

VILLAGE OF BETHANY  
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
January 9, 2025

The regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Jonathan Book, President. The following Trustees were present; Jeannie Ruppert, Zakary England, Greg McLain, Raven Allen, and Brian Gill. David Doty was absent.

A motion was made by Trustee McLain to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2024 regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. 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 England. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

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

**Public – NONE**

**Greg Gustafson Water Improvement Project Updates** - Mr. Gustafson commented on how nice the downtown area looked. Water main restoration with SNC has been a bit chaotic with construction issues. No pay request this month. We will have to sort out some extras that have occurred along the way. SNC will maintain road cuts with gravel. Electrical work the contractor has been working on the control panel at the water treatment plant. And have been working on the generators at wells #6 and #7. Detention tank replacement with A&R they are working on the stainless-steel piping. Mr. Gustafson will call first thing in the morning. Punch list items are to be being worked on. We continue working on the EPA room for chlorine. This will have a need to delete some items from the bid and add some items. The contractor is ready to start on replacing the water meters. Once the weather moderates a bit he will give the go ahead to start this project.

**Property Transaction with Heritage Grain Co.** - Attorney Patrick Sullivan reviewed the map concerning the area in discussion. He has the title company pulling the plat map on this area. If this is a right of way it will be easier to transfer the property. It will need to be surveyed to see exactly what area the Grain Co. will receive. Then we will need to come up with a fair market value for the plot of land. Trustee Gill made a motion to have BCA survey the property in question on S. Lincoln St., seconded by Trustee England. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**Hiring Bonus & Reimbursement Agreement** - Since the last meeting Patrick had to do a new hiring bonus for another community. He realized there was an error in the Village's agreement. There was an issue with a trigger event of the graduation date. Trustee McLain made a motion to adopt the amended agreement, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**Police Squad Car Damage** - Patrick Sullivan checked the docket on the criminal case and there was nothing. The gentleman still owns property in Moweaqua. Mr. Sullivan was asking if the Board wanted him to pursue action on this.

**TIF Agreement with Lance Whitney** - This was approved last month. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to approve Ordinance #25-847, TIF agreement with Lance Whitney, Whitney Woodworking, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**Hire of New Police Officer** - Chief Nichols does have someone he would like to hire for a part-time officer. John Lulek has everything completed and is a current working deputy for Moultrie County. He will work weekends and other hours when available. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to hire John Lulek as a part-time office for the Village at the current rate schedule, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**Zoning Ordinances/Planning Commission** - Kristie Hart was unavailable to attend tonight. She will try for next month.

**IMRF Resolution for Military Service Credit** - This resolution is to help current employees to receive credit for their military years. A motion was made by Trustee Ruppert to approve Resolution #25-507 to allow service credit for military leave, seconded by Trustee Gill. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**TIF Agreement with the Publisher** - TIF Chair Greg McLain presented his committee meeting minutes. The Publisher presented several bids for their request. The total package for the request was around \$166,000 so priorities needed to be made. The roof, parapet wall were set as the most important. The committee recommended a five-year forgivable loan in the amount of \$60,000. This will almost cover all of the roof and parapet wall. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to approve a five-year forgivable agreement with The Publisher in the amount of \$60,000 seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**TIF Agreement with Heritage Grain Co.** - Heritage Grain came to the TIF asking about help with the new grain bin project. The committee thought it would be more than the scope of the TIF. The grain co. is also wanting to put new gutters and draining on their building at the north end of St. John St. They will be getting bid amounts back to the TIF committee and then this will be revisited.

**Outstanding Judgements** - Mr. Sullivan inherited several judgments from the previous council. The collection agency has not really done anything with these. He has talked with an agency in Decatur to help with collecting these. He recommends not to hire him to go after these judgments, but to hire this company to work on collecting. Mr. Sullivan recommends getting a quote from this company to help with these collections. The Board encouraged Mr. Sullivan to pursue this issue.

**416 West South Water Street** - This property was demolished a few years ago with a court judgement. Unfortunately, someone bought the taxes about this same time. The County is now asking what should be done with this property. There are some neighbors who are interested in purchasing this property. These names will be shared with the County to help with this issue.

**Reports** – Village Manager Shannon Risley, TIF Committee, Chief Nichols

**Correspondence** – None

**Committee Meeting Dates** – None

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Henderson, Interim Clerk

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Jonathan Book, President