

VILLAGE OF BETHANY
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
April 10, 2025

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

A motion was made by Trustee Allen to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2025, regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Doty. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

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

Public – None

Greg Gustafson Water Improvement Project Updates - SNC still on hold, punch list is updated. Meeting with them early next week and discussing any other requests. Commercial Electric the water treatment plant panel is up and running. There were a few issues that have been resolved. The punch list has been issued on the few remaining things they have. A&R Services have completed the bulk of the underground work for the detention tank. It has been determined that seal welding will fix this issue. There will be a cost for this. A punch list has been issued to A&R. Village Source Water Protection Plan is required by the EPA. Mr. Gustafson showed the near final form to the Board. Continue working on the building addition for the chlorine required by the EPA.

Special Use Permit for Andrea Doty Dog Kennel - Trustee Doty gave the Board a copy of the report from the meeting on April 7th. Stated that the request was inconsistent with the ordinance. The Zoning Board did not grant the variance requested. It is now up to the Board to either approve the Special Use Permit even if the Zoning Board denied the permit. The Board discussed different possibilities with Village Attorney Patrick Sullivan. A motion was made by Trustee Allen to deny the special use permit for Andrea Doty for a kennel at her residence based on the Zoning Variance not being approved for the reasons stated in the report of the Planning Committee dated 4-7-25, seconded by Trustee McLain. Roll call taken: Allen-yes; Gill-yes; Doty-yes; Ruppert-no; England-yes; McLain-yes; motion carried.

Design Change on Jefferson St. for Safe Routes to School - The Village received an email concerning the Jefferson and Hwy 121 intersection, proposed ramps for the new sidewalks. IDOT recommends to dead end the sidewalks. If the ramps are included there would be an additional \$8000 cost to the Village. IDOT recommends tabling this until a survey could be conducted. This would move the project to an August letting with work in Sept or Nov. These ramps were originally in the plan.

Approval of Safe Routes to School Resolution - The State needs the Board to approve a resolution to further the progress of the Safe Routes to School project. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to approve Resolution #25-509 for the Safe Routes to School, seconded by Trustee England. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Trustee McLain mentioned that he was under the impression that we had a permit for commercial businesses to use to dump at the village dump. He also would like to see a sign made and posted stating that this dump is for local residents only.

Utility Rates for Next Fiscal Year - Village Manager Shannon Risley presented the Board with the annual 4% gas and electric rate increase and the 10% on water and sewer increase. . This is to keep up with the cost of keeping the system up and running. A motion was made by Trustee Doty to approve Ordinance #25-850 for Electric rates as presented, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken all ayes, motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to approve Ordinance #25-851 for Gas rates as presented, seconded by Trustee Allen. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Ruppert to approve Ordinance #25-852 for Water rates as presented, seconded by Trustee Doty. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Doty to approve Ordinance #25-853 for Sewer rates as presented, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Village Ordinance Reconstruction - Chief Nichols would like to look at the nuisance ordinances and make them more encompassing. Attorney Patrick Sullivan is looking for guidance from the board as to how to handle this issue. Chief Nichols would like to move on this quickly. Chief Nichols and Mr. Sullivan will begin working closely together on this issue to find a resolution.

Contractor for Mowing - Chief Nichols has asked Mr. Sherwood for a copy of his insurance and it was found to be expired. President Book suggested hiring a seasonal employee to help out with all this mowing and mowing for the Village. The Board directed Village Manager to advertise for a part-time seasonal employee.

GIS for Mapping - Manager Shannon Risley has been working with Engineer Matt Foster on this issue. The Commerce Commission is encouraging municipalities to put gas meters, lines, etc in digital format. This is a stepping stone as to what we can do with our other utilities. This would allow us to do all the utilities in time. To start it would only be the gas system. The license would be for a year. A motion was made by Trustee Allen to approve the GIS service for mapping the gas dept., seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken: Allen-yes; Gill-yes; Doty-yes; Ruppert-yes; England-yes; McLain-no; motion carried.

New Lift Station Pumps - The lift station went down after having trouble with it the past three weeks. It went down during the storm last week. It got so hot it broke the casing and it went completely down. Currently we are running on a portable pump. Manager Shannon Risley presented a proposal to fix and revamp the lift station to get it up and going. This matter has been deemed an emergency by the Board. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to waive the bidding process to approve the expenditure in this emergency for \$170, 000 with Vandevanter Engineering for the purchase of new sewer plant pumps, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Employee Appreciation - The Board would like to have an appreciation meal for all the employees. Typically, we've done these in April or May. The Board is looking at a date in late May or June. Tentative date of May 30 has been set. It was mentioned to check with the new owners at the Diner to see if they are available.

Employee Compensation - this will be in Executive Session.

Reports – Village Manager Shannon Risley, and, Chief Nichols

Correspondence – None

Committee Meeting Dates – None as of this meeting date

A motion was made by Trustee Allen to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by Trustee Ruppert . Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Ruppert to enter back into Open Session, seconded by Trustee Allen. Voice vote taken, all ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Allen to approve a pay increase for Jessica Henderson from \$24.72/hr to \$26.46hr, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken: Gill-yes; Doty-yes; Ruppert-yes; England-yes; McLain-abstain (conflict of interest); Allen-yes; motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Allen to approve a pay increase for Hope Ruppert from \$23.69/hr to \$24.40/hr, seconded by Trustee England. Roll call taken: Doty-yes; Ruppert-abstain (conflict of interest); England-yes; McLain-yes; Allen-yes; Gill-yes; motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Allen to approve a pay increase for Shannon Risley from \$43.26/hr to \$44.56/hr, for Daniel Kidwell from \$29.87/hr to \$30.77/hr, for Benny Durbin from \$24.72/hr to \$25.46/hr, for Justin Farris from \$31.00/hr to \$31.93/hr, for Chris Nichols from \$37.08/hr to \$38.19/hr, for Kathy Denham from \$15.45/hr to \$15.91/hr, seconded by Trustee Doty. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

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,
Jackie McLain, Clerk

Jonathan Book, President