

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Bethalto, IL
May 12, 2025
Council Chambers, Village Hall
213 N. Prairie Street, Bethalto, Illinois

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 Attorney Ken Balsters, acting Fire Chief Jay Grant, Village Finance Administrator/Treasurer Aleisha Randolph, newly-elected Trustee Jay Wright, and several firefighters, residents, family and friends.

Motion made by Tweedy, seconded by Sontag, to approve village board meeting minutes of April 14, 2025 as printed. All members voted aye viva voce. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISORS:

Acting Fire Chief Jay Grant reviewed the statistical report for the month of April, noting 133 calls for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 671. Grant put out a call for volunteers, as we are down to 12 on the roster. The new rescue truck has arrived, but we are awaiting paperwork to place it in service. Starcom radios are planned throughout the County, with a date yet to be determined, but pagers to be in service within 60 days. Grant noted this will require funding for installation. There were no questions.

Police Chief Lamb presented the monthly activity report for April, noting a quiet month. Sgt. Dugger is in Washington, DC for National Police Week. This opportunity was made possible thanks to fundraising by Mustache March. Officer White passed his state exam and is currently in field training with Sgt. Wofford. There were no questions.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his departmental reports, noting no main breaks this month. IEPA PFAS letters were sent out per their request. Construction work has begun on Plegge in preparation for resurfacing. Electrical service was updated at the Splash Pad. There were no questions. Mayor Bost asked Cheatham to discuss the recent PFAS test announcement and IEPA notice; Cheatham responded that testing done in 2022 from our groundwater wells resulted in one of the seven wells returning a higher level of one PFAS chemical than IEPA “safe standards” (13 parts per trillion vs their benchmark of 10 parts per trillion), which he stated is surprising since all seven wells are located within the same proximity and only one tested higher. Cheatham added that PFAS chemicals are found in everyday items and that many surrounding communities are in this same situation or worse. IEPA mandated that we send out notices to our water customers, although they are still developing standards for post-treatment levels. Our finished water tested at a level of 2.5, which is well below the current IEPA standard of 4. Cheatham added that although these public health notices cause alarm, our test levels are not as terrible as they make it seem. Trustee Mull asked why these notices were just sent out if test results were from 2022; Cheatham stated that he cannot answer for the IEPA, but that the Collinsville IEPA office was unaware that the Springfield office had even sent out these mandates.

Mayor Bost presented the monthly Building & Zoning report, noting that the S. Prairie Senior Living Apartments are in the final inspection process, and IDPH has revoked the campground license for Neumann’s mobile home park, meaning there is hope that the State will be of assistance in getting that situation under control. There were no questions.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joan Ketcham, 413 Whispering Oaks Drive, addressed the board regarding a Zoning Appeal she is filing over a proposed portico/carport she wishes to construct on her property. She claims to be getting conflicting information from the “old and new guard” in the zoning

department and feels that the regulations cited are based on opinions only and ‘nobody knows the rules or what is ok’. Mayor Bost explained that Mr. Ressler is the code enforcement officer and lead inspector, with authority to act on the Village’s behalf in these matters, and that any appeal based on the Zoning Department’s rulings must start with the Zoning Board of Appeals, who in turn makes a recommendation to the Village Board for final action.

Michelle Randolph, 433 Valley View Drive, addressed the board regarding recurring discolored water concerns and stated that the Village needs to pressure the EPA and find a fix for these issues, and questioned how frequently testing is completed. Bost responded that PFAS testing is not completed frequently, with the last being in 2022, but that our water is tested monthly for other contaminants. Cheatham stated that her recurring issues could be from being located on a dead-end line, from a hydrant being opened, or any number of situations including internal line issues within the home. He stated the Village is getting bids for auto-flushers, with another bid received today. Randolph did state that there are times when she notices the discoloration, but her neighbors claim their water is clear; Cheatham stated he can investigate her situation.

Angel Helmkamp, 500 North Street, also addressed the board regarding discolored water issues. She noted concerns about rust poisoning from “old pipes”, stating that residents want transparency and that her water is “disgusting”. She added that as a city we need to figure out why this is happening and research grants, loans, etc. for a long-term solution, even volunteering to conduct research herself into possible funding.

Mary Goode, with offices located at 448 Mense Drive, also spoke about discolored water concerns, stating she consistently hears brown water complaints. Bost assured those in attendance that the Village hears the concerns and is working on solutions.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2025-03 A Resolution Authorizing Application for PEP Grant Funding was presented. As discussed in committee, this year's grant funds will be put toward an inclusive playground to be located behind the bandstand in Central Park. The cost of this project is estimated at \$140,000 with grant funding anticipated to be approximately \$74,000. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Perkhiser, to approve Resolution 2025-03 A Resolution Authorizing Application for PEP Grant Funding.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

Resolution 2025-04 A Resolution Authorizing Sale of Municipally Owned Surplus Real Property was presented. This authorizes the Village to begin the process of selling 37 acres of property located off Culp Lane and to the west of I-255 that is no longer useful to the Village. Bost noted that this resolution only starts the discussion and declares the property as surplus, and that proper channels must be followed to work toward a sale. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Mull, to approve Resolution 2025-04 A Resolution Authorizing Sale of Municipally Owned Surplus Real Property.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2025-08 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21-Liquor was presented. As discussed in committee, this increases the number of Class B liquor licenses from five (5) to six (6) to allow the issuance of a license to Rosewood Café/Tija Hunter. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Perkhiser, to approve Ordinance 2025-08 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21-Liquor.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

Ordinance 2025-09 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 24-Motor Vehicle Code was presented. As discussed in committee, this ordinance updates the fines for parking violations. **Motion made by Tweedy, seconded by Keister, to approve Ordinance 2025-09 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 24-Motor Vehicle Code.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Tija Hunter, owner of Rosewood Café on Airline Drive, East Alton, has applied for a Class B liquor license to serve alcohol at her café. Ordinance 2025-08, passed this evening, allows for the issuance of an additional Class B license. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Dugger, to grant a Class B liquor license to Tija Hunter, Rosewood Café.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The April Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Aleisha Randolph. Revenue and expenses were reviewed, and the ending cash balance decreased approximately \$40,000 from the previous month but stands at \$15,235,398. There were no questions. **Motion made by Sontag, seconded by Dugger, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of April, 2025.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND

Motion by Keister, seconded by Mull, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$109,360.86. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Keister, seconded by Perkhiser, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$175,284.25. 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 \$57,426.36. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

BUSINESS DISTRICT FUND

Motion by Sontag, seconded by Mull, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$17,954.18. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

Having no further business for the seated board, **motion made by Keister, seconded by Perkhiser, to adjourn sine-die at 7:32pm.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister, Mull and Sontag voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0. Mayor Bost thanked Trustee Tim Tweedy for his dedication to the Village Board over the last four years.

Mayor Gary Bost and Trustees Brady Dugger, Terri Keister and Jay Wright were sworn in by Village Clerk Sue Lowrance. Village Clerk Lowrance was sworn in prior to the meeting by Mayor Gary Bost. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the new board was seated on the dais; roll call was taken at 7:40pm by Village Clerk Lowrance with Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright in attendance.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND OTHER OFFICERS

Mayor Bost presented his appointments for approval:

For Departmental Supervisors: Police Chief Jason Lamb, Deputy Police Chief Scott Hale, Fire Chief Jay Grant, Deputy Fire Chief Dan Bartels, Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Zoning Administrator Rod Cheatham. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Sontag, to approve Departmental Supervisors as presented.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

For Inspectors: Building Inspector Marc Ressler, Electrical Inspector Tim Henson, Plumbing Inspector Greg Fowler, Occupancy Inspector Marc Ressler, Fire Inspector Jay Grant. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Mull, to approve Inspectors as presented.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

For Professionals: Village Attorney Ken Balsters, Village Treasurer Aleisha Randolph. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Sontag, to approve Professional appointees as presented.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

For Commissions & Boards: Airport Board, Brian Keister, Planning & Zoning Board Cody Rahn, Fire & Police Commission Gary Bourland, Police Pension Board Bonnie Coleman. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Mull, to approve Commissions & Boards appointees as presented.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

The Splash Pad is set to open May 24, and Village offices will be closed on May 26 for Memorial Day. Rose Lawn's annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held May 26th at 10am at the cemetery.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no new resolutions presented for consideration.

ORDINANCES

There were no new ordinances presented for consideration.

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 6:00pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 9, 2025, at 7:00pm.

Having no further business, a **motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mull, seconded by Sontag**. All voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk

Gary Bost, Mayor