

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Bethalto, IL
August 11, 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, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright. Trustee Perkhiser was absent. Also present: Police Chief Jason Lamb, Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Village Attorney Ken Balsters, Fire Chief Jay Grant, Village Finance Administrator/Treasurer Aleisha Randolph and several residents.

Motion made by Keister, seconded by Mull, to approve village board meeting minutes of July 14, 2025, as printed. All members voted aye viva voce. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISORS:

Fire Chief Jay Grant reviewed the statistical report for the month of July. There were 136 calls this month, with 1 fire. Bethalto schools start this week, and the department will be out with their Welcome Back banners. The pumper truck is progressing, with a walk-through later in August before it is sent to a dealer in St. Louis for further detailing. Homecoming prep has begun, and the department is selling discounted pre-sale ride tickets. One new part-time firefighter has been hired. We did not receive funding from the station renewal grant program. There were no questions.

Police Chief Lamb presented the monthly activity report for July. On July 19th there was an incident on Grant Street where a vehicle was set on fire and the situation escalated; a tactical team was called in and the suspect arrested and charged with several crimes. Thankfully there were no officer injuries, and Chief thanked ILEAS for their assistance that day. State mandated training has been completed, and the Fire and Police Commission authorized

lateral transfer applications to be accepted through August 28. We will have a new hiring list by the end of September. There were no questions.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his departmental reports and reviewed work completed in the water, sewer, street and parks departments as well as the water office. Pledge Blvd. mill & overlay work has begun and will hopefully be completed within a week. Cheatham and Mayor Bost acknowledged the untimeliness of this work, as school starts this week, but stated that the project was delayed by Ameren moving poles and thus set the contractor back several weeks. The project was initially set to be completed in June. The Splash Pad is now open weekends only as school is back in session. Cheatham has added a water quality update section to his monthly report and reviewed it, noting that crews are doing system-wide flushing at night and 15 of our 20 auto flushers have been installed. We have received residents' reports of improved water quality after auto flushing. One of the three outstanding main replacement engineering projects has been completed and approved by the EPA. This project is now in the bid preparation phase. Thanks to Madison County Board members Terry Eaker and Chrissy Wiley, the Village will be receiving \$400,000 in ARPA funds that were remaining from our sewer lining project. There were no questions.

The monthly Building & Zoning report was reviewed with no questions. Trustee Keister asked if we received any responses from the residents at 821 Wildwood, which seems abandoned and is a nuisance property; Cheatham stated we do not hear anything from them, and notices are returned non-deliverable.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Shaun Flatt, 419 Sullivan, East Alton, addressed the board and Public Works Director Cheatham with several questions related to discolored water issues. Flatt asked about grant and loan funding, and why the Village has not applied for such funds. Mayor responded that

to apply for funding, the Village would need to have an amount to apply for and that cost has yet to be determined. Bost stated that all options are and will be considered for funding. Flatt asked when that may be; Cheatham stated that one part of the main replacement project has been approved by the EPA and will soon be in the bidding process; everything involving water line replacement must be approved by the EPA before construction can begin, and we have two additional outstanding projects in the works. Flatt asked who at the Village is responsible for grant applications; Bost replied that Oates & Associates handles grant applications for us, and that we have recently been given access to Madison County's grant writer as well. Bost stated he is meeting with Representative Elik tomorrow and that we will continue to research all options. Discussion turned to water testing, with Flatt asking how often testing occurs and if brown water samples are ever tested, specifically for manganese. Cheatham explained that the EPA tests are done for random particulates and not always for every "contaminant"; he is unsure when the last testing for manganese was completed but can get that information for Flatt. Flatt asked what material the lines in Sportsman's Park are comprised of; they are 8" PVC mains. Flatt asked if the Village would be providing water for residents during this time; Bost stated we are moving forward with flushing plans and things are improving. Water is safe as determined by the EPA even though it may be unsightly, so the Village will not be providing water to residents. Flatt again asked about testing for manganese and where samples are pulled from. Cheatham responded that samples are pulled from random test sites, some at taps and some at the plant. Cheatham again stated that whatever the EPA tests a sample for is determined by the EPA at that time, but that the Village may choose to do specific manganese testing. Flatt stated that the Village should contact daycares, schools, and residents to warn them that manganese levels are unknown, and that this board's actions will set history and "shouldn't you do the right thing".

Lisa Scoggins, 448 Valleyview Drive, East Alton, also spoke about water concerns. She asked if the Village knows a percentage of homes affected (Bost replied "most") and if the

Village tracks the calls that come in regarding discolored water (yes, as well as sending crews out immediately to investigate and flush as needed). Bost noted that as soon as calls come in, we send crews out and are treating this issue as aggressively as we can. Scoggins expressed concern over small businesses and restaurants using the water, to which discussion noted that those businesses likely use filtered water systems. Bost reiterated that the EPA has stated our water is safe for all uses. Scoggins asked if the Madison County Health Department has any input; Bost stated that it would be a question for that department. Scoggins asked about the layout of lines and if a homeowner would be notified if they were found to have galvanized lines; it is the responsibility of the homeowner to repair/replace any lines from the meter to the home.

Ron Bobbitt, 401 W. Sherman St, asked if flushing lines affects residents' water bills in any way, as his bill increased nearly threefold over the previous month; flushing does not affect a residents' usage readings, and Bobbitt did state he had a leaky toilet. Bobbitt stated he had main lines replaced in his yard and is concerned about a dip that has appeared now; Cheatham said he would have crews look at the area tomorrow.

Jami Grant, 180 Maple Street, Cottage Hills, addressed the board by stating she has stopped calling into the office as she receives frequent rude responses. She expressed concern over ruined loads of laundry and believes that flushing has made things worse. She stated she has all PVC pipes in her home so lines cannot be the reason.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2025-07 A Resolution Adopting a Return-to-Work Policy was presented. As discussed in committee, this adopts a light duty/return to work policy as recommended by IML Risk Management and is required for participation in their program. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Mull, to approve Resolution 2025-07 A Resolution Adopting a**

Return-to-Work Policy. Trustees Dugger, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2025-13 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 11-Employees was presented. This updates the employee personnel manual to reflect changes to nepotism, light duty/return to work, and tuition/training reimbursements. Bost added that the tuition/training reimbursement was re-worded to reflect employees on layoff status, at the request of Trustee Perkhiser. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Dugger, to approve Ordinance 2025-13 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 11-Employees.** Trustees Dugger, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Village offices will be closed on September 1 for Labor Day, and the annual Homecoming is set for August 29-September 1.

Attorney Ken Balsters has tendered his resignation as Village corporate counsel, with tonight's meeting being his last. Balsters has served as Village Attorney since 1983 and his wisdom and guidance have been invaluable. Mayor Bost thanked Balsters for his years of service and presented him with a plaque on behalf of the Village.

With the resignation of Attorney Balsters, Mayor Bost has recommended Bassett & Gabriel Law Office, PC as interim Village Attorneys. Both Attorney Bassett and Attorney Gabriel have represented the Village in past affairs, and their experience in municipal law will be beneficial. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Wright, to approve the appointment of Bassett & Gabriel Law Office, PC, as Village Attorneys.** Trustees Dugger, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The July Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Aleisha Randolph. Revenue and expenses were reviewed, and the ending cash balance stands at \$16,589,053. There were no questions. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Dugger, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of July, 2025.** Trustees Dugger, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND

Motion by Keister, seconded by Mull, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$103,277.44. Trustees Dugger, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Sontag, seconded by Keister, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$251,147.02. Trustees Dugger, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

GARBAGE FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Sontag, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$57,435.72. Trustees Dugger, Keister, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

August committee meetings will be held on Monday, August 25, 2025, at 6:00pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 8, 2025, at 7:00pm.

Having no further business, a **motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mull, seconded by Keister**. All voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk

Gary Bost, Mayor