

**Bellaire Village Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 2, 2023**  
**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 Trish Drollinger, Pat Boyd, Eldon McPherson, Dave Ciganick & Helen Schuckel.

**Absent:** Trustee Bryan Hardy

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

**Also Present:** Terry VanAlstine, Janet Koch, Doreen & Jerry McGuire, Ray & Marguerite Karabin, Jennifer Hodges, Joh Tarrant & Haley Gray.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** Item c, closed session was moved to item f. Item c, Park Rental Refund Request, item d, Chamber Request-Road Closure and item e, Walking Bridge Repairs were added. The agenda was approved with these changes.

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

6. **Public Comment:** None presented.

7. **Old Business**

a) **County Update:** Matt Wyman introduced himself as the new director for the airport. He has teamed up with Mid-Michigan Rental and is now renting vehicles. He also explained that there are some line-of-sight obstruction issues that will have to be resolved. He will work with local officials to get that taken care of soon. Janet Koch informed the Council that the rest of the fence surrounding the County building will be put up after the Rubber Duck Festival. Cranes will be in place on the 28<sup>th</sup> and parking is still available on Cayuga outside of the fenced in area. Mr. VanAlstine reminded everyone that the next household hazardous waste date is September 30 at the Antrim County Road Commission in Mancelona. The Health Department renovation is on schedule. They are working on gathering information for repair to the courthouse building. It must be completed by a historical architect. He discussed the ALICE program. There is a new “hands free” law that went into effect on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The case involving the kidnapping of the governor will be underway at the end of August with jury selection taking place at the school.

b) **DDA Update:** Mr. Gajda, the DDA Treasurer, is working on a purchase policy for the DDA. The DDA parking committee is working on a parking survey. The Culver exhibit

has been well received and they are hoping to hear about the grant they applied for in September.

- c) **Ball Field Update:** Mr. Keiser informed Council that the sponsorship program as been rolled out. The I-beams are completed for the scoreboards, and we have a donor who will donate \$12,000 for the dugouts if we have the match of the other \$12,000. He received comments about moving funds out of the CD to purchase property instead of finishing a project we have already started.
- d) **Forest Home Township-Soccer Park Road Update:** Forest Home Township has agreed to pave River St. and the soccer park road at their cost. They have already received the quotes for the work.
- e) **EGLE-ACO Update:** The ACO is finalized and signed. Much of the work in the ACO will require work by an engineer. GFA (Gourdie-Frasier) supplied a quote of \$32,500. Jennifer Hodges informed the Council that we did not use the entire cost for working through the violations, so they considered that in the new quote. She also noted that we received the scoring for the SRF funding project, and we have received the highest score for northern Michigan.

**Motion by McPherson, seconded by Boyd, to approve the GFA contract in the amount of \$32,500 to work through the WWTP ACO. Motion carried by voice vote.**

## 8. New Business

- a) **Downtown Trees:** Mr. Keiser informed the Council that there are a few dead trees downtown and would like their direction on whether to replace them or have the stumps ground and fill in the hole. He explained that we have received grant money in the past for trees from Consumers Energy and DTE Energy but have not applied for a couple of years because we weren't in need of anymore. He also said that he spoke with Mike Meriwether at the ACD for his suggestions on which types of trees to use. It was noted that if we can receive grant funding, they would like to see the trees replaced.

**Motion by McPherson, seconded by Drollinger, to follow the advice of Mr. Meriwether for the types of trees to use and apply for the grants. Motion carried by voice vote.**

- b) **Water Bill Adjustment:** 403 W. Cayuga St. had a water leak that didn't go into the sewer. We usually provide credit for sewer usage to a customer's average usage for the sewer charges when this occurs. The total credit will be \$225.62.

**Motion by Boyd, seconded by Ciganick, to approve the sewer credit for 403 W. Cayuga in the amount of \$225.62. Motion carried by voice vote.**

- c) **Park Rental Refund Request:** We had someone rent the pavilion at Richardi Park and they are unable to use it. They are asking if we would refund their rental fee. Our rules state there are no refunds. The council discussed and no action was taken citing that we need to follow the rules.
- d) **Chamber Request-Road Closure:** The Chamber is requesting the closure of Broad St. by Ruthie's be closed for the Rubber Ducky Festival. They would like to place their bounce house among other things in that area. Mr. Keiser as the street administrator stated

that it is not a good idea to close that road. Not only would it block Ruthie's parking lot, it would also block the restrooms and the Shanty shuttle.

**Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson, to deny the Chamber request to close that section of Broad St. Motion carried by voice vote.**

- e) **Walking Bridge Repair:** Trustee McPherson informed Council that people are asking about repair of the decking on the walking bridge. There was discussion about the repairs, the cost of those repairs and motorized vehicles, namely snowmobiles that cross on the bridge. Chief Drollinger suggested restricting passage to nonmotorized vehicles with signage. This was tabled until the next meeting so other ideas and costs to fix it could be gathered.

9. **Closed Session:** Council moved to go into closed session to discuss union negotiations.

**Motion by Ciganick, seconded by Boyd, to go into closed session pursuant to Section 8 (c) of Michigan's Open Meeting Act, Public Act 267, being MCL 15.268 (c), as amended, for the purpose of discussing the strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement. Motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes: Ciganick, Boyd, Drollinger, McPherson, Schuckel & Bennett. Nays: None**

*Closed session was called at 7:50 PM*

*Closed session ended at 8:33 PM*

**Motion by Boyd, seconded by Schuckel, to rise from the closed session. Motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes: Boyd, Schuckel, Ciganick, Drollinger, McPherson & Bennett. Nays: None Absent: Hardy**

The Council discussed whether they were ready to approve or if more time was needed to review the contract before deciding to approve it.

**Motion by Boyd, seconded by Ciganick, to have a special meeting on August 9, 2023 at 3:00 PM to consider the contract. Motion carried by voice vote with one nay vote by Trustee McPherson.**

9. **Discussion Items:** None presented.

**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 informed Council that she is meeting with a developer to discuss a Brownfield Development and everything else is going well.
- c) **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** Nothing presented.
- d) **Department of Public Works:** Mr. Keiser informed Council that the River Street lift station work is complete, and it is officially up and running. Fire hydrants are flushed and repaired. Work on the storm drains is coming up.

- e) **Police Department:** Chief Drollinger stated that we have the permit for the Rubber Ducky Festival. Speed management seems to have improved with the installation of the speed signs.
- f) **Planning Commission:** Nothing presented.

**11. Closing Member/Public Comment:**

- **Mr. & Mrs. Karabin:** Mr. & Mrs. Karabin informed the Council that a property near their home had tall grass and junk lying around. They also brought up the sewer repair that was completed on their street. It has been a while and wondered when the road repair might get done.
- **Patrick Boyd:** Trustee Boyd stated we will be asking our taxpayers to pay 4 mills for 4 years to help fund the police department. Due to this, our police department should not leave the Village limits. He said if Forest Home Township and Kearney Township want some mutual aid, then they should help pay for it. He noted that we are paying for every call outside the limits. He said he understands how bad this sounds. Chief Drollinger said that we are all under the mutual aid agreement. We all work together for the safety of all residents. We help County & MSP when needed and they help us when needed. 911 works on the closest car concept. Trustee Boyd noted that it is our job to be fiscally responsible for our residents. Trustee Ciganick noted that we give help to them that is paid for by us and they give help that is paid for by their departments. Trustee Boyd said if we receive calls within the townships that include Bellaire, he definitely wants our officers to respond, but also feels that they should help pay for some of those costs. Chief Drollinger said if we do that, then they will expect our officers to add their areas to our patrol routes. They will also have to give us police authorization. We are currently deputized through the County. He noted that if a complaint is received, then come directly to him to discuss and work to resolve it. Boyd said this was not to criticize what we are currently doing. It has to do with our fiscal responsibility. It's a financial decision. The council members' opinion is to keep things as they are.
- **Trish Drollinger:** Trustee Drollinger stated her disappointment because of the office closure due to the office staff on vacation. The closure was not due to a job-related item and the office should not have been closed.
- **President Bennett:** There was a discussion about tickets the police department writes.

**12. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

Compiled by Cathy Odom  
 Minutes are subject to approval.

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

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