

VILLAGE OF BETHANY  
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
May 14, 2020

The regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Jon Book. The following Trustees were present; Jeannie Ruppert, Mike Jennings, Greg McLain, Raven Russell, and Brian Gill. Dave Doty was absent.

A motion was made by Trustee McLain to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2020 regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Ruppert to approve the special meeting minutes from March 18, 2020, seconded by Trustee McLain. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Gill to approve the "Statement of Income and Expenses" for March and April, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Gill to approve the "Banks and Checks Journal" for March and April, seconded by Trustee Jennings. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**Public** - None

**Update Cannabis Ordinance** - The Trustees and Chief Nichols read through the Ordinance. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to adopt Cannabis Ordinance #20-779, seconded by Trustee Russell. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**Trustee Pay for Committee Meetings** - Trustee Russell called several different communities and found: Lovington does not pay for special committees; Dalton City is all volunteers; Moultrie County pays \$75 for every committee meeting. She suggests something like a set number of committee meetings are obligated, then any number above and beyond should receive payment. This item will be further discussed at the September meeting.

**Compensation for Village President and Clerk** - President Book looked into other communities to see what they do. Past practice was to raise the pay of the President and Clerk together. This item will be further discussed at the September meeting.

**Cameras for Village Facilities** - Manager Shannon Risley would like to wait until the next fiscal year to act on this. He will put this item into the budget.

**Employee Compensation** - closed session

**Other Old Business** - Trustee Ruppert asked about the poles from the fiber optic install. Manger Risley has been in contact with Shawnee and they will have a list to make sure all repairs are up to the owner's satisfaction.

**Bid for Oil & Chip** - Bids were opened on April 30, 2020. There was only one bid from Earl Walker Co. from Sullivan for \$26,992. The bid came in under the projected amount. Matt Foster from Chastain Co. recommended accepting this bid. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to accept the proposal from Earl Walker Co. for materials and work at a cost of \$26,992, seconded by Trustee Gill. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**Utility Rates** - Manager Risley gave the Trustees a hand out showing the current rates and the proposed rates. He suggested to keep going with the annual 4% for gas and electric. With material costs for water/sewer being so high he suggested a 10% increase for water and sewer rates. The ordinances for these rates will be approved next month.

**Utility Shut-offs and Penalties** - At the March meeting it was approved to not issue shut-offs or penalties for utility bills through May 1st. Since the "shelter in place" could potentially extend into June or July this extension might need amended. Trustee Russell stated that as long as we're to stay in place and be shut down, we have an obligation to continue this. Then, after, things could be worked out with the individual. Treasurer Jessica Henderson stated that the unpaid amounts are increasing. A motion was made by Trustee Ruppert to extend the freeze of shut-offs and penalties for utilities until July 1st, seconded by Trustee McLain. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**Village Clean Up Days** - There have been several residents asking if the Village was going to have a Clean Up Day. There are many people doing home projects and cleaning with the "shelter in place" order. A potential date of July 11th is being considered as it could be difficult to schedule dumpsters. A motion was made by Trustee Russell to have a Village wide Clean Up Day on July 11th, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**Shared Wall on Main Street** - A letter was mailed out last fall concerning this. It is in the same shape now as then. This will be discussed in closed session as possible litigation.

**Chicken Ordinance 3-1-10(A)** - A resident in the Village would like to have chickens as a 4-H project for his children. Discussion was had as to amending the current ordinance. Village Attorney Jack Kiley suggested amending the current ordinance with specifications. President Book will work on this with Mr. Kiley. A straw poll was taken to see how many Trustees would be in favor of amending the current ordinance based on number of chickens and other restrictions. Four were in favor and one not in favor.

**Discussion of a Properties Appeal Committee** - The due process on property appeals needs to be reviewed. Chief Nichols recommends using the Police Committee as the appeals committee for nuisance ordinance violations. Village Attorney Jack Kiley suggested mixing it up and not using only Police Committee members. President Book will work on this with Mr. Kiley to create an ordinance concerning this topic.

**Department/Employee Responsibilities & Duties** - This is tabled until the next fiscal year.

**Other New Business** - An email sent out by the IML stated that Gov. Pritzker has set more money for infrastructure projects that are “shovel ready”. Manager Risley talked with Village Engineer Matt Foster about the Robinson Street project as it has already been engineered. There are many signatures and much paperwork that will need to be completed. Mr. Foster said this is a fast-track grant with \$25 million out for infrastructure grants and we need to get moving as quickly as we can. If interested, his fees would be between \$5000 and \$7500 to get the paperwork completed quickly. This is a first come, first served type of grant. Mr. Foster will do a quick check to see where we might fall score wise and will talk with Manager Risley and President Book.

**Reports** - were given from; Shannon Risley and Chief Nichols

**Correspondence** - None

**Meetings Before the Next Meeting** -

Police - June 4th @ 6:30pm

\*Police car purchase

A motion was made by Trustee Russell to go into closed session to discuss employee compensation and possible litigation, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee McLain to go back into open session, seconded by Trustee Jennings. Voice vote taken, all ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Jennings to approve the following compensation for employees: Rob Carlson from \$19/hr. to \$21/hr.; Hank Taber from \$20/hr. to \$21/hr.; Jessica Henderson from \$16/hr. to \$18/hr.; Kathy Denham from \$12/hr. to \$13/hr.; Shannon Risley from \$32/hr. to \$34.50/hr.; Daniel Kidwell from \$20/hr. to \$23/hr.; Chris Nichols from a salary of \$49, 920 (\$24/hr.) to a salary of \$54,080 (\$26/hr.) Roll call taken; McLain-abstain (conflict of interest); Russell-yes; Gill-yes; Ruppert-yes; Jennings-yes; motion carried.

With no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Russell, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Voice vote taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie McLain, Clerk

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Village President