

VILLAGE OF BETHALTO
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY ROOM, 213 N. PRAIRIE ST, BETHALTO, IL
February 22, 2021
6:00PM

Mayor Alan Winslow called the special board meeting to order at 6:00pm on the above date in the Community Room of Village Hall. The meeting started with “The Pledge of Allegiance”. Roll call was taken by Village Clerk Sue Lowrance with Trustees Bost, Dugger, Gibbons (via phone), Lowrance, Perkhiser, and Stassi in attendance. Also present were Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Police Chief Mike Dixon, Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick, Village Treasurer Joseph Hughes, and Village Attorney Ken Balsters.

Mayor Winslow presented **Resolution 2021-03 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for Park Commission Funds from Madison County**. This is to authorize the Village to apply for PEP Grant funding through Madison County, which is an annual grant to be used for Park improvements. It is a set amount each year based on population and a County sales tax. This year’s allotment is \$38,000, \$18,000 of which will be used as the final payment for the Splash Pad. The application is due March 3, so time is running short to determine how to proceed. At the last committee meeting, Trustee Bost suggested the funding be used to build a dog park on the west end of Bryant Park. Public Works Director Cheatham got some preliminary pricing for fencing and fixtures, and this year’s remaining \$20k would fence in approximately 1/2 of an acre without fixtures. AKC recommendations state that a “full” park would ideally be 1-1/2 acres, with separate fenced areas for small dogs and large dogs, plus “toys”, water fountains, and some form of shade for the area. There was discussion of financing options through the grant program, with “loans” available at 3% interest. The Village could opt to proceed with the project and use the next three years’ of grant funds to pay for it (just as the Splash Pad was funded). Further discussion revealed

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hesitation to commit three years of grant money to a dog park when other park projects are evident (playground equipment, lighting at the Splash Pad, pathway lights). Trustee Perkhiser brought up the Skate Park reconstruction and asked about that project; Winslow stated that funding was already secured and an extension granted due to COVID delays. Winslow added that the Village has until the end of June to complete that project; PEP grant projects generally have a year for completion. Perkhiser questioned the need for a dog park, stating she's had residents tell her they've stopped using them due to issues with dogs there. Perkhiser added that we live in an area with a lot of green space so she doesn't see it is needed. Trustee Lowrance noted that not everyone has large yards and that these parks are used for socializing dogs with other dogs, exercising dogs, etc. More discussion occurred over the cost of the park; the final cost would be around \$80k for fencing and \$12k for fixtures. Trustee Bost suggested that other options for the funding be looked at, since the board didn't seem to be sold on the dog park plan. Trustee Stassi added that she'd like to see money spent to improve what the Village already has, like playgrounds. Mayor noted that playground equipment is needed, extra lighting is needed at the Splash Pad, and Trustee Lowrance suggested additional lighting along the pathway in the park. Shade sails at the Splash Pad were also an option. Trustee Gibbons added that any of these "higher priority projects" are fine as long as the grant is applied for and the money not left on the table. Winslow stated that the grant application needs to specify the project, but reminded the board that this resolution is only authorizing the application process, not the project itself. Upon further discussion, it was decided that playground equipment would be the best use of this year's funding.

**Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Stassi, to approve Resolution 2021-03
A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for Park Commission Funds**

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from Madison County for Playground Equipment. Trustees Bost, Dugger, Gibbons, Lowrance, Perkhiser and Stassi voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

Having no further business, **motion to adjourn made by Perkhiser, seconded by Dugger.** All voted aye viva voce, meeting adjourned at 6:39pm.

Alan Winslow, Village President

Sue E. Lowrance, Village Clerk