's estimates. Cheatham recommended accepting the bid and proceeding with the project. **Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Stassi, to approve the bid of Electrico for electrical work in Central Park.** Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Winslow noted that a pension account needs to be created for Police Chief Dixon, as by statute he is not allowed to participate in either IMRF nor the downstate pension system. A separate 457 account will be created and designated as a pension plan, and this plan will be offered to new police hires as well as required by statute (they can select either the traditional police pension plan or this new plan). Winslow recommended to the board that current IMRF contribution rates of 4.5% by employee and 16.27% by employer be used for this account. There were no questions. **Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Bost, to approve the creation of a separate 457 pension account at current IMRF funding rates.** Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

The Bethalto Public Library has requested to close off the streets downtown on May 1 from 5-9pm for their second annual Ladies Night Out. This will close Oak Street from Plegge to W. Central, W. Central from Oak to Prairie. Last year's event welcomed nearly 400 participants despite less than perfect weather, so they are hoping for a larger crowd this year.

Motion made by Stassi, seconded by Dugger, to approve the road closure as requested. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The December Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Treasurer Hughes with no questions.

Motion made by Bost, seconded by Dugger, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of December, 2019. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Committee meetings were set for January 21 at 6pm for general matters and January 27 at 6pm for discussion of ball park issues.

GENERAL FUND

Motion by Bost, seconded by Stassi, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$147,392.06. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Lowrance, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$398,036.12. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

GARBAGE FUND

Motion by Bost, seconded by Perkhiser, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$59,107.58. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

BUSINESS DISTRICT FUND

Motion by Stassi, seconded by Lowrance, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$720.00. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 10, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Having no further business, a **motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Stassi, seconded by Perkhiser.** All voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Sue E. Lowrance, Village Clerk

Alan Winslow, Mayor