

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Bethalto, IL
May 11, 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, Mull, Sontag and Wright. Trustee Keister was absent. Also present: Acting Police Chief Ryan Dugger, Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Fire Chief Jay Grant, Finance Administrator Aleisha Randolph, Village Attorney Amy Gabriel, several members of the Bethalto Police Department, their families and many residents.

A motion was made by Wright, seconded by Mull, to approve village board meeting minutes of April 13, 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 April. There were 140 calls for service during the month. Star Comm is expected to go live in June. The department has applied for an additional grant and is still waiting to hear about the other two previously applied for. Lowe’s donated a dishwasher and refrigerator to the department. There were no questions.

Acting Police Chief Ryan Dugger presented the department’s monthly activity, noting 650 calls during the month. There has been a string of vehicle burglaries during April, and Dugger encouraged residents to keep valuables out of sight and vehicles always locked. There was an officer-involved crash along Moreland Road last week, when a reckless driver fled from Roxana PD down Moreland Road into Bethalto and failed to stop; our officer pursued across 140 and the bump in the intersection caused him to lose control of the vehicle,

roll over and hit the Zion Church sign, fence and a tree. The officer had very minor injuries, but the vehicle is a total loss. Charges have been filed against the perpetrator and Dugger is working with insurance on the claim.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his reports and reviewed work completed throughout his department. There were three main breaks in April. There was a bid opening for the main replacement along Valley Drive in East Alton; that should be expected for approval at the next board meeting. The new tandem truck is in and being used. Ground clearing has started for the all-inclusive playground at Central Park. 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 was one new construction permit issued during April, and tall grass complaints have increased significantly. There were no questions.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no guests wishing to address the board.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions presented for consideration.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2026-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21 Article II Liquor was presented. This increases the number of Class B licenses from six to seven as discussed in committee meetings, with one to be issued to Eagles Nest later tonight. **Motion made by Wright, seconded by Dugger, to approve Ordinance 2026-02 An Ordinance Amending**

Chapter 21 Article II Liquor. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2026-03 Salary Ordinance was presented. This updates the Village's annual Salary Ordinance for non-union personnel for the fiscal year ending 4/30/27 and reflects a 4% pay increase for most of the positions listed, as discussed in committee. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Wright, to approve Ordinance 2026-03 Salary Ordinance.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Bost presented his annual appointments for Village Department Heads:

Motion made by Mull, seconded by Perkhiser, to approve the appointment of Jay Grant as Fire Chief. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Wright, seconded by Mull, to approve the appointment of Dan Bartels as Deputy Fire Chief. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Sontag, seconded by Perkhiser, to approve the appointment of Rod Cheatham as Public Works Director. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Perkhiser, seconded by Mull, to approve the appointment of Rod Cheatham as Zoning Administrator. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Wright, seconded by Perkhiser, to approve the appointment of Ryan Dugger as Chief of Police. Trustees Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; Trustee Dugger abstained. Motion carried 4-0.

Police Chief Dugger was sworn in by Village Clerk Sue Lowrance, with his family by his side, and then pinned by his daughters.

Mayor Bost presented his appointments for Village Inspectors as follows: Building Inspector, Marc Ressler; Electrical Inspector, Tim Henson; Plumbing Inspector, Greg Fowler; Occupancy Inspector, Marc Ressler; Fire Inspector, Jay Grant. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Sontag, to approve the appointments of Village Inspectors.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Bost presented his appointments for Professional Services:

Motion made by Mull, seconded by Dugger, to approve the appointment of Bassett & Gabriel, PC as Village Attorneys. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Wright, seconded by Sontag, to approve the appointment of Aleisha Randolph as Village Treasurer. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Bost presented his appointments for Village Commissions and Boards as follows: Planning & Zoning Board, Randy Reddick; Fire & Police Commission, Kris Tharp; Police Pension Board, Dan Collman. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Sontag, to approve the appointments to Village Commissions and Boards.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Bost announced that committee assignments would remain unchanged for the upcoming year.

Bethalto Family Eagles Nest Restaurant has applied for a Class B Liquor License and due to the updated Ordinance passed earlier tonight, one is available. **Motion made by Perkhiser, seconded by Wright, to grant a Class B Liquor License to Bethalto Family Eagles Nest Restaurant.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

As discussed in committee, the Village and Public Works union have come to an agreement for a four-year contract which spans May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2030. **Motion made by Wright, seconded by Mull, to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Village and Public Works union.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

The Bethalto Jaycees carnival is scheduled in Central Park from May 21-24. The Splash Pad opens May 23rd for the summer season. The Planning & Zoning Board will hold a public hearing and meeting on May 28 at 6pm to discuss the rezoning of Bethalto Hills Subdivision from RS8 to RS5, which will allow those parcels to be in compliance with minimum lot dimension, lot area, minimum setbacks, minimum livable square footage, and housing density and thus allow for reconstruction of the homes destroyed by the recent fire.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The April Treasurer's Report was presented by Finance Administrator Randolph. Our cash balance increased slightly over the previous month and stands at \$17,403,609. There were no questions. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Dugger, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2026.** Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Perkhiser, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$426,935.32. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Sontag, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$431,757.20. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

GARBAGE FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Perkhiser, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$58,580.69. Trustees Dugger, Perkhiser, Mull, Sontag and Wright voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the May committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, beginning at 6pm; the next regularly scheduled Village Board meeting will be held on June 8, 2026, at 7:00pm.

Having no further business, a **motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Perkhiser, seconded by Mull.** All voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk

Gary Bost, Mayor