

**VILLAGE OF BETHALTO
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2023, 6:00PM
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Members Present:

Gary Bost	Jeff Mull
Brady Dugger	Tim Tweedy
Maria Perkhiser	Terri Keister

Also Present:

Village Clerk Sue Lowrance	Fire Chief Brian Buhs
Village Attorney Ken Balsters	Public Works Director Rod Cheatham

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

Safety Inspections Update

Fire Chief Brian Buhs announced that all new businesses have had their safety inspections completed; there are still some re-inspections to complete as repairs are done and still a few holdouts with no progress. Buhs has been out of commission with a medical issue but will now follow-up on those holdouts; one business may be facing a tax sale and closure.

Update on 781 Roosevelt

There has been no attempt by Dr. Schreiber to comply with the special use permit application process to allow for cows on the property, and in the meantime other livestock has been noticed at the residence. Schreiber has retained an attorney, with a court date set for December 22.

Sports Complex Agreement

Members of the CMHS baseball coaching staff, followed by school administrators, have approached Mayor Bost with a “wish list” of items they’d like to see completed at SC1. Mayor noted that we currently have an agreement with the school district over the maintenance of the park, which has become solely used by the school district and is no longer a joint-use complex. We currently maintain the property, do field prep, etc., because the district was not maintaining the property to the standards of our original agreement. This current agreement expires at the end of the TIF; the TIF period itself expired in September, but taxes will be collected for 2023 and then the loan paid off at the end of 2024. The agreement states that no capital expenditures will be made on the complex if money is owed on the TIF. Mayor is asking for the Board’s input as to how to proceed once this agreement has expired; the consensus is that taxpayer dollars shouldn’t be used to maintain and care for fields used exclusively by the school district. Trustees agreed that it seems the school wants the Village to foot the entire bill for any improvements and maintenance of “their fields”. Bost stated that he would like to have

a new agreement in place for the 2025 spring baseball season, so we would be working toward making that happen.

St. Louis/Illinois Gators

The St. Louis Gators is a large baseball & softball organization that has expanded into Southern Illinois and is building a \$4 million indoor complex at 255/143 in Wood River. This organization has expressed an interest in having an outdoor facility “home base”, and SC2 is an option that has been discussed with them. Mayor has had a couple of meetings with the organization, and they’d be interested in taking over maintenance of the facility in exchange for use of the fields. Bost noted that SC2 hasn’t been utilized since it opened, and the concession stand has also never been used; so, we have a facility that is unused and an entity that is interested which could be a win-win for both parties. Mayor just wanted the trustees to know this was being discussed and will keep them informed as talks progress.

Old Water Office Update

We still have a business that is interested in locating to the old water office at 101 S. Prairie; however, nothing is set in stone at this time. Since the building is sitting empty and flooring and HVAC needs to be updated no matter what the future holds, we plan to move forward with those items now. We don’t have a cost estimate at this point, but we did receive a \$50,000 Rebuild Illinois Bondability Grant for this purpose. Whether we lease the building to an outside entity or remodel it for our own use, this work needs to be completed. Bost will keep the board updated if he hears from the other interested party.

Update on Alton Sewer Reserve

The City of Alton was holding \$378k of Village funds in a holding account when they sold their water system to Illinois American Water, along with over \$100k from Godfrey. We have attempted to get this money refunded to no avail. Now, Godfrey has publicized their fight and is planning on issuing a demand for refund and/or litigation. We will be joining Godfrey to try to work this out for both entities. Alton’s new administration claims that “they do not have these funds” and that their balance sheets showed \$0 in that account when the sale was finalized. Bost will keep the board updated.

Update on Sewer Lining Project

Our CIPP linings have all been completed and the final walkthrough will be this week. We were awarded \$8.5 million in ARPA funds for this project, and the final cost was right around \$6.0 million (with a \$5.9 million bid). To line the interceptor into Meadowbrook the cost will be \$796,000, leaving a balance of \$1.474 million in ARPA funds. We have asked that those funds be allocated to our subjurisdictions to continue the CIPP lining as far into their boundaries as it allows, rather than lose the funds for this area. This proposal should pass the county, as it has already been approved by Ernst & Young who oversees the ARPA funding. All the subjurisdictions have been contacted except for Rosewood Heights, and all agree with this plan. It was noted that if the funding isn’t used for this, they’d find another use elsewhere, so this works out best for our local municipalities. PW Director Cheatham added that the CIPP results

have proven to be even better than he anticipated, and that continuation of the linings will greatly affect this region.

Trustee Keister added that the airport has received \$75k in ARPA funding for completion of the detention basin at the north end of the airport. This will help with the flow of stormwater through the cemetery, Kutter Aljets and along the creek through the Michael Court area.

New Liquor License Request

Mayor Bost received a call from an investment banker inquiring about obtaining a liquor license for the old Pizza Hut property. Bost gave him the parameters and steps involved in getting the license and told him he would need to come to the meeting and present his plan to the board to get the process started. Since then, Bost has heard nothing. This was added to the agenda just in case he was in attendance.

Having no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Bost at 6:35pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk