

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Bethalto, IL
February 9, 2026
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, Keister, Mull and Wright. Trustee Sontag was absent. Also present: Police Chief Jason Lamb, Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Fire Chief Jay Grant, and Village Attorney Amy Gabriel. Residents Joan Ketcham and Joe Perry and members of the Trimpe 7th Grade Girls’ Basketball team, coaches, and parents were also in attendance.

Motion made by Wright, seconded by Mull, to approve village board meeting minutes of January 12, 2026, 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 January, noting the department has already run 200 calls for service. Starcomm is expected to go live at the end of March or early April. Pump & ladder testing has been completed, and warning sirens will be maintained this month. There were no questions.

Police Chief Lamb presented his department’s monthly activity. Squad cars have been outfitted for Starcomm, and two of our LPR cameras have been replaced due to being outdated. Chief Lamb and Deputy Chief Hale will be attending a two-day training course this month in Effingham. 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.

There were fifteen main breaks in January, and four already in February, due to the extremely cold temperatures. There was one significant snow event where the Village received 13” of snow and utilized 97 tons of salt. Cheatham noted that crews did not pre-treat roads in anticipation of that storm due to the frigid temperatures; salt would not have been effective so crews continuously plowed streets until treatment would be effective. Cheatham announced there was only 1 accident and 1 car that slid into a ditch during the snow event and added that our crew did an outstanding job. There were no questions.

The monthly Building & Zoning report was presented, with permits reviewed, updates on commercial projects given and current property violations noted. There were no questions.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joan Ketcham, 413 Whispering Oaks Drive, addressed the board regarding her zoning appeal. Ketcham is asking for permission to construct a metal-framed covered porch on the front of her home; her permit application was denied based on Village code 40-7-9, and has been reviewed and discussed at the January Planning & Zoning meeting. After much discussion, that committee recommended to uphold the denial of the permit but did note that language in our code should be reviewed and updated. Ms. Ketcham reviewed some of the discussions that occurred at that meeting and asked for the Village Board to grant her permission to construct the porch.

Joe Perry, 820 Briarwood Drive, addressed the board with concerns over a vehicle on his street that hasn't moved in several months; he sees it as a problem with the recent snow and crews having to work around it, and as a safety concern since cars must maneuver around it in general. He also has safety concerns for the kids in the neighborhood since the car blocks their view crossing the street. He'd like to see the vehicle dealt with and possibly safety signs put up in the neighborhood. He also inquired about responsibility for the easement in

his back yard where neighbors have thrown brush and limbs; Mayor asked him to send an email to the Village so that we can follow up on these concerns.

Mayor Bost turned the floor over to Madisyn Sheraka, Head Coach of the 2025-2026 IESA Class 4A State Champion Trimpe Middle School 7th Grade Girls' Basketball Team. Coach Sheraka noted the team's outstanding 29-1 season and applauded the girls' hard work and enthusiasm for the game. Players in attendance were congratulated and presented with a street sign that will be posted on Bellwood Drive across from Hit n Run to honor their achievement.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions presented for consideration.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2026-01 An Ordinance Declaring Property to be Surplus was presented. This declares 15 SCBA packs from the Fire Department as surplus and authorizes the disposition of them by seeking sealed bids. Fire Chief Grant noted that there is still some life left in the packs, but the department has upgraded their packs to be more in line with their new truck equipment. The packs are valued at \$30,000. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Mull, to approve Ordinance 2026-01 An Ordinance Declaring Property to be Surplus.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

The Planning & Zoning Board has forwarded a recommendation to approve a Special Use Permit for property located at 300 Rou Des Chateaux to allow for a construction/landscaping business to be located on the property. The business itself is permitted in the IC Intensive

Commercial zone, but the storage of dirt and rock requires a special use permit. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Wright, to accept the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board and issue a special use permit for 300 Rou Des Chateaux.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

The Planning & Zoning Board has forwarded a recommendation to uphold the denial of a building permit for a metal-framed porch addition at the home located at 413 Whispering Oaks Drive. Trustee Keister addressed the board, noting that she does not see this project as an accessory structure as it will share a common wall with the existing building. Keister further stated she understands the stance of the Building & Zoning Department and that Lead Inspector Ressler's interpretation of the existing code is correct, but clarity is needed in defining accessory structures and she feels this use should be permissible. Keister added that she believes there are already structures of this style within the Village as well. Mayor Bost added that the process of reviewing our code to include more clarity has already begun, so that is expected in the coming months. **Motion made by Wright, seconded by Keister, to accept the recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Board and uphold the denial of a building permit for 413 Whispering Oaks Drive.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull and Wright voted nay; ayes none. The motion failed by a vote of 0-5 and the denial of the permit overturned. Bost informed Ms. Ketcham that Building & Zoning will be in touch regarding the next steps in the process.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The January Treasurer's Report was presented by Mayor Bost, as Finance Administrator Randolph is out on maternity leave. Summary revenue and expense reports were provided to the Board; our cash balance increased over the previous month. There were no questions. **Motion made by Perkhiser, seconded by Dugger, to approve the Treasurer's Report for**

the month of January, 2026. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Keister, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$178,815.33. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Wright, seconded by Perkhiser, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$175,157.98. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

GARBAGE FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$60,775.04. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

BUSINESS DISTRICT FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Keister, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$12,500.00. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Keister, Mull and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

The February committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, 2026, beginning at 6pm; the next regularly scheduled Village Board meeting will be held on March 9, 2026, at 7:00pm.

Having no further business, a **motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Perkhiser, seconded by Wright.** All voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk

Gary Bost, Mayor