

VILLAGE OF BETHANY  
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
March 14, 2024

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

A motion was made by Trustee Doty to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2024, regular meeting, seconded by Trustee McLain. 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 Gill. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

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

**Public** – Pastor Rob Roy mentioned they will hold the Stations of the Cross on the 29th starting at the FM church starting at 9am. And sunrise service at the Christian Church.

**Greg Gustafson Water Improvement Project Updates** - The water main work does not have a start date. The electric work has been working well with Mr. Gustafson. They have provided a schedule and waiting on the water treatment plant control panel. Their schedule shows a start of May 22nd. They expect to complete by June 11th. The detention tank work has submitted plans and drawings. Mr. Gustafson has had several meetings with Bruder Tank and has seen drawings for the tank. They have a tentative start work date the first week of April for working inside the water treatment plant. The IEPA inspection report was sent off on the 26th. We will need to schedule the one year anniversary inspection of the water tower.

**Zoning Agreement with Moultrie County** - Our Attorneys looked over the agreement and made some suggestions. We will send it back over to them and see what they say to the suggestions. President Book will speak to them and get things ready for the next meeting.

**Purchase of A Mini Excavator** – Final dollar amount is \$67,000. Discussion of pay was to come from the gas fund, then when the mutual fund matures the money will go back into the gas fund. This is for a machine with four buckets. A motion was made Trustee McLain to buy a mini excavator from Altorfer Cat in the amount of \$67,000 taken from the gas dept., ⅔ reimbursed from the electric dept. at a later date, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**Fireworks Contribution for Bethany Celebration** - Cassie Lambden was here for the Celebration Committee. Last year the Committee spent \$3500 for the fireworks display. Last year the Village donated \$1500 for the fireworks. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to give a contribution to the Celebration fireworks for \$1500 along with an ad for the book in the amount of \$500, to come from the utility dept., seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Toll call taken, all ayes, motion carried. Mr. Gustafson also mentioned that Berns Clancy will also donate \$500 to this activity.

**Truck Vendor at the Village Hall Parking Lot** - Someone reached out to President Book asking to set their food truck in the parking lot in the evenings during this upcoming summer season. Trustees had some concerns and discussed the liabilities. Village Attorney, Mr. Flynn suggested charging a licensing fee for these food trucks as our Ordinances have nothing concerning this. No action was taken.

**Contribution for Sidewalk Repair at the Methodist Church** - Bill Ashley was here on behalf of the First United Methodist Church. The church is in the process of replacing the front steps and handicap access to the basement. This project requires putting in a new front sidewalk. Mr. Ashley is here asking for help or a donation with replacing this front sidewalk. He also has a bid from Doug Ryherd for this sidewalk estimated to be \$4360. The consensus of the Board is to definitely help with this project. The Church will get more definite numbers and let the Board know.

**Purchase of New Squad Car** - Officer Payne had an accident with a deer and totalled the squad car. Chief Nichols gave the Trustees a list of used squad cars he found. We are getting \$10,304 for the car, \$16,130 for equipment, and \$593 for lettering from the insurance claim. We have been awarded a state grant for \$50,000 to help offset the cost of Officer Payne being full time. He has found a new car with new equipment installed along with lettering, radio, radio license and a push bumper for a total of \$65,422.13. After insurance, grants, and money from the school agreement, the balance due would be \$16,490.00. Trustee McLain did mention that TIF money can be used for a squad car purchase. He would need to see what part insurance money will play in the amount from TIF can be used. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to acquire the Police car from Sutton Ford pursuant to the presentation by the Police Chief for out-of-pocket expenditure by the Village not to exceed \$18,000, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

**Insurance Renewal for Employees** - Currently there is a 7% increase from last year. If we leave it with the same company there will be no action needed. The consensus was to leave things as they are.

**Reports** – Utilities Manager, Shannon Risley, Police Chief Chris Nichols and Ordinance Violations Reports from Attorney Ed Flynn (report included).

**Correspondence** – 1)Received a thank you card from the Carol Ray family. 2)A letter from the Moultrie County Counseling Center thanking the communities.

**Committee Meeting Dates** – Finance Committee  
April 4th @ 6:00pm  
\*Employee Compensation

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie McLain, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Book, President