

**VILLAGE OF BETHALTO  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 25, 2024, 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	Fire Chief Brian Buhs
Village Attorney Ken Balsters	Public Works Director Rod Cheatham
Police Chief Jason Lamb	members of Bethalto School Board & administrators

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

**Unauthorized Camping Ordinance**

Mayor Bost stated that Bethalto will be one of the last local municipalities to pass this suggested ordinance, which was forwarded to us by the Madison County State's Attorney's office. All neighboring municipalities have passed this same ordinance. There were no questions or comments, so Bost stated it will be considered for adoption at the April meeting.

**Sports Complex 1**

Mayor Bost reviewed the history of Sports Complex 1, noting that the Village has been maintaining the facility, mainly for the school district's use. Since the TIF has ended, so has our agreement with the School District, and the Village Board's intent is to relieve the Village of its responsibility for the property and use our resources elsewhere. Bost added that we are at a crossroads since the end of the TIF, and both parties need to determine where to go from this point. The Village intends to maintain the facility through the rest of this school year/season, but then "wants out of the sports complex business". Trustee Keister asked what the Village spends annually on maintenance; PW Director Cheatham estimated \$250-300k per year. Bost reviewed the financials tied to the complex and stated that he feels a good starting point would be a sale at \$1.2million. Bost added that the Village has gone without necessary repairs for many years due to the outstanding TIF loan balance. Dr. Jill Griffin, Superintendent of the Bethalto School District, stated that their board held a meeting on Thursday and that Dr. Barrett Deist would like to address the Village Board. Dr. Deist then stated that the district would like to discuss a lease-purchase option, as the district does not have the funds for an outright purchase. Bost noted that our board would agree to that discussion. Trustee Keister asked if the facility would be kept solely for school use; Griffin stated there has been discussion of facility rental in the off-season, but nothing set in stone. Griffin asked if the Village has a set timeline in mind for finalizing any agreement; Deist stated that the district attorney could draft

a proposal. Mayor stated that there is no set timeline other than we will no longer maintain the facility after the summer season. Bost stated that our next meetings would be April 8 and May 13, so those are dates to shoot for, if possible.

Having no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Bost at 6:15pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Lowrance".

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk