

BETHALTO VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Via Remote Call-in Due to COVID-19 Stay-At-Home Executive Order
Bethalto, IL
April 13, 2020

The Village Board of Trustees meeting was held remotely from the Administrative Offices of Village Hall on the above date in a regular meeting called to order by Mayor Alan Winslow at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the “Pledge of Allegiance”. Roll call was taken by Village Clerk Sue Lowrance, who was present in-house along with Mayor Winslow. Present via phone: Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, and Stassi. Trustee Gibbons was not in attendance. Also present via phone: Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Police Chief Mike Dixon, Fire Chief James Schulte, Village Treasurer Joe Hughes, and Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick.

Motion made by Bost, seconded by Lowrance, to approve the village board meeting minutes of March 9, 2020 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 108 calls for the month and 348 year-to-date. The department held a recruitment drive that yielded six new applicants. There were no resignations this month. The department handled one box alarm, one vehicle fire and one small fence fire with total losses of approximately \$12,800. There were no questions.

Police Chief Mike Dixon presented his monthly activity report, noting exceptional activity by Sgt. Dugger. COVID-19 prep work has kept Chief Dixon busy. The Dept of Corrections is not taking in new inmates due to the crisis, and the State’s Attorney’s office is also holding off on cases. All local businesses are in compliance with the State’s Executive Order; there have been only 3 minor violations, all which were dealt with without issue. The department has a good supply of PPE thanks to donations from the Public Works Department.

Employees are having their temperatures checked at the start of each shift. There was one major incident at HanDee Mart where a car crashed through the front of the building. Detective Lind testified at a molestation case and the defendant received a 75-year sentence. Upgrades are being done to the radio system. The department received 8 lateral transfer applications. There were no questions.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his departmental reports. Water system flushing was postponed until May at the earliest due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. There were 6 leaks in March but nothing major. Street crews are working on patching, street sweeping, concrete work in Whispering Oaks and mowing. Cheatham has suspended the camera work in the sewer system and is trying to keep the system as closed off as possible during the pandemic. Cheatham is working on a grant application through the Rebuild Illinois Public Infrastructure program for Interceptor system work. Parks crews are mowing and the ball fields all look great. Directional street signage has been installed for the Sports Complex. Electrical work in Central Park is progressing, with conduit now in and wires being pulled. Cheatham expects that work to take two weeks and then lamp posts will be set once they arrive. There were no questions.

Zoning Administrator Reddick presented his monthly report. Occupancy permit requests are steady as there are still a lot of people moving in and out of houses. Laux Brickhouse obtained a commercial building permit for enclosing their back area. Metro Apartments has suspended construction work until after the pandemic crisis is over. Zoning operations have been uninterrupted during the stay-at-home order, but personnel are having limited contact with the public. There was one structure deemed uninhabitable and Reddick noted that trailers will need to be discussed at some point in the near future. Reddick then thanked the Village Board, Mayor and PW Director Cheatham for their support during his son's illness.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no guests or public comments.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions presented for consideration.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2020-04 Salary Ordinance 2020-2021 was presented. This is the annual salary ordinance that reflects the 2% pay increases as negotiated by the unions in their current contracts, of which this is the third year. Mayor Winslow noted that the ordinance includes the same raises for non-union staff and added that one Trustee has questioned whether or not raises should be given during this unstable economic environment due to COVID-19. Trustee Perkhiser stated that she would suggest suspending raises for non-union personnel until this crisis is over, and **made a motion to pass the Ordinance, but excluding non-union raises.** Trustee Dugger inquired about the rate of pay shown for police officers. It was discussed and noted that the starting rate should be \$28.87 to correlate with the frozen starting wage reflected in the CBA. The rate was frozen in 2018 per the CBA. **Trustee Dugger seconded Perkhiser's motion, noting the correction to Police Officer rate of pay.** Trustee Lowrance stated that he thinks the ordinance should be passed including the non-union raises, as he doesn't see that it affects that many people and that several of the non-union employees are the ones still on the job and working to keep processes running smoothly. Trustee Stassi agreed with Lowrance. Mayor Winslow noted the need to vote on Perkhiser's motion. Trustees Bost, Lowrance, and Stassi voted nay, Trustees Perkhiser and Dugger voted aye. Motion failed on a 3-2 vote. **Motion was then made by Lowrance, seconded by Stassi, to approve Ordinance 2020-04 Salary Ordinance 2020-2021 as presented, with the exception of Police Officer rate of pay being changed to the frozen**

amount of \$28.87. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, and Stassi voted aye, Perkhiser voted nay. Motion carried 4-1.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Winslow announced that the pending personnel issues from last month need to be discussed in a closed session. The Village is still working on the technology to host a closed-session meeting remotely, so if the Board is unable to meet in-person at the May meeting, a special meeting will be set for a closed-session remote meeting at a later date.

COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact thus far on Village projects, and all capital improvement projects: Prairie Street resurfacing, Friedel Bridge, Phase 2 of the Multi-Use Trail, Kutter-Aljets drainage, and the building consolidation have all been put on hold due to funding concerns. Reports are that IDOT funding will continue, so as long as these projects will still be funded, they will continue when allowed. Without IDOT funding, these projects will continue to be on-hold. Electrical work in the park is continuing since crews are already so far along into the project. Paving of the trail once the electrical work is complete is on-hold. Winslow reiterated that only essential work is being completed right now.

Winslow shared Treasurer Hughes' concerns over cash flow. The State had indicated that sales taxes and other pass-through funding may be delayed due to extensions of deadlines due to COVID-19. However, today the Comptroller's office stated that pass-through funding should not be delayed and that, as long as the state gets the money, it should be passed on to local governments as usual. Winslow still stressed the need for the Village to be prepared for a cash-flow crisis and offered two options: a \$500,000 tax anticipation warrant to be drawn upon only as needed OR borrowing internally from restricted accounts on an as-needed basis. Winslow noted that the second option would be treated like a bank loan, with internal loan documents drawn up with a repayment scheduled adhered to. Winslow added that he hopes

finances won't be an issue, but preparation is necessary and he asked the board to consider both options for a decision at the next meeting.

Budget work still needs to progress, even with funding levels being questionable. Hughes has his revenue forecast complete, and Winslow stated he will be sending that out to trustees for review. Remote budget meetings will then be set starting next week.

Facilities remain closed, including parks. Spring Clean-up was postponed by Republic Services; we are hoping to have it rescheduled sometime in June. Each Village department has set policies regarding PPE and COVID-19 procedures. All areas accessed by employees are being professionally disinfected weekly. Mayor Winslow noted that the community doesn't seem to be "strictly adhering" to the stay-at-home order, but he does see a substantial use of masks when people are out in public. Retailers are encouraging social distancing, and there seems to be a fair amount of business still being conducted at area retailers and food establishments. There have been almost no complaints received at Village offices. Village services all continue, with split shifts being worked by Public Works crews and all personnel trying to separate as much as possible. Employee temperatures are being taken on a daily basis.

PROCLAMATIONS:

A.B.A.T.E. Motorcycle Awareness Month-May, 2020

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The monthly Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Treasurer Hughes. Hughes reviewed the cash balances and anticipated revenues still to come in by the end of the fiscal year. **Motion made by Bost, seconded by Lowrance, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month**

of March, 2020. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Hughes reviewed the new prepaid checks and payroll reports—two reports that should allow the board to have a clearer view of what’s been paid monthly and summarizes payroll. Hughes also expressed his opinion of COVID-19 and the impact it may have on revenue for the Village, noting that the length of the economic shutdown is a key factor. He anticipates up to a 25% decrease in state income tax revenue and a 12% decrease in sales tax revenue, stating the Village could take a \$40-50,000 hit monthly in lost revenue.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Committee meetings were scheduled to be held remotely via call-in on April 27 at 6pm. Remote connection instructions will be sent out prior to the meeting. Any budget meetings will be scheduled and information sent out as soon as possible.

GENERAL FUND

Motion by Stassi, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$166,475.83. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Dugger, seconded by Lowrance, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$157,910.13. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

ESDA FUND

Motion by Stassi, seconded by Lowrance, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$2,978.30. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser and Stassi voted aye, nays none.
Motion carried 5-0.

MFT FUND

Motion by Bost, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$340.00. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser and Stassi voted aye, nays none.
Motion carried 5-0.

GARBAGE FUND

Motion by Bost, seconded by Lowrance, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$53,063.58. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, and Stassi voted aye, nays none.
Motion carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 11, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Having no further business, a **motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Perkhiser, seconded by Lowrance.** All voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Sue E. Lowrance, Village Clerk

Alan Winslow, Mayor