

VILLAGE OF BETHANY
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
June 12, 2025

The regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Village President Brian Gill. The following Trustees were present; Dave Doty, Jeannie Ruppert, Zakary England, Greg McLain, Karen Jeffers, and Gene Mueller.

A motion was made by Trustee Ruppert to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2025, regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Mueller. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Trustee Doty to approve the "Banks and Checks Journal", seconded by Trustee England. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Public – Melissa Meredith: new manager for the American Legion. She is wanting to discuss the signage dealing with video gaming. This deals with signage for gaming on any public street. She would like to see this changed in the ordinance. She was also asking about signage for alcohol. Trustee McLain stated that he believed there is no regulation on signage dealing with alcohol. She is only asking for a sign dealing with gaming not including those big blow-up wind people. Trustee McLain shared his thoughts on the specifics dealing with any sign that would be allowed.

Alex Bone : had information that the Trustees received in their packets. He attended a workshop dealing with community mapping. The handout of Frequently Asked Questions, he encouraged the Trustees to read. This would need a committee to help with this planning. This was last completed in the Village in 1999. The person leading this initiative would be willing to come and talk with the Board.

Diamond Wicker - she has a complaint about a big maple tree she has at the end of her drive. It has a large hole in the west side of the tree. There is a limb that goes over the street and it has split. She would like the Village to come down and take a look at this tree. She says it is on the Village side of the sidewalk.

Greg Gustafson Water Improvement Project Updates - SNC has completed all water main disconnects and road repairs. Still need to do asphalt repairs. Punch list items are nearly complete. Commercial Electric has all punch list items completed except two. Still having issues with full function of the control panel at the water treatment plant. Mr. Gustafson denied a pay request due to the issues dealing with the control panel. A&R Services has the detention tank installed and online. The old tank is gone. Piping and valves are now complete and gravel is to be added instead of fertilizing and seeding. They do have a pay request in the amount of \$112,832.04. We are ready to move forward for the new building on the chlorine exhaust system. A motion was made by Trustee Mueller to approve pay request #4 from A&R in the amount of \$112,832.04, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Employee Appreciation - This will be tabled until next month

Hire of Part-Time Employee - This will be discussed in closed session

Award Bid for Oil & Chip - Bids were opened in April. Earl Walker was the only bid received at 6.5% under the Engineers estimate. This will cover things south and west of the railroad tracks. Trustee McLain made a motion to accept the bid from Earl Walker in the amount of 106,759.50, seconded by Trustee Jeffers. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried. Mr. Foster mentioned the State had put out grants toward road improvements. He thought Robinson St., Washington St. in front of the Grade School was also looked at. He put together a proposal for Washington St. along with Robinson St. This grant does not require a match. We will find out the results in August.

Water Main Replacement by Grade School by A&R - When the hydrant was replaced in this area there was severe corrosion on the pipe. Mr. Gustafson's recommendation is to dig it back up, and replace the hydrant and chase the main in all directions until good material is found. This is at the intersection of Washington and Oak. Village Manager Shannon Risley suggested we measure it out and see what materials are needed and how much it will cost.

TIF Agreement with Bricks & Bones - This should actually be Blue Bone Farms, LLC instead of Bricks & Bones. Trustee McLain shared the TIF Committee notes from their last meeting. Blue Bone Farms has purchased two lots at the Parkview Addition for \$17,000. They are asking for \$12,000 for acquisition costs. The TIF Committee recommended doing this. A motion was made by Trustee McLain for a \$12,750 grant to Blue Bones Farms LLC, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

TIF Agreement with Crowder Park District - Steve Ozee came on behalf of the Park District. They are asking for help dealing with work to be done on the maintenance building at the park. The TIF Committee recommended not to do anything with this request. Trustee Doty made a motion to follow the recommendation of the TIF Committee to reject this request, seconded by Trustee England. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Donation for BASO - Terry Muzzy was here representing the BASO Organization. He shared several things that BASO has been doing around the Village. In past years the Village has donated \$500 with last year \$750 was given. A motion was made by Trustee Doty to donate \$750 to BASO from the Utilities dept, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Donation for Guns & Hoses Benefit - Jackie McLain represented the Bethany Fire Dept. This benefit is to help local schools with giving school supplies to our students. There is a flyer on the board in the Village office. A motion was made by Trustee Jeffers to donate \$250 to the Guns & Hoses Benefit from the Utility Dept., seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Resolution Regarding Interfund Debt - Every year our accounting firm tells us that we have an outstanding loan between funds in our accounts. Mr. Sullivan, has written up a Resolution that states this loan has been forgiven. A motion was made by Trustee Mueller adopting Resolution #25-510, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Amendment to Ordinance Violation Penalties - Mr. Sullivan took some time to look into the current Code to see what can be fined currently. The first item to discuss is \$100 fine enough to deter people from violations. The next item is does the current fine schedule make sense to the board. Mr. Sullivan has prepared a new layout for this ordinance. He is asking the Board to look at this and discuss it more next month.

Return to Work Policy - The Village is insured through the IML RMA and they want us to have a Return-to-Work Policy. This helps with workman's comp. Mr. Sullivan has tweaked the recommendation from our insurance organization. A motion was made by Trustee Mueller to adopt Resolution #25-511 a Return-to-Work Policy, seconded by Trustee McLain. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Establishing a New TIF District - The Board needs to begin discussing if this is something they would like to do. Current TIF funds can be used in the new formation of a TIF district. And if the TIFs overlap, the current funds can be rolled over into the new TIF. This will be tabled until next month.

New I-Tron System - These are the handhelds that are used for meter reading. The ones we have are 15 years old and are obsolete. Shannon Risley has two different options for the Board to look at. One option is for four handhelds, the other was for a drive by system. The drive by won't work as we do not have all meters that would work with this system. A motion was made by Trustee Mueller to waive the open bid process for this item, seconded by Trustee Doty. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Jeffers to approve the purchase the Westco Hand held four units for \$44,490.00 and additional of the annual maintenance at a cost of \$4,796.92, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Purchase of New Mower for Village - Manager Shannon Risley had a couple bids for a new mover. The old one needs to be replaced. He has a bid for a riding mower and a small compact tractor. He will have more quotes for the next meeting.

Abandonment of Well #4 - Mr. Gustafson passed out information to the Board showing where Well #4 is located at the water treatment plant. EPA requires that if you don't use your well every 30 days you should be looking at abandoning it. We can add this in as a change order for the current contractor. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to proceed with abandoning well #4 a cost not to exceed \$20,000, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Reports - Village Manager Shannon Risley, TIF Committee, and Chief Nichols.

Correspondence – Received a thank you from the Okaw Valley Post Prom for the donation.

Committee Meeting Dates – None

A motion was made by Trustee Ruppert to move into Executive Session for the discussion of personnel, potential litigation seconded by Trustee Doty . Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

A motion to go back into open session by Trustee McLain, seconded by Trustee Doty. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried

A motion was made by Trustee McLain to authorize our Village Manager to hire a part time employee at \$15/ hour not to exceed an average of 30 hours per week, seconded by Trustee Doty. Roll call taken: Doty-yes; Ruppert-abstain (conflict of interest); England-yes; McLain-yes; Jeffers-yes; Mueller-yes; motion carried.

With no other business to discuss a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee McLain and seconded by Trustee Doty. Voice vote taken, all ayes, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie McLain, Clerk

Brian Gill, President