

**Bellaire Village Council**

**Meeting Minutes  
January 3, 2024  
7:00 PM**

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 Patrick Boyd, Bryan Hardy, Eldon McPherson & Helen Schuckel, Dave Ciganick.

**Absent:** Bill Drollinger & Trica Drollinger

**Staff Present:** Nicole Essad, Clerk; Bradley Keiser, DPW Supervisor; & Nora Stead, Treasurer

**Also Present:** Terry VanAlstine, Chrissy Stahl, Shelly Dayton, and Margie Boyd

3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as amended to add the following items under New Business: f) Nora Stead signature to sign checks.

**Motion by Schuckel, seconded by Boyd , to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.**

4. **Conflict of Interest:** None presented.

5. **Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda was approved as presented.

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

6. **Public Comment:** Chrissy Stahl with the Antrim Review here to cover council meetings. Taking the place on Linda Gallagher

7. **Old Business**

- a) **County Update:** Mr. VanAlstine gave a county update. He stated that the building project is moving along with the final completion of the laying of bricks. The windows for the building should be here in February, so exterior should be “buttoned up” and ready for when the windows arrive. Things are moving along nicely with the new building project.

The sheriff’s department are entering the final stages of being able to move into the Health Department building.

With Mike Sizen retiring, the Sherif went out and did some research to privatize a “hybrid” cell mate food solution. Instead of having two cooks, they will go down to using one cook decreasing the cost and benefiting both the inmates and the county.

Two vehicle counters were added at Antrim Creek.

January is Radon Health month. If you are in need of a radon test kit you may pick one up for free at the Health Department.

The county is working on a unified trial court. They are working to combine probate and district court and have just one judge in the county for that instead of having a judge coming in from Traverse City. The judgeship should be a full load instead of a half which is what we are currently.

The materials management plan, solid waste, is in process. We have 180 days to complete. The committee will include individuals who do waste hauling with a total of 15 members in the committee.

On December 7<sup>th</sup> the North Country Scenic Trails became a national park extending through the east side of the county.

The County purchased the building next door to the Commission on aging. The owner had passed away and wanted to see that building going to the Commission on aging. If the commission on aging needs to expand then that building would be available. There have been discussions about making an adult daycare in the future. In the meantime, they will continue to rent and use the property as is, but the opportunity stands to use that building when an expansion is needed.

- b) **DDA Update:** Ms. Dayton stated that the DDA had a short meeting in which they talked about parking and budgets. Ms. Dayton gave an update on the new outdoor exhibit that they received funding for. She showed the members signs that were created for the “call for artist” with all the information on them along with a website for the artist to apply. Signs will be placed on the posts where the Holiday Wreaths were as soon as January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The new outdoor exhibit will be called The Unique Art of Antrim County, and the DDA will start taking applications from local artists. Artists must be a resident of Antrim County or have their studio in Antrim County.

Buy Local had 3 events in December including the PJ shopping event, last minute shop and sip and shop which all helped to bring more people into downtown.

- c) **Ball Field Update:** DPW Supervisor stated that the masonry contractor is back on duty and working hard to complete the second dugout and has been notified that we need to have all dugouts done by no later than the middle of February. The contractor now has a crew working with him and that should expedite the process. DPW states the fields themselves are ready to play in the spring. We have the bleachers available they just need to be moved to the ball field location. The bleachers were donated to the ballfield by the school, so they are readily available they just need to be picked up and moved to the new location at Craven. There was discussion involving the use of the section of bleachers that are already at the DPW station. These bleachers cannot be used due to the Title 9 statement of both female athlete and male athlete bleachers must be a matching set. The extra set of bleachers may be used by the little league fields which may also be used in the fall by the 4-H program. This extra set of bleachers may be moved to this location permanently as soon as it can be moved out there. The scoreboards are in the process of completion as well. A discussion was made regarding the placement of lights on the fields.
- d) **Municipal Service Agreement:** Clerk Essad stated that she was able to make the changes that were recommended by the administration committee. Essad stated she has tried to explain all the units to avoid confusion. This was sent over to the developer, but she has not heard back from them yet. Once approved by both parties then we may move on to the next step. A discussion was made regarding the

development being available to those families working and/ or living in the Bellaire region. A discussion was made on our service agreement with the land.

**Motion by Hardy, seconded by McPherson to accept the Municipal Services agreement as update by Clerk Essad. Motion carried via voice vote.**

## **8. New Business**

- a) **Additional Compensation:** Returning to the agenda again. This was supposed to be on the November agenda. A discussion was made regarding whether a motion was made and denied at the last meeting. When a question was asked by some employees we looked back and saw there was no motion made at the last meeting. Additional compensation would be given to the current employees through December 2023. A discussion was made regarding additional compensation for the current employees with at least a year of employment through December 2023 and if it stands in the budget. A discussion was made to move the additional compensation to the end of the fiscal year instead of the current year end. A discussion was made regarding changes in the employee health plan regarding budget needs.

**Motion by Bennett, seconded by Boyd to approve the additional compensation to the 9 employees employed through December 2023. Motion carried via voice vote.**

- b) **Recognition for Donations:** Thank you cards to be sent to Mr. Corbett for his contributions to the ballfield and Mr. Wilson for the Village rock placed near the public bathrooms.

**Motion by Boyd, seconded by Schuckel to send a thank you to Mr. Corbett and Mr. Wilson. Motion carried via voice vote.**

- c) **Dairy Twist Credit:** December bills were estimated using the past 3 months average. With the Dairy Twist being closed for the last 3 months, the estimated cost was incorrect for the current billing period. The Dairy Twist is asking for a credit to lower the usage back down to a current reading as they have been closed and not using any water at this time.

**Motion by McPherson, seconded by Boyd to make the correction to the Dairy Twist and Credit Account. Motion carried via voice vote.**

- d) **BCBS Rates:** A general discussion was held regarding the BCBS rates and possible plan changes. No action was taken.
- e) **Budget FY 2024-25:** A general discussion was held regarding the budget FY 2024-25. No action was taken.
- f) **Bank signatures:** Nora Stead to be added to the bank signatures.

**Motion by Boyd, seconded by Hardy to add Nora Stead to bank signature. Motion carried via voice vote.**

- 9. Discussion Items:** Trustee Ciganick asked about work force housing and putting a cap on existing housing we currently have turning into Air B & B / VRBO. A general discussion was made regarding housing and long term vs. short term rentals.

Trustee Boyd asked DPW about additional streetlights on Broad Street.

President Bennet states that the structural fire as noted on December 2023 minutes did not have insurance, so this may be an item to discuss at a future meeting.

**10. Department/Committee Reports:**

- a) **Committee Reports:** Committee minutes, for the committees that have met, were included in packets for review.
- b) **Clerk/Zoning Administrator:** Clerk Essad stated that Nora started her first day on January 3<sup>rd</sup> as Treasurer and we are focusing on training.
- c) **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** Focusing on training with Essad.
- d) **Department of Public Works:** DPW Supervisor Keiser stated that they have been cleaning streetlights and working on the budget.
- e) **Police Department:** Nothing presented.
- f) **Planning Commission:** Nothing presented.

- 11. Closing Member/Public Comment:** Terry VanAlstine stated that there are multiple options regarding insurance benefit plans for employees.

- 12. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

Compiled by Nora Stead  
Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_