

**VILLAGE OF BETHALTO  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 26, 2023, 6:00PM  
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Members Present:**

Gary Bost	Rachel Sontag
Brady Dugger	Tim Tweedy
Maria Perkhiser	Terri Keister

**Also Present:**

Village Clerk Sue Lowrance  
Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick  
Public Works Director Rod Cheatham  
Deputy Police Chief Jason Lamb  
Village Finance Administrator/Treasurer Aleisha Randolph  
Fire Chief Brian Buhs  
Firefighter Billy Higgins

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gary Bost at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers of Village Hall.

**Budget Review**

Village Finance Administrator/Treasurer Aleisha Randolph presented the budget worksheets as distributed. Mayor Bost noted that the Village ended this past fiscal year well under budget and commended all department heads for keeping spending in-check. Randolph noted that ARPA funding is no longer applicable, so that has been removed from the budget, and stated that some fund expenses were increased due to inflation, contracted raises, etc. The Village's cash balance is approximately \$10 million, and this budget shows revenue up and expenses down. The business district fund budget has an additional \$200k entered for infrastructure improvements; Bost explained this as in anticipation of development at 140/111 requiring infrastructure. He further noted that nothing is currently proposed but wanted funding in the budget just in case. Bost added that the positive trend in savings and a positive cash balance will allow the Village to create emergency/reserve funds and that "just because the money is there doesn't mean we're going to spend it". Randolph responded to trustees' questions concerning leave buy-out (nothing anticipated), computer system budgeting (we audit our equipment each year and anticipate expenditures) and explained that some line items were combined into one as requested by department heads. There will be a public hearing on July 10 at 6:45 to discuss the Appropriation Ordinance, which will then be voted on at that evening's board meeting.

### Fire Department

Billy Higgins, one of our on-call firefighters since 2018, was in attendance to represent the department to discuss increased call volume and the need for increased funding to eventually allow for two on-call men per shift. Higgins wanted to introduce himself to the board and let everyone know what the department was looking to do. Mayor Bost noted that he has met with the finance committee of the department (Higgins, Tim Brown, and Derek Mormino) and further noted that this year's proposed budget increased slightly from last year, even though spending decreased. Bost added that the department budget benefits from a full tax levy amount and foreign fire tax, and that the department and the Village will continue to work together to research funding options. Trustee Perkhiser asked about Homecoming profits; Buhs answered that they usually net between \$25-30k annually. Trustee Keister noted that Capt. Brown is on the Chamber of Commerce meeting agenda this month; Buhs stated that is regarding seeking donations for funding of active shooter equipment for the department. There were no further questions.

### Personnel Update

Police Chief Mike Dixon has resigned, with his last day at the end of this week. Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick will be retiring in the middle of October, and we will be moving current Building & Occupancy Inspector Chris Cameron into his position. Reddick feels that Cameron is the right person for the job. Cameron is currently certified as a home inspector and radon inspector and is working on other certifications as well. We will hire a part-time building & occupancy inspector when the time comes. Attorney Balsters has announced that he will finish out this year as the Village attorney and will then move toward retirement, so the Village will soon be discussing his replacement as well.

Having no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Bost at 6:17pm.

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Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk