

**Bellaire Village Council
Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2021**

1. **Call to Order:** President Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **Roll Call Attendance:**

Present: President Dan Bennett, Council Trustees Pat Boyd, Dave Ciganick, Trish Drollinger, Bryan Hardy, Eldon McPherson, & Helen Schuckel.

Absent: None

Staff Present: Bill Drollinger, Chief of Police, Nicole Essad, Clerk & Bradley Keiser, DPW Supervisor.

Also Present: Terry VanAlstine, Don Waara, Ron Damer, & Shelly Dayton

3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of new business item d, Boundary Review.

Motion by Schuckel, seconded by Hardy, to approve the agenda with the addition of new business item d, Boundary Review. Motion carried by voice vote.

4. **Conflict of Interest:** None presented.
5. **Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda was approved.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Hardy, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. **Public Comment:** None presented.
7. **Old Business**

- a) **County Update:** Mr. VanAlstine provided an update for the County. He stated that the county is looking at the process of going from nine (9) Commissioners down to five (5) Commissioners. He stated that Antrim County was the smallest county with nine (9) Commissioners. Mr. VanAlstine also informed the Council that the County Budget was recommended for approval the previous night. The Elk Rapids Day Park bathrooms will be getting repairs. Mr. VanAlstine stated that Barnes Park was adding a new loop with about 40 new campsites, which will be primitive to start. The Antrim Creek Natural Area will be repurposing the old one room schoolhouse into a welcome center. Mr. VanAlstine stated that the hydrology study is on track and that the County hired a new plumbing inspector via contract. He also clarified that the Health Department Funding could not legally be cut, but the County could withhold it, if the Health Department Board did not meet.
- b) **DDA Update:** President Bennett provided a brief update on the DDA. He stated that the porta-johns had been removed from the vacant lot. He also stated that the DDA is discussing putting a map in the new bathhouse once it completed.
- c) **Downtown Restroom Update:** DPW Supervisor Keiser gave a brief update on the project. He stated that poles are up with headers, and that the DPW was in the process of tapping the water and sewer lines for it. He also stated that while doing so, a bit broke and the DPW should be finishing up tomorrow. He stated that the contractor was finishing up another job in the area and should be on this project full time early next week. The next step is for the retaining wall to be built and then back filled.

- d) **Ball Field Improvement Update:** DPW Supervisor Keiser gave an update on this project. He stated that Dura Edge was finished with the infields. He stated that three outfields were final graded, and the other one should be done soon. He stated that there were some changes that had to be made last minute. One of those changes was to use temporary fence for two fields. This is to ensure that adult softball can play at 300 feet and Little League can play at 200 feet. The other change was to the grass infield, where there had to be a 75-foot base path for Little League. He stated that he met with Finline Fencing to get a quote for the fences. He also stated that he was in contact with Perfect Fence, who still had not given us the original invoice at the beginning of the project. He stated that the Village has not given any money to Perfect Fence because of that. DPW Supervisor Keiser then stated that the next steps are to get the fence, get the outfields seeded and put irrigation in.

8. New Business

- a) **Bellaire Youth Initiative Update:** Trustee Hardy gave a brief update on the Bellaire Youth Initiative. DPW Supervisor Keiser stated that the shed in Richardi Park has not been moved for the garden yet because the DPW needed a flat trailer to haul it up the hill to the school. He stated that he hoped it would be done by the end of the week, if a local contractor was able to let the Village use the trailer.
- b) **Beautification Letters:** It was requested of Trustee Drollinger to send a letter to a business/property owner who had really cleaned up the property from the previous owner. Discussion was held that there were numerous properties in the Village that had been cleaned up/made to look nice and that the Village Council should recognize those people that help beautify the Village. General discussion as to when the letters should go out and how to pick who would receive a letter was had. It was suggested that an announcement be put on the Villages' Facebook page and that the letters go out in the fall or early winter.

Motion by Bennett, seconded by McPherson to have staff come up with guidelines for beautification letters to be discussed at the next meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

- c) **DPW Employee Resignation/Post Position:** DPW Supervisor Keiser stated that one of his employees resigned effective October 1, 2021. He asked Council to accept the resignation and to allow for posting of the open position.

Motion by Ciganick, seconded by McPherson to accept the resignation and to post for the DPW opening. Motion carried by voice vote.

- d) **Boundary Review:** Clerk Essad explained that the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget was reviewing municipal boundaries. This is to make sure that the annexation and detachment files in the Office of the Great Seal are accurate, and to give better aerial photographs of municipalities. Further, the boundary review would also help with the Certified Act 51 Maps. General discussion was held about the slight changes to the boundaries for the Village, namely that a small sliver of the Airport would be within the Village and a small sliver of the old railroad to the South of the Village would be included within the Village boundary as well. Chief Drollinger noted that this means hunters cannot hunt on the Airport side of the river. Discussion was held about whether to notify the hunters of this. DPW Supervisor Keiser stated that a sign at the boat launch could be put up.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Hardy to accept the boundaries. Motion Carried by voice vote.

9. Discussion Items:

- Trustee Ciganick asked about what was being done about the L & T Auto. Clerk Essad explained that the Planning Commission discussed the possibility of revoking the SUP at its meeting the night before. She further explained that she would contact legal counsel to ascertain which would be better, revoking the SUP or issuing a ticket but still allowing it.
- Trustee Drollinger asked about putting watering cans at the Cemetery to replace the milk jugs. She stated that the hardware would give the Village a good deal. DPW Keiser stated that that was done about 3 years ago, and the watering cans disappeared by July.

10. Department/Committee Reports:

- Committee Reports:** Committee minutes, for the committees that have met, were included in packets for review.
- Clerk/Zoning Administrator:** There have been several enforcement letters that have gone out. The Village is up to 34 Zoning Permits to date. There are several houses being built within the Village as well.
- Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** Nothing presented.
- Department of Public Works:** Nothing presented.
- Police Department:** Haley is doing well at the academy.
- Planning Commission:** Nothing presented.

11. Closing Member/Public Comment:

- **Ron Damer:** Mr. Damer thanked the Council for how the Village is looking. He also wanted to draw Councils' attention to a 1977 plan, in which residents were surveyed to see what they wanted in town. He stated that there was a band shelter, nature trails, and dock by River Street listed. He stated that he gave the previous Clerk plans for boat docks between the River Street Launch and the Train Trestle. These plans included stairs/boardwalk from the docks to the park.
- **Don Waara:** Mr. Waara stated that he, and the Friends of Veterans have been collecting flags to retire. He would like to have the ceremony inside the Village to draw more people. DPW Supervisor Keiser stated that it could be done at the Ohio Street Boat Launch, because there is space and a water source. Trustee Boyd stated that there should be no burning of plastic in the Village. Trustee McPherson stated that he was concerned about soot/ash with all the residences close by. General discussion was held about what flags were made out of and how hot the fire burned.

12. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Compiled by Nicole Essad
Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____