

**VILLAGE OF BETHALTO
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 23, 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
Acting Police Chief Ryan Dugger	Laura Kimbro, guest speaker

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

Presentation by Laura Kimbro RE: mailbox post safety

Laura Kimbro, a local resident and mother, was in attendance to bring awareness to mailbox post safety and the need for more strict regulations regarding the installation of mailboxes and similar structures along roadways. Kimbro's son, Seth, was the victim of a traffic crash involving a mailbox, suffered a traumatic brain injury and ultimately lost his life due to the long-term effects of his accident. Kimbro's mission is to raise awareness of the need for safer, breakaway mailbox posts to help prevent further tragedies like the one that affected her son, and she is asking the Village to consider adopting safety ordinances related to mailbox installation. Kimbro stated that awareness is key to spreading her message and thanked the Village for any assistance they can provide.

Food Truck/Freezer Truck Denials

Mayor Bost wanted to inform the board about recent questions and concerns related to our Food Truck code, in case trustees should get any questions or feedback from local businesses. The Sauce Shop wanted to have a permanent BBQ set up in front of their store, which we said would not be allowed due to our business code and food truck ordinance. They rebutted, noting that Ace Hardware frequently has different vendors set up on their lot; we have since informed Ace that food trucks aren't permitted on a regular basis. Our code as written allows for two special event permits per address per year. There was also a freezer truck that wanted to set up in town for a two-week period to sell frozen meat; it was determined that this is not allowed under our business code as "permanent structures" are required. Bost stated he does not want to appear anti-business but noted that the code as written is to protect current businesses who choose to permanently locate here. Bost asked the board to review our current policies and suggest any changes that they feel could be made to be more accommodating, if desired.

Scooters and e-bikes

Acting Police Chief Dugger reviewed information from the State of Illinois Secretary of State's office related to electric scooters and e-bikes, which have been a concern recently throughout town. There are age restrictions with some of these scooters & bikes, and none are allowed on sidewalks or walking trails. We see many underage riders and disregard for the rules of the road. Dugger noted that the PD has not issued tickets but is taking every opportunity to educate riders and their parents as to the State regulations surrounding their use. Since the Village does not have its own ordinance to regulate these machines, State laws apply. Dugger's goal is to prevent any unfortunate accidents like one last year when a young rider was seriously injured.

Upcoming Village projects

Public Works Director Cheatham updated the board on several projects in the works throughout town:

- water main replacement in Rosewood Heights--we have received word that USDA Rural Development grant funding has been approved for this project as a 75/25 split, so once that is finalized it will go out for bid. The project is expected to start in early summer and take approximately 8 months to complete
- all-inclusive playground at Central Park—work is continuing on this project; the site has been inspected and site prep and installation expected to begin later this spring.
- Plegge Trail Phase 2 from Ashbrook to Rogers Lane—this is an 80/20 funding split
- Milling & overlay of streets to be completed on W. Sherman, Timberwood Drive, and Homm Street. This is expected to cost roughly \$500-600k, which was included in this fiscal year's budget
- Museum work is continuing, with flooring completed and tuckpointing to be done next
- The old water office is being gutted and will receive new flooring as well.
- All-in-all, Cheatham stated that over \$3 million in projects is planned for this year.

Mayor Bost gave kudos to Abe Jones at Representative Budzinski's office for his assistance in securing grant funding through the USDA for the water main replacement project.

Madison County Zoning Meeting

Mayor announced that the Salvation Army's petition to allow for homeless transitional housing on the property of the Community Hope Center has been pulled from the Madison County Zoning meeting agenda set for this week, and it appears that "the project is dead". It was discussed that a possible Pontoon Beach location had been mentioned, but nothing had been formally announced.

Having no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Bost at 6:34pm.