

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Bethalto, IL
January 8, 2024
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 December 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 December, noting 163 calls for the month and 1,853 for the year, which is a significant increase from last year. Buhs presented comparisons to other local departments, noting that the trend will likely continue. Buhs updated the board on the new radio project, which is nearing completion at no cost to the Village. The new truck is still being manufactured, with the hope it will still be in service by March or April. Business inspections are continuing; one non-compliant business has been sold. There were no questions regarding the report. Trustee Tweedy asked about the status of potential raises for firefighter personnel. Mayor stated this is something that will be discussed for the next fiscal year’s budget and that he has spoken with Chief Buhs and Jeremiah Grant regarding that. Tweedy noted that Cedarhurst is planning an expansion and that he believes the increased call volume trend will continue, and went on to state that a better-paid department could be a selling point in trying to bring in new businesses to town.

Police Chief Jason Lamb presented the monthly activity report for December, noting a fairly quiet month. The department held rapid deployment and active shooter drills at Trimpe Middle School earlier this month. The department's new guns are expected to arrive tomorrow, and firearms qualification will be later this month. The PD is currently conducting mandated training for state compliance. The department's annual report was submitted to the Board. There were no questions.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his departmental reports. There were no main breaks in December, CIPP is completed in Meadowbrook and is moving on to other areas, and equipment is being prepped for snow. The ground density test for the multi-use pathway could not be completed due to wet conditions, but the project could be completed as early as March. Water office billing, red tags, shut offs and liens were reported. There were no questions.

Zoning Administrator Chris Cameron presented his department's monthly report, noting a fairly typical month of December. The Schreiber property at 781 Roosevelt had a court date on December 22, but we have had no update from our attorney. There were no questions.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no guests or public comments.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions presented for consideration.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2024-01 An Ordinance to Annex John W. Ferrell and James Ferrell, As Trustee and/or Any Successor Trustee Under the James Ferrell Living Trust, U/A

Dated August 22, 2017 Land to the Village of Bethalto was presented. At the request of Mr. Ferrell, the land located adjacent to the Village, along Route 111 and Airline Drive, will be annexed into the Village of Bethalto. We have had no opposition to this request. Attorney Balsters reviewed the ordinance, noting the land is a part of the Rosewood Heights Fire Protection District and that they have been notified; no other notifications were required. This is farmland which is surrounded by the Village limits at the present time. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Sontag, to approve Ordinance 2024-01 An Ordinance to Annex John W. Ferrell and James Ferrell, As Trustee and/or Any Successor Trustee Under the James Ferrell Living Trust, U/A Dated August 22, 2017 Land to the Village of Bethalto.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

Jake Zambaldi from Moran Economic Development was in attendance to present the blight analysis and Business District Development plan for the creation of a new, consolidated business district along Route 111 which will include the newly annexed Ferrell land along with the former Wayside Estates subdivision property. A public hearing date must be set tonight to start the process for this “new” business district. It was noted that any tweaking or boundary changes can be made up until the public hearing date.

Ordinance 2024-02 An Ordinance Setting Public Hearing Date for the Establishment of a Business District in the Village of Bethalto was presented. This sets a hearing date for February 12, 2024, at 6:30pm to receive public input on this matter. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Perkhiser, to approve Ordinance 2024-02 An Ordinance Setting Public Hearing Date for the Establishment of a Business District in the Village of Bethalto.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Village offices will be closed January 15 for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Finance Administrator Randolph announced that the Village audit was complete and Financial Report filed with the State. There was nothing out of the ordinary to report for the fiscal year ended 4/30/23.

Mayor Bost reminded everyone that the Village and Police Department are hosting a Love for Lucie trivia night on February 3 to benefit Deputy Chief Scott Hale and his family. Donations are being accepted and raffle items are needed for the event.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The December Treasurer's Report was presented by Finance Administrator/Treasurer Aleisha Randolph. Revenue and expenses were reviewed, and it was noted that December had three payroll cycles. The cash balance increased from the previous month, and the ending cash balance was \$12,541,384. There were no questions. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Tweedy, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of December, 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 Tweedy, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$150,794.97. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Perkhiser, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$338,720.43. 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 \$66,893.77. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

BUSINESS DISTRICT FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$12,500.00. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

Monthly committees will meet this month on January 22 at 6pm. The next Village Board meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2024, at 7:00pm with a public hearing set for 6:30pm.

Having no further business, a **motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tweedy, seconded by Dugger.** All voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk

Gary Bost, Mayor