

VILLAGE OF BETHANY
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
April 9, 2026

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

A motion was made by Trustee Mueller to allow Trustee England to join the meeting remotely, seconded by Trustee McLain. Voice vote taken, all ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Mueller to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2026, regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Jeffers. 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 Mueller. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Public – Jessica Gertsch - Air Med Care Network: was not in attendance

Greg Gustafson Water Improvement Project Updates - Mr. Gustafson finally received a change order and pay request last Friday from SNC. This will be taken care of at the May meeting. Electric improvements are all taken care of. We do have a one year warranty if we need any help. For the detention tank, A&R is now all completely paid up. There is also a one year warranty for this as well. Mr. Gustafson would still like to schedule a water treatment plant open house and dinner.

Amending the Liquor Ordinance - Mr. Sullivan asked if anyone had more questions concerning changes occurring to the Liquor Ordinance. Mr. Sullivan addressed and answered any and all of the questions the Trustees had. The current concern deals with under aged children in the actual bar/serving area. After discussions, Mr. Sullivan will have a clean updated ordinance for approval next month.

Guns & Hoses Fundraiser Donation - Officers Farris and Ballinger were here on behalf of the Guns & Hoses fundraiser to help with school supplies for the Moultrie County elementary schools. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to donate \$400 to the Guns & Hoses fundraiser payable from the Utilities, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Service Agreement with GIS (Matt Foster) - Mr. Foster could not be here tonight. This will be tabled until the May meeting.

Utility Rates for 2026-2027 - With rising costs, Village Manager Shannon Risley wanted to raise the water and gas rates 10%. Electric rates will increase 4% and sewer rates 20%. The sewer plant needed a great amount of work this past year and the majority of residents use the base minimum rate. Mr. Risley would also like to set up a TIF mtg to see if they will help with some of the costs for the sewer plant repairs and expenses. A motion was made by Trustee Mueller to approve Ordinance #26-865, Electric Rates, seconded by Trustee Jeffers. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Mueller to approve Ordinance #26-866 for Gas Rates, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Ruppert to approve Ordinance #26-867 for Water Rates, seconded by Trustee Doty. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to approve Ordinance #26-868 for Sewer Rates, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Employee Compensation - This will be discussed in Executive Session

Reports - Village Manager Shannon Risley, Trustee Jeffers reported on Veteran Banners, Utility Committee.

Correspondence – Thank you card from Village Attorney Patrick Sullivan

Committee Meeting Dates – None needed

Trustee McLain made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by Trustee Mueller. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Trustee Mueller made a motion to enter back into Open Session, seconded by Trustee Doty. Voice vote taken, all ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Doty to approve an increase in pay for Jessica Henderson from \$26.46/hr to \$27.78/hr. Roll call taken: Doty-yes; Ruppert-yes; England-yes; McLain-abstain (conflict of interest); Jeffers-yes; Mueller-yes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Doty to approve an increase in pay for Hope Ruppert from \$24.40/hr to \$25.62/hr and Hudson Ruppert from \$18.00/hr to \$18.90/hr. Roll call taken: McLain-yes; Jeffers-yes; Mueller-yes; Doty-yes; Ruppert-abstain (conflict of interest); England-yes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Doty to approve the following increases in pay for the following employees: Shannon Risley from \$44.59/hr to \$46.79/hr; Daniel Kidwell from \$30.77/hr to \$32.31/hr; Benny Durbin from \$27.46/hr to \$28.83/hr; Justin Farris from \$31.93/hr to \$33.53/hr; Chris Nichols from \$38.19/hr to \$40.10/hr; Ashley Warner from \$27.00/hr to

\$28.35/hr; Kathy Denham from \$15.91/hr to \$16.70/hr; Drake Grubb from \$30.00/hr to \$31.50/hr; seconded by Trustee Mueller. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie McLain, Clerk

Brian Gill, President