

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

Members Present:

Gary Bost Brady Dugger Maria Perkhiser Terri Keister
Rachel Sontag

Also Present:

Village Clerk Sue Lowrance Police Chief Ryan Dugger

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

Façade Grant Applications

The mayor announced that fall Façade Grant applications are due September 15. Eight applications totaling an estimated \$119,824 have been submitted. Grant approvals will be determined next month after the deadline. The current budget includes \$240,000 for the program, including \$40,000 carried over from incomplete projects. Trustees received an updated score sheet and application packet for use in the next application round. The mayor asked them to review the scoring changes and provide feedback. The board also discussed whether to continue offering two application periods and agreed that two rounds would give more businesses an opportunity to apply.

Senior Group Donation Request

Members of the Bethalto Area Senior Citizens attended the August board meeting and requested a Village donation to help cover costs for their monthly meals. The mayor said he was open to discussion but did not believe taxpayer funds should be used for this purpose because many senior groups and other nonprofit organizations could make similar requests. He noted that the Village gives Bethalto Spirit \$500 annually in exchange for mowing and maintaining the Arboretum and other Village park areas. Mayor Bost said he would notify the group of the board's decision.

Solicitor Complaints/Possible Code Changes

Solicitor permit applications have increased significantly, primarily from roofing contractors responding to storm damage and from solar companies. Residents have expressed growing frustration, and a recent incident requiring police assistance resulted in the revocation of two permits. In addition, many approved permits are never picked up, creating unnecessary work for Police Department and administrative staff. Village Clerk Lowrance is reviewing the policies and fees of neighboring municipalities and may recommend higher permit fees, an application fee before processing, or both. The board generally supported making changes. Lowrance will complete her research and report at the next committee meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk