

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Bethalto, IL
February 10, 2025
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, Mull and Sontag. Trustee Keister was absent. Also present were Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Police Chief Jason Lamb, Jeremiah Grant of the Fire Department, and Village Finance Administrator/Treasurer Aleisha Randolph.

Motion made by Tweedy, seconded by Mull, to approve village board meeting minutes of January 13, 2025, as printed. All members voted aye viva voce. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISORS:

Acting Fire Chief Jeremiah Grant presented the monthly Fire Department report. There were 141 calls this month and no fires. CPR training was completed for the police department, and ISO paperwork is being processed for the March deadline. The department has applied for a few grants, one of which would allow for repairs at the station. New recruits are needed, as we are down to 9 volunteers. The old bell in front of the department is going to be refurbished by a local scout as his Eagle Badge project. There were no questions.

Police Chief Lamb presented the Police Department’s activity report for January, noting a quiet month. Officers are working on mandated training, and all have completed their CPR training through our fire department. Chief Lamb and Deputy Chief Hale will be attending a Criminal Justice Summit later this month in Effingham. Patrolman White is doing well at the Academy. There were no questions.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his departmental reports. There were nine main breaks in January, which caused a lot of issues with discolored water throughout town. To help alleviate some of these issues, we will be flushing the entire water system starting February 18. The new backhoe has been received and is in service. Mayor Bost asked Cheatham to explain the flushing process; Cheatham said that flushing starts at the water plant and goes through the entire system until water runs clean. This process flushes the lines of sediment and scours cast iron lines for any particles. The entire process can take 3-4 weeks, depending on the amount of sediment in the lines. Cheatham added that we are looking into auto flushers for the system which could help with the discolored water issues. Trustee Mull asked why there seem to be more discolored water complaints; Cheatham responded that the nine breaks didn't help anything and that now it is a process of chasing one area after another due to these breaks. There were no other questions.

Mayor Bost presented the Building & Zoning department's monthly report. Bost noted that work is continuing at the South Prairie Senior Living Apartments. The old Pizza Hut building is nearing completion, and that restaurant is set to open around the first week of March. Frazier Tax Services is doing a remodel thanks to our façade grant program. There were no questions.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kenneth Lenhardt, 1104 Briarwood Drive, was in attendance to express concerns over the recent brown water issues, which he stated seem to be getting worse and affecting more residents. Lenhardt pleaded for better communication with the public when issues arise, suggesting a Code Red type system, mailing list, or other means of notification; he asked for updates on when repairs and enhancements to the system would be forthcoming, for faster resolution of issues when they arise, and for the Village to consider rebates to customers when they are affected by water issues for an extended period of time. Trustee Mull noted

that most often flushing is not scheduled but is a response to a main break or other issue, so that notification at those times would be difficult. Mayor Bost acknowledged Lenhardt's concerns and thanked him for attending.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions presented for consideration.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2025-01 An Ordinance Adopting a Revised Code of Ordinances for the Village of Bethalto, Madison County, Illinois was presented. As discussed in committee, this ordinance adopts an entirely new code book, updated to reflect changes made by the Village and to keep our code in line with current state statutes. Attorney Balsters has reviewed the updates with our codification company and approves of this action. Once adopted, the new electronic copy will be sent by the codifier, and our website will be updated with the latest version. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Dugger, to approve Ordinance 2025-01 An Ordinance Adopting a Revised Code of Ordinances for the Village of Bethalto, Madison County, Illinois.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Village offices will be closed February 17, 2025, for Presidents' Day.

Bethalto Jaycees have requested use of Central Park for their annual Country Fair from May 22 through May 25, 2025.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The January Treasurer's Report was presented by Finance Administrator/Treasurer Aleisha Randolph. Revenue and notable expenses were reviewed; the ending cash balance stands at \$14,081,647. Museum HVAC work is being completed thanks to the Fowler family donation. There were no questions. **Motion made by Perkhiser, seconded by Sontag, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of January, 2025.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Mull, and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$113,799.86. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Perkhiser, seconded by Sontag, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$112,559.33. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

GARBAGE FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Tweedy, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$60,924.66. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

TIF FUND

Motion made by Sontag, seconded by Perkhiser, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$187.50. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Bost announced the need to enter Executive Session per Chapter 5 ILCS Act 120 Section 2 (c) (2) Collective Bargaining. Entered executive session at 7:16pm.

Reconvened into regular session at 7:32pm. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Perkhiser, to approve Executive Session minutes from January 13, 2025, as presented.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Monthly committees will meet February 24, 2025, at 6pm. The next Village Board meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2025, at 7:00pm.

Having no further business, a **motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mull, seconded by Perkhiser.** All voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk

Gary Bost, Mayor