

**Bellaire Village Council
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2022**

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, Bryan Hardy, Pat Boyd, Eldon McPherson, & Helen Schuckel.

Absent: Dave Ciganick

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

Also Present: Terry VanAlstine, Tammy Lockwood, Bill Dehnke, Lynn Keller, Marguerite Karabin, Steve Elandt, Tony Marshall, Doreen & Jerry McGuire, Jennifer Hodges, Don Hoyt, Linda Gallagher & Seth Garnot.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of old business item d, ballpark update, new business item e, resolution #17 of 2022, bridge grant & item f, paid leave carryover request.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Hardy, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous 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 unanimous voice vote.

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

7. **Old Business**

a) **County Update:** Kearney Township signed a franchise agreement with Consumers Energy for 30 years for the right of way on the power poles. They approved a fireworks ordinance for Shanty Creek on July 4th. They also approved road millage language for 2022-25. Bee Well Meadery is working with EGLE about wastewater discharge permit. A 911 millage will be on the August ballot for renewal. The household hazardous waste is June 11 in Elk Rapids, July 16 at Bellaire High School, and September 10, at the Antrim County Road Commission from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. The County Planning Commission is working on their Master Plan. The NLEA Economic Symposium is scheduled for May 13 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at Boyne Mountain. The lease agreement for the health department building has been approved. The County will be receiving and update on the hydrology study. The County bid for the small island in Intermediate River above the dam was approved by the LERC. Melissa Zelnik was hired as the director of the Antrim Conservation District and Mike Meriwether is working on an annual forestry update.

b) **DDA Update:** The Bellaire High School leadership class approached the DDA about working with them on a project for downtown. They surveyed the businesses about salting the downtown sidewalks and they would like to have the Village provide this service. They are looking into the

quality of salt to use. The DDA Parking Committee has met and discussed putting parking signage by the new restrooms and another behind the Fischer Insurance office building pointing to the parking area. Mr. Keiser noted that there is already a sign at the entrance to Ohio St. and there is one as you enter town on Bellaire Hwy. by Mortensen's Funeral Home. He reminded them that depending on the location of the sign request, an MDOT permit may be needed. Mr. Hoyt explained that there is \$10,000 left over from a grant in the budget with a request to use it for the new downtown restrooms, but the DDA would first like to finish their research on downtown Wi-Fi. Doreen McGuire updated Council with the final drawing of the map. It will be a 4 x 3 sign with a useful life of 3-5 years. Any changes to the map during this time will be done with the use of labels. The cost of the sign is about \$1,004.40. The only thing Council suggested was to make the "you are here" language a little bigger on the sign.

Motion by Hardy, seconded by McPherson, to approve the sign, its location by the new restrooms and making the "you are here" language bigger on the sign. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

President Bennett explained there was a discussion at the DDA meeting about concerns with skateboards and bicycles on the sidewalks. He said the concerns come from people walking out of businesses and colliding with them. We have regulations in place with the only exception being young children. He also noted concerns about people parking in the crosswalks and about people crossing the street where there is not a crosswalk. He is concerned for people's safety. The crosswalk pylons can be placed on the street on May 1 of each year per our permit.

- c) **Downtown Restroom Update:** Mr. Keiser explained we passed our rough in electrical and mechanical inspections. We partially passed our rough in framing inspection. He noted he spent a considerable amount of time with Mr. VanAlstine and the building department discussing the results of the inspection. DTE will be coming to hook up their lines and Consumers is supposed to be here on April 11th to hook up electricity to the building. Now that the inspections are complete, drywall and finishing touches can be completed. Mr. Keiser noted that the engineered drawing the building department approved at site plan, apparently was missing one thing which caused the partial approval, and he is working on getting it taken care of.
- d) **Ball Field Update:** DPW is leveling off more area. Fine Line Fencing will be here to stake off the fence location on April 26 and installation is scheduled for May 2nd. Once that is complete, we will do final grading and get some grass planted. All four score boards are ordered and paid for by donors. Mr. Marshall explained that there is approximately 3-4 days of grading in the outfields. There is some work that will have to be done outside the fields as well as a sink hole that wasn't there before which will have to be taken care of. Mr. Elandt explained that the area outside the fences does not affect the ball fields.

8. New Business

- a) **Banner Request-High Tea:** The High Tea organization is requesting permission to place a banner across the road for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. They would like to keep it up for the month of October. President Bennett reminded Council that our rules do not allow banners to stay up for a month and others who had the same request have been turned down. A representative from the organization explained that this request is due to the pandemic where people have mostly stayed home and have not sought medical attention when needed. She said it is an important reminder for them. Trustee Drollinger and Hardy feel it is important to promote good health and Council should make an exception to the rule, at least for this year.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Hardy, to make an exception and allow the banner to stay up the entire month of October for this year. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- b) **Proclamation-Sexual Assault Awareness Month:** The Women’s resource Center is again asking the Council to support April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month by approving the proclamation presented.

Motion by Hardy, seconded by Schuckel, to approve the proclamation naming April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- c) **Pension Plan Restatement:** Every six years we are required by the IRS to restate our pension plan. This ensures that any amendments made during that time are stated in one document. The only change to the plan is to allow post-tax Roth deferrals. This change affects all pension plans across the board.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Hardy, to approve the Pension Plan Restatement as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- d) **Resolution 16 of 2022, Budget Amendment:** The resolution will allow for amendments to the 2022-23 budget. Mr. Keiser noted a change in the reason for the addition of porta johns at the boat launches.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Hardy, to approve Resolution #16 of 2022, budget amendments as amended. Motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes: Boyd, Hardy, Drollinger, McPherson, Schuckel & Bennett. Nays: None. Absent: Ciganick.

- e) **Resolution #17 of 2022, Bridge Grant:** This resolution will allow us to apply for a bridge grant for repairs that are needed on the Bellaire Hwy bridge. The grant is for 1.49 million with Village out of pocket expenses totaling \$275,000. \$75,000 for the required 5% match and an estimated \$200,000 for engineering fees. These funds will have to be secured by the Village 2025 budget.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Hardy, to approve Resolution #17 of 2022, bridge grant. Motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes: Drollinger, Hardy, Boyd, McPherson, Schuckel & Bennett. Nays: None. Absent: Ciganick.

- f) **Paid Leave Carryover Request:** Treasurer Odom explained that she has 28 hours of paid leave that she was unable to use before her anniversary date and would like Council permission to carry them over.

Motion by Hardy, seconded by McPherson, to allow her to carry over her unused paid leave. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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:** She is working on sending junk letters in hopes that things will be cleaned up for spring clean up days and a couple of new homes are being built in the Village.
- c) **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** We received a letter from the attorney explaining that Village rates are going to increase. Everything has been turned in to the auditor. There are no updates on the Hickory Lane sewer issue. We supplied the insurance company with all the information and Mr. Keiser provided a deposition.
- d) **Department of Public Works:** Mr. Keiser informed Council that the crew is working on patching potholes. The campground is open. They will sweep streets when the snow melts and they are waiting for the last of the ice to melt on the ice rink so it can be taken down.
- e) **Police Department:** Chief Drollinger informed Council that the Short's Anniversary party has been approved. He is also working on nuisance vehicles.
- f) **Planning Commission:** Nothing presented.

11. Closing Member/Public Comment:

- a) **Marguerite Karabin:** Mrs. Karabin said she was hoping to hear more information about road conditions at tonight's meeting. She explained that the sewer was torn up on one corner of her house. On the other side of the property there is a ditch and would like to know when that will be taken care of. Mr. Keiser noted that we are waiting for the end of winter and the asphalt companies to open in the spring. She noted that there is a tree down and hopes it will be taken care of. Mr. Keiser will look at it.
- b) **Seth Garnot:** Mr. Garnot would like to see improvements to the walking path between Broad St. and goes through ASI. He would like to offer his help to make that section of the trail a little better and safer. We will get in touch with him for the next Parks Committee meeting.

12. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:53 P.M.

Compiled by Cathy Odom
 Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____