

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Bethalto, IL
October 9, 2023
Council Chambers, Village Hall
213 N. Prairie St, Bethalto, IL

The Village Board of Trustees met on the above date in the Council Chambers of Village Hall for a regular meeting called to order by Mayor Gary 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, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag. Also present: Police Chief Jason Lamb, Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Village Finance Administrator/Treasurer Aleisha Randolph, Village Attorney Ken Balsters, Fire Chief Brian Buhs, and Zoning Administrator Chris Cameron.

Motion made by Tweedy, seconded by Mull, to approve village board meeting minutes of September 11, 2023, as printed. All members voted aye viva voce. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISORS:

Fire Chief Brian Buhs reviewed the statistical report for the month of September, noting 123 calls for the month and 1,416 year-to-date. October has been busy so far, with 52 calls already this month; Buhs anticipates that trend to continue as calls usually increase during colder weather. The department is looking to add members, as a few part-timers have moved on to full-time positions that don’t allow cross-employment. Buhs expressed appreciation for the Police Department, adding that Patrolman Lynn recently assisted with a distressed citizen in the Burger King parking lot and likely ended up saving his life. There were no questions.

Police Chief Jason Lamb presented the monthly activity report for September. Lamb discussed the recent drug-related charges filed on inhabitants of a residence on Lakeside Drive, noting that four people were charged with various drug charges but then released to due the new Safe-T-Act no cash bail policy. More charges are likely pending with those same individuals. During the arrests, the conditions of the home were noticed, and code

enforcement was brought in to evaluate the home. Zoning Administrator Chris Cameron found over 100 violations and tagged the home as uninhabitable and will be following up with it. Scenario-based training is a new requirement by the State; Sgt. Dugger has been certified as a trainer and is doing our department's training in-house. SRO Shank has been doing school safety drills and the district-wide safety meeting is next week. Chief Lamb announced that he'd like to purchase firearms upgrades for the department as current guns and sights are over 10 years old. Through funding available from the Mustache March and the department's drug forfeiture account he believes equipment can be purchased at no expense to the Village. There were no questions.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his departmental reports. The fall flushing program is in full swing and CIPP lining is progressing quickly. CIPP has proven to have a huge impact on flow rates after rain events. Work on the multi-use trail along Plegge will begin very soon. There are now 4 new pickleball courts in the park and a handicapped-accessible picnic table by the bandstand that was donated by Villa Rose. Trustee Mull asked if Cheatham expects it to be a rough year for main breaks; Cheatham answered that the drought conditions may worsen things, but time will tell. There were no questions.

Zoning Administrator Chris Cameron presented his department's monthly report, reviewing commercial construction projects, property updates and code enforcement issues. The South Prairie Senior Living Apartment complex is working on completion of two apartments before we issue an entire project permit; Cameron stated this will allow both the Village and contractor to see the scope of the project. O'Reilly Auto Parts is expecting to open in late November or early December. West Star's construction plans were evaluated by Oates & Associates and some issues were discovered in the process, but things are again moving forward. Code enforcement complaints are down, likely due to dry weather. Cameron reviewed the status of several nuisance properties, adding that 58 N. Williams is a continuing

issue, and our attorney is recommending termination of the agreement with the owners since they aren't meeting any deadlines. There is a court date on October 13 for the property at 781 Roosevelt. There were no questions.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Wiegand from the Wealthcare Group presented the options for the Village's medical insurance renewal, which is due November 1. Aetna returned a renewal rate with an increase of 15% over last year's premiums, so the brokers went to the marketplace to see if there was a more favorable option. United Health Care is offering a slightly better plan, with a lower deductible and out of pocket limit, at an increase of 8% over Aetna's current rates. It was noted that going with this plan may also lower expenditures from the HRA account, which Wiegand also reviewed. Wiegand noted that the switch will take some paperwork and an employee meeting will be scheduled, but he doesn't see any employee issues with the switch as the plans are quite similar. Mayor Bost noted that IML had predicted increases of 15-20% in premiums; we had budgeted a 15% increase. Bost also reminded everyone that the employees do absorb a percentage of the increase. Trustee Keister expressed concern that the pattern of large increases may continue next year, noting that we seem to switch providers often. Wiegand stated that increases are based largely on claims, so we can hope for a better year this year. There were no further questions.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions presented for consideration.

ORDINANCES

The Planning & Zoning Board has forwarded a recommendation to the Village Board, recommending updates to the zoning code as it relates to permitted & special uses in some zoning districts. A public hearing & meeting was held in September regarding this request.

Attorney Balsters reviewed their recommendation and related ordinance with no questions. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Dugger, to accept the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board to approve the recommended updates to the zoning code as listed.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

Ordinance 2023-10 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 40 Zoning was presented. This updates the current code to reflect the recommended changes to permitted & special uses in GC General Commercial, LI Light Industrial, GS Green Space and PS Public Space zoning districts, as forwarded from the Planning & Zoning Board. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Mull, to approve Ordinance 2023-10 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 40 Zoning.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Village employee medical insurance is set for renewal on November 1st. The Wealthcare Group has presented our options and recommends a switch to United Health Care as they have the most favorable quote. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Dugger, to approve the Village medical insurance renewal with United Health Care for the period of November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

Volunteers are needed for the Arboretum fall cleanup day on October 21 from 9am – 12pm. The Rotary Club Halloween Parade and Trunk or Treat is set for Tuesday, October 24 with lineup at 6pm at Rose Lawn. Trick or Treating in the Village will be October 30 & 31 from 6-9pm. Village offices will be closed November 10 for Veterans Day.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The September Treasurer's Report was presented by Finance Administrator/Treasurer Aleisha Randolph. Notable revenue and expenses were reviewed; our ending cash balance decreased from the previous month due to a CIPP expenditure with no reimbursement received from the County. That reimbursement did come in last week, so will be reflected in the October report. There were no questions. **Motion made by Tweedy, seconded by Perkhiser, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of September, 2023.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$164,584.27. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Perkhiser, seconded by Mull, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$171,671.17. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

LIABILITY INSURANCE FUND

Motion by Keister, seconded by Mull, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$167,269.51. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

GARBAGE FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Tweedy, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$55,194.24. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

BUSINESS DISTRICT FUND

Motion by Sontag, seconded by Tweedy, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$26,547.00. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

TIF FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$125.00. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

Monthly committees will meet on October 23, 2023, at 6:00pm. The next Village Board meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2023, at 7:00pm.

Having no further business, a **motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tweedy, seconded by Mull.** All voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk

Gary Bost, Mayor