

**VILLAGE OF BETHALTO  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 24, 2026, 6:00PM  
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Members Present:**

Gary Bost	Terri Keister	Jay Wright
Brady Dugger	Maria Perkhiser	Rachel Sontag

**Also Present:**

Village Clerk Sue Lowrance                      PW Director Rod Cheatham  
Danny Adams, St. Louis Regional Airport

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gary Bost at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers of Village Hall.

**Amended Liquor License Request**

At the last committee meeting, Chintan Patel of Radhekrishna, LLC, presented his proposed business plan for the old Bethalto Floor Store building at 705 Texas Blvd, which he planned to purchase if granted the requested licenses. After receiving feedback from the Village stating that the proposal as presented would not qualify for a pour license to offer video gaming, Patel has amended his request to package liquor only, with no pour license being requested. Bethalto Eagles Nest has also expressed interest in obtaining their Class B pour license, which they held previously but let lapse due to their change of plans at that time. Mayor noted that Eagles Nest meets all the criteria since they are a full-service restaurant. There was discussion of both requests, with it being noted that a package liquor store would likely not bring in additional tax dollars but rather take sales from other local establishments who already sell liquor products, thus not bringing real benefits or value to the community. Consensus was that there was no interest in granting a license for a package liquor store. There was no issue with granting a license to Eagles Nest.

**St. Louis Regional Airport Update & Events**

Danny Adams from St. Louis Regional Airport was in attendance to update the Board on the status of the airport along with activities planned for the upcoming months. The number of flights in and out of the facility has steadily increased over the past 15 years, with over 42,000 takeoff/landing operations in 2025. This coming weekend, the airport will be host to the Pilots N Paws Flyway, where nearly 50 volunteer pilots from St. Louis and Minnesota will transport over 120 shelter dogs from this area to Lakeville, Minnesota, where they will have the opportunity to be adopted into loving homes. This is a completely volunteer program through Pilots N Paws, and media coverage is expected. Departures are scheduled for Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. In June, the airport will be the starting point for the 49<sup>th</sup> annual Air Race Classic, which is an all-female piloted aviation race featuring 60 teams from across the country. Several activities

are planned for the week leading up to the race, from June 18-23. Bethalto Chamber of Commerce will host a VIP tent on June 23<sup>rd</sup> during the Take-Off Celebration, where guests can watch the planes takeoff from a great viewing area. Finally, Adams provided an update on noteworthy capital improvements at the airport, and added that the old restaurant that is now home to Piston Aviation flight school now also houses a community events space that is available for rentals for meetings, showers, etc.

#### Façade Grant Applications

There have been an increased number of façade grant applications this cycle, which could potentially put us over budget for the year. Mayor distributed a list of all applicants and those that have already been approved/paid for the year. If the remaining applications are approved, we would be \$63,898 over budget, and that would require an amendment to the budget and a public hearing. Bethalto Animal Clinic has applied for several different addresses in the process; however, all are one building unit and one business. They applied for three separate grants in the fall cycle, and now four for the spring cycle, all for the same project, but different phases. This has brought to light some loopholes in our grant system, which will need to be addressed for future grants. Mayor noted he doesn't want to change the rules mid-stream for these applications but did suggest awarding the top three applicants this cycle to stay within our budget; the remaining applicants could then be funded next cycle. Trustees agreed, and discussed the scoring matrix, updating the funding budget, and how the program works in general. It was agreed that the program needs to be revisited to re-work it and close any loopholes brought to light.

#### Museum Update

PW Director Cheatham announced that Creative Flooring had received the bid for flooring in the museum, and installation began today and should be completed tomorrow. At that point, the downstairs of the building will be complete. Tuckpointing bids will be received soon, and new furniture has been arriving as well (furniture funded from a private donation that is separate from the endowment received from the Fowler estate). There is approximately \$150k remaining from the Fowler donation. Trustee Perkhiser inquired how the museum items were being protected during construction; all items have been moved to the annex building and Keister has labeled boxes, with nothing discarded except some damaged Christmas decorations. There are many duplicate items and items without historical information attached, so there will be some condensing of displays during this process. Keister has volunteered to move items and re-stage the museum when it is ready, as the Chamber will have office hours there to allow the building to be open and used on a regular basis. The Village is looking for anyone interested in volunteering as museum curators as well. Keister added that there are a lot of deteriorating items, specifically photos, that she would like to see digitized in this process.

Trustee Keister announced that the Chamber is having its annual fundraising event on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Legion, and a US 250 Celebration is being planned to celebrate our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday this summer. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, in conjunction with Bethalto Spirit and Music in the Park, there will be some additional events along with a patriotic backdrop fundraiser being planned for the bandstand stage. More details will be forthcoming.

Having no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Bost at 6:46pm.

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Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk