

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Bethalto, IL

December 12, 2022

7:00pm

Council Chambers

The Village Board of Trustees met on the above date in the Council Chambers of Village Hall in a regular meeting called to order by Mayor Bost at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the “Pledge of Allegiance”. Roll call was taken by Village Clerk Sue Lowrance. Present: Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Tweedy, and Keister. Trustees Perkhiser and Mull were absent. Also present: Police Chief Mike Dixon, Village Attorney Ken Balsters, Fire Chief Brian Buhs, Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick, and Joseph Hughes.

Motion made by Tweedy, seconded by Keister, to approve Village Board meeting minutes of November 14, 2022, as printed. All members voted aye viva voce. Motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISORS:

Fire Chief Brian Buhs presented his report for October, noting 141 calls for the month and 1512 year-to-date. The second installment has been paid for the new fire truck, and we’re hoping to have a VIN by next month. Commercial fire inspections have begun, with 23 completed so far. Only 1 business has passed; there have been various violations, but all businesses have been receptive and cooperative so far. There are approximately 170 more inspections to complete. There were no questions.

Police Chief Mike Dixon presented the monthly activity report for November, and reviewed some of the more significant cases for the month. The weekend’s 5k and Victorian Christmas Walk went smoothly with no incidents or accidents. Dixon commended Sgt. Dugger for work done on his day off to assist with apprehension of some fugitives on Wesley Drive. Dixon noted continued issues at the trailer park on Wesley. Dixon and Deputy Chief

Lamb attended a meeting about the Illinois Safety Act; there is currently a lawsuit against Governor Pritzker regarding this law and a ruling is expected December 28. Dixon also commended Sgt. Hale on his work on the ATM thefts in town; Hale will testify at the Grand Jury tomorrow regarding the second ATM theft case. The Department's Christmas for All event is this week; approximately \$30k was raised and over 100 kids will be given a brighter Christmas thanks to donations to the Department. There were no questions.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his monthly report by department. Interceptor lining has started behind Lakeside but will need to stop until the ground dries out or it gets colder. Mayor Bost stated he's had a lot of positive comments about work done around Village Hall and commended Public Works for that. The fencing for the pickleball courts has finally arrived and will be installed this week. There were no questions.

Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick reviewed the monthly zoning activity, noting that permits have dropped significantly; Reddick attributed this to inflation. Reddick updated the board on commercial construction projects and nuisance properties. There were 33 code violations issued, mainly trash and brush citations. A replacement has been hired for Aaron Snyder, who is retiring next month. Chris Cameron is a certified home and radon inspector with a good background in construction and some certifications in place. Reddick added that he is a potential candidate for taking over as Administrator when Reddick retires in a year. There were no questions.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no guests or public comments.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions presented for consideration.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2022-08 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 38-Utilities, Division VI Water Rates was presented. Residential water rates have not been increased since January, 2016, and with inflation and increased supply and labor costs, it is time to adjust these rates accordingly in order to cover the Village's increased costs. The new rates are based on Juneau's study as discussed in committee meetings. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Lowrance, to approve Ordinance 2022-08 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 38-Utilities, Division VI Water Rates.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Tweedy and Keister voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance 2022-09 Tax Levy Ordinance was presented. It was noted that this year's levy amount is \$2,407,330 which is an increase of \$115k over last year. This increase falls below the 105% increase level for truth in taxation. Joe Hughes noted that the majority of the tax levy goes to police pension, followed by general fund and fire protection. There were no questions. **Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Dugger, to approve Ordinance 2022-09 Tax Levy Ordinance.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Tweedy and Keister voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance 2022-10 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1-Administration was presented. This creates the position of Director of Finance for the Village and includes the responsibilities for that position. With an annual budget of \$15 million, the Village needs someone on-site to handle the daily financial responsibilities and oversight of Village funds. Attorney Balsters reviewed the position, noting it is an at-will position, not an appointed executive office. Mayor Bost added that the job hasn't been posted yet, as he wanted the

position made official prior to doing so. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Lowrance, to approve Ordinance 2022-10 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1-Administration.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Tweedy and Keister voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor thanked the Police Department, Public Works Department, and Fire Department for their assistance with the weekend's festivities. Bost noted that Village offices will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Unit 8 School District has asked for use of Central Park for their Community Night on April 18, 2023, with a rain-out date of April 20, 2023. This event was well-attended last year and there were no issues with their park use. **A motion was made by Lowrance, seconded by Keister, to allow use of the park by Unit 8 School District for Community Night on April 18 or 20, 2023.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Tweedy and Keister voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Bost stated that the Board still needs to come up with a final solution for the property located at 781 Roosevelt, and suggests that the Village Board recommend that the Zoning Board of Appeals starts the process of amending the Zoning Code to find a permanent solution. Attorney Balsters reviewed what could be amended, noting that a special use could be created for RS5 and RS8, under specialty agriculture for a pre-existing farmstead, which could then detail how the farmstead could operate. When/if the zoning code is amended, it would be the property owner's responsibility to apply for the newly-created special use permit. Bost noted that board action tonight would simply start the process by asking the ZBA to consider amending the code; the process would require a public hearing to be held for public input, and then any recommendation from the ZBA would come back to the

Village Board for final action. Trustee Lowrance noted a typographical error in the documentation; item (6) has incorrect fencing heights. Zoning Administrator Reddick added that the language included in that documents is a basic starting point and that all of it is open for discussion and change by the ZBA. **Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Dugger, to recommend to the Zoning Board of Appeals to start the process to amend the Zoning Code.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Tweedy and Keister voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4-0.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The November Treasurer's report was presented with revenues and expenses reviewed. The Village's ending cash balance was up approximately \$20k from the previous month. There were no questions. **Motion made by Tweedy, seconded by Lowrance, to approve the Treasurer's Report for November, 2022.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Tweedy, and Keister voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4-0.

COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be no Committee meetings scheduled in December due to the holidays.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND

Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$285,209.02. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Tweedy, and Keister voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 4-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Lowrance, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$368,100.62. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Tweedy, and Keister voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 4-0.

GARBAGE FUND

Motion by Tweedy, seconded by Lowrance, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$58,079.10. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Tweedy, and Keister voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 4-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on January 9, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Council Room of Village Hall.

Having no further business, **a motion was made by Tweedy, seconded by Lowrance, to adjourn the meeting.** All trustees voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk

Gary Bost, Mayor