

**VILLAGE OF BETHALTO
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 28, 2024, 6:00PM
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Village Clerk Sue Lowrance	Fire Chief Brian Buhs
Village Attorney Ken Balsters	Public Works Director Rod Cheatham
Police Chief Jason Lamb	Asst. Fire Chief Jeremiah Grant

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gary Bost at 6:01pm in the Council Chambers of Village Hall.

Update on Real Estate at 58 N. Williams

We received the property appraisal for 58 N. Williams, published a notice in the Telegraph of our intention to sell, and have secured a buyer for the property at 80% of the appraised value. The buyer is expected to sign the purchase agreement prior to our June 10 meeting, at which the board can approve the sale. A closing date is set for June 12. The proceeds from the sale cover all our obligations and any debts outstanding; the house is to be demolished and a new house built in its place.

Solicitors Licenses

Door to door solicitors is our biggest resident complaint right now, and Mayor Bost would like to start the discussion to consider updating our solicitors code (Chapter 7, Article 2). Several trustees agreed that they've heard complaints, mainly regarding solar companies knocking on doors. We currently charge a fee of \$10 per person, per day, and require each solicitor to always carry the issued permit on them. Trustees Mull and Keister agreed it is time to review our code. Mayor stated we will start that discussion and try to have a new policy in place within the next year.

Budget Review

Finance Administrator/Treasurer Randolph reviewed the proposed budget by department as follows: "Good evening, Mayor and Trustees,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to prepare this budget for the Village, with the help of the Mayor and the department heads. I am going to give an overview and hit some highlights of the budget worksheet that has been presented to you.

To begin, let's start on page 1, the summary page. We have beginning cash of 12,563,154. Budgeted total revenue is 15,831,840. Budgeted total expenditures are 15,811,179. This calculates a total net income of 20,661 and an estimated ending cash balance at 12,583,815. Our interfund transfer line has decreased from last year. This line represents transfers between funds for expenditures that should be allocated between all departments. Rather than allocating each individual invoice at the time of payment, the determination is made after the payment and internal reimbursement is the interfund amount.

GENERAL FUND

Let's move to page 3 to discuss General fund total revenue budgeted. Total revenue budgeted in general fund is 6,727,595. This increase is mainly due to tax revenue. Last fiscal year we came in at 7,104,182. We did have a large donation for the museum, and also some miscellaneous income such as the PEP Grant from Madison County for the pickleball courts.

General fund total expenditures budgeted are 6,755,109. We have increases in payroll to cover contracted raises, anticipated medical insurance increases, and some various improvement costs. -Starting with administration on pages 5 and 6, we have a 3.8% increase. Nothing new added to this department.

-Moving to Building and zoning, it has a 8.76% increase. Something I want to note about this department, right now it is showing over budget from last year, that is due to the West Star and Cedarhurst permit review costs that are in the "Other Expense" line item. Those costs will be reimbursed to the Village once the permit review is completed.

-Police department has a 6.19% increase. Most of this is due to raises and medical insurance increases. Some capital improvements we have planned for the police department are the purchase of 2 new squad cars along with some more LPR cameras." *Trustee Perkhiser asked why two police cars are included in this year's budget, when she sees cars sitting in the lot frequently. Chief Lamb responded that 9 new vehicles were purchased in 2017 to replace an aged fleet; these units are now aging as well, as evidenced by increasing repair costs. By purchasing two new vehicles this year, we can use two of the current Explorers and retire the two 2011 Impalas currently in use by detectives. Additionally, purchasing two vehicles a year will start a cycle of periodic replacement rather than needing to replace all the vehicles at once. Lamb further explained that some officers live outside of our venue so cannot take their squad cars home, which is why several are parked in the lot on occasion.*

"-Fire department has a 25.86% increase. They have an increase in wages for the recent \$1 raise. We have \$50,000 in expenditures for some new turnout gear. After recent discussion about purchasing a new fire truck, I was able to tighten up some other budget line items to add more to the equipment line. After numerous meetings, the Volunteers have elected to donate \$40,000 to the Village towards the payoff of the new truck that has not been received yet. That donation, with the addition of the \$40,000 already budgeted for the loan payment, will pay off the truck that we do not have. They plan on then using the \$110,000 in the equipment line item

as a down payment on a new truck. The Volunteers have agreed to pay any additional equipment costs during the fiscal year so that they can use the full \$110,000 towards a new truck." *Trustee Keister verified that the volunteers have no issues with this plan; Chief Buhs stated they are good with making this monetary donation towards the truck.*

"-Street department on page 10 has a 7.31% increase. This is mostly due to adding an equipment line item for the purchase of a new street sweeper. We also have added \$60,000 to the Mill and Overlay line item." *Public Works Director Cheatham added that we currently have a very short-term lease on a street sweeper, as the company had the exact unit he wanted in stock and he wanted to act quickly before it sold; once the budget is passed, we will move forward with the purchase of that unit. The old unit will likely be scrapped or sold. Trustee Perkhiser asked about the supplies & repairs line at \$95k; Randolph replied she kept the previous budgeted amount in that line item as those expenses are unpredictable.*

"-Parks and Rec has a 5.44% increase. We have added \$125,000 of infrastructure improvements for the purchase of Code Blue emergency stations." *Mayor Bost stated he believes we will receive a \$50k grant toward the purchase of the Code Blue stations; if so, the full \$125k budgeted amount won't be spent.*

"-Finally, municipal buildings on page 13 has a 36.92% increase. This is due to having \$250,000 in building improvements. We plan on spending the donated money for the museum." *Cheatham stated that tuckpointing, roof work and HVAC work will be completed on the museum and that will likely use the entire donated amount.*

"Audit fund on page 14 has a total revenue of 16,000 and total expense of 22,000,

Liability Insurance fund on page 15 has a total revenue of 272,635 and total expense of 178,000.

Social security fund on page 16 has a total revenue of 277,560, and total expense of 270,000.

Motor Fuel Tax on page 17 has a total revenue of 502,000 and total expense of 555,000. All of these expenditures are for N Prairie St Reconstruction, and Erwin Plegge IDOT projects.

IMRF Fund on page 18 has 285,150 for revenue. Please note the administrative transfer line shows 0 for this fund. Our new software has the ability to allocate the IMRF charges per department. This is one of the reasons the interfund transfer line on the summary has decreased. Expenses are 185,000.

TIF District on page 19 has a total income of \$314,600. Since the TIF is closing, the General Fund will be supplementing income to cover the remainder of the TIF loan. Expenses are 314,600.

Business district on page 20 has a total revenue of 788,000. I chose to remain conservative on the interest income. Our locked-in rate of 4.75% will expire in September. After that, I will re-

examine to determine if there are any better options available. Total expenses did not change at 945,000.

Garbage fund on page 21 has a total income of 678,000. Total expenses are 700,000. It shows a -4.11% decrease, this is due to the line for dumping going back down to 5,000. I believe I added an extra 0 last year.

Civil defense fund on page 22 has total revenue of 3,500 and total expenditures of 3,500.

WATER FUND

Lets move to Water Fund on page 23, budgeted revenue is 2,951,000. This is mainly due to water rates increasing. We have increases in payroll to cover the contracted raises and anticipated medical insurance increases. Equipment purchases have increased for the purchase of a street sweeper. We have also added a plant building repair line. Overall, expenses are 2,931,000, a 1.39% increase.

SEWER FUND

Before we talk about sewer fund on page 26, I want to explain something. Last year, I did not add the reimbursements we were getting from Madison county for the Interceptor project in the revenues or expenses. That is why we show over budget for revenue and expenditures. This year, I am making sure I include that amount. That brings us to a total revenue of 3,568,000. For expenses, we have increases in payroll to cover the contracted raises and anticipated medical insurance increases. As well as equipment purchases for the street sweeper, and also 1.5 million of ARPA expenditures left, that will be reimbursed by Madison County.

Total Revenue for all funds last year was \$15,599,598. Total expenses were 12,902,869. We were \$1,792,481 under budget. Because of our conservative spending, we are able to begin creating those reserve funds that have been discussed historically.”

Mayor Bost gave credit to Randolph for her work on the budget and to the department heads for breaking the “we have it, so spend it mentality”. Trustee Keister asked where we currently stand with reserve accounts; Bost stated we need to look at setting goals and put a plan in writing for future boards to follow and be held accountable. There were no further questions.

Having no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Bost at 6:30pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk