

VILLAGE OF BETHANY
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
November 13, 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, Zak England, Greg McLain, Karen Jeffers and Gene Mueller.

A motion was made by Trustee Mueller to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2025, 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 Jeffers. 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 – Dale Fleshner - concerned about a tree in his yard falling and landing on his house. He says it is not on his property. Village Manager Shannon Risley will go take a look.

Greg Gustafson Water Improvement Project Updates - SNC - extra parts have been removed and we are still working through the details with them. Mr. Gustafson expects a pay request and change order for next month's meeting. Commercial Electric - still working on the emergency phone system. A&R - Washington & Oak St. water main project has been completed. This crew was great to work with, very efficient. There will be a couple extra costs due to an unknown water service to a residence and some sidewalk work. Mr. Gustafson handed out & explained paperwork for the chlorine removal system room addition. As simple as this room is, there are many requirements with the EPA for this project. The Board will dig deeper into this project.

Amending Gaming Ordinance in Regards to Visible Signage - Village Attorney Patrick Sullivan handed out an ordinance to the Board addressing this issue and explained it. This ordinance would ban the feather wind-blown flags for any event or business. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to approve Ordinance #25-858 the Sign Restriction, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Amending the Ordinance Violation Penalties - This project was to help standardize all ordinance violation penalties. Mr. Sullivan went through and found all of the penalty provisions to standardize them. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to approve Ordinance #25-859 Amending Penalties in the Village Code, seconded by Trustee Mueller. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Village Tax Levy - Finance Chair Doty shared Tax Levy information with the Board. The Tort line item was discussed as having no cap on the amount levied for. Currently our insurance premium is around \$50,000. Patrick Sullivan will prepare the levy for approval next month.

Ordinance Violation Status for 214 S. Crowder St. - This house is vacant. The doors and windows are open. Chief Nichols posted a notice on the door for the violations. It needs to be abated with the doors and windows needing to be boarded up. Options are to just board it up or board it up and then begin the legal process to get ownership. There is a lien on it currently from the Village. Mr. Sullivan will get with Chief Nichols to work on this property.

Employee Appreciation Event - This will be tabled until after the holidays

TIF Ordinance Agreement with Jade Bone & Blue Bone Farms LLC - This has been approved previously. The Ordinance just needs to be approved so they can receive their monies. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to approve Ordinance #25-860, seconded by Trustee Mueller.

Tornado Siren Transfer of Ownership - Fire Chief and EMA Director Mike Jennings was here to discuss this. Mr. Jennings is trying to get more consistent with other counties on this issue. He has talked with Lovington and Dora Township about their tornado sirens. Patrick Sullivan suggested an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Fire Dept. with the Village taking ownership of the siren and coming up with a tier of those authorized to set off the siren. Mr. Sullivan will work on this agreement for next month's meeting.

Ordinance for Stray & Feral Cats - Attorney Patrick Sullivan developed this ordinance from previous meetings concerning this time. A motion was made by Trustee Jeffers to approve ordinance #25-861 dealing with stray & feral cats, seconded by Trustee McLain. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Alcohol Sale Hours Extension for The Publisher - The Publisher holds a pool league on Tuesdays. They asked to extend the sale one hour during this time. Patrick Sullivan looked into the Liquor Ordinance and there is nothing stated that allows the Board or the Liquor Commissioner to extend the hours. We would have to amend the entire ordinance to allow this. The Board will take no action on this matter.

Police Service Agreement with Okaw Valley CUSD #302 - This is the same agreement as last year with a 3% increase in pay. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to approve the Police Service Agreement with Okaw Valley CUSD #302, seconded by Trustee Mueller. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Flock Cameras for Village - The Police Committee and discussed the use of Flock cameras. This is an intertwined system of cameras within the State of Illinois. These will read license plates and notify local police depts. The cost is either \$3,000 or \$4,000 per camera per year. Village Attorney Patrick Sullivan was concerned about privacy issues. This will be reviewed over the next month before the next meeting.

IWorQ Ordinance Violation Software - This software is for the sole purpose of ordinance violations. It puts everything into its own file. The cost for this is around \$1500 per year. It would be easily accessible for all officers, office and village attorney. Chief Nichols will get a more firm proposal to present next month.

Signs for Police Dept & Village Hall - Trustee McLain presented the TIF Committee minutes regarding this item. He also passed around examples of the sign options. The TIF Committee recommended purchasing both signs not exceeding \$20,000. A motion was made by Trustee McLain to purchase the signs with TIF funds for the Police Dept and Village building not to exceed \$20,000, seconded by Trustee Ruppert. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Veterans Banners - Trustee Jeffers has pricing for these. The cost would be \$80 each with printing on both sides. The brackets were around \$110 each. Her thoughts were to line them along the highway and then down Washington St. Mr. Gustafson, on behalf of Berns Clancy, will sponsor \$400 for this project. Trustee Jeffers will reach out to the Legion to see about interest.

Establishing a New TIF District - This has been mentioned several times as our current TIF expires next year. This needs to be started very soon. Existing TIF funds could be rolled over into the new TIF as long as boards are connected. We will reach out to Klein & Assoc to set up a meeting to discuss this item. It could possibly need a special meeting.

Ordinance with Ameren - This an agreement/ordinance with Ameren for a wholesale connection agreement. A motion was made by Trustee Mueller to approve Ordinance #25-862 agreement with Ameren, seconded by Trustee England. Roll call taken: Jeffers-yes; Mueller-yes; Doty-yes; Ruppert-yes; England-yes; McLain-no; motion carried.

Reports - Manager Shannon Risley, TIF Committee, Police Committee, and Chief Nichols

Correspondence – None

Committee Meeting Dates – Finance Committee

12/9/25 @ 6pm

*Audit Review

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie McLain, Clerk

Brian Gill, President