

DRAFT
Bellaire Village Council
Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2024

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, Eldon McPherson, Bryan Hardy, Helen Schuckel, and Trish Drollinger.

Absent: Dave Ciganick

Staff Present: Nora Stead, Treasurer, Bradley Keiser, DPW Supervisor, Bill Drollinger, Chief of Police, Angela St. Pierre, Clerk.

Also Present: Terry VanAlstine, Chrissy Stahl, Nanette McLellan, Margie Boyd, Andy Campbell, Dave Simcox, Deana Jerdee and five other unidentified.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the additions of new business items g, Tax Rate Resolution, h, Clerk Training, I, Sewer Rate Discussion, j, Toonies Tree Removal and Paving Request

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

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

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

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. Absent- Ciganick

6. **Public Comment:**

- a) Dan Bennett thanked the DPW for their help with saving thousands of dollars by borrowing Central Lake's street sweeper after helping Central Lake with an issue previously. Bennett also thanked the office staff for keeping the office building clean.
- b) Deana Jerdee gave an update on Paddle Antrim and their recent event in Ellsworth with kids. This is their 10th year anniversary as an organization. They plan on continuing these outreach programs. They are breaking ground in Elk Rapids this year with their project to add a universal kayak launch, restrooms, and parking. This project costs one million dollars.
- c) Nanette McLellan spoke asking about the difference in terminology of bond ordinance versus bond resolution after some confusion with the agenda items. Bill Drollinger stated that he cannot tell her the difference between the two, but he would look into it and contact Nanette once he does some research about the legal terminology that she is seeking.

7. **Old Business**

a) **County Update:**

- 1). Terry VanAlstine was present to give an update on the county. Mr. VanAlstine spoke about an open house for the County Building on Thursday, June 20, 2024 from 3 PM to 5 PM. The building department is now downstairs which is where it will stay. The places that the average person has to go are now on the main floor of the building which will

make things a lot smoother. June 6th is a board of commissioners meeting which after that is an informational meeting on the public safety center where they will have the needs assessment to present. They will have a lot of information after that meeting. The Annex building demo is in the works of being torn down. They voted on paving parking lots around the administration building which will be done in September. Animal control has new cat cages. If requested, Leslie Meyers can come and give a FEMA plain presentation.

- 2). A letter from the Antrim County Administration Office stating “At their regular meeting on May 2, 2024, the Antrim County Board of Commissioners approved the request from the Village of Bellaire allowing the removal of the dugouts located at the Bellaire Youth League Park (aka the Rotary Baseball Fields). Once the removal of the dugouts has been completed, the Village must backfill the holes left behind. Please note: The Village has permission to remove the dugouts only. Other improvements to the property will be ascertained by the County after June 23, 2024 expiration of the existing lease agreement.”
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- b) **DDA Update:** Shelly Dayton was present to give an update on the DDA. The art exhibit is up, with the opening reception on June 4th. They had about 50-60 people show up at the reception. They are exploring grants to do the art exhibit again. The next project they are working on is the banner program. They are interested in the potential of having artists design banners which would be funded from business advertisements on the banners. They are also interested in placing tables which have already been paid for and are stored at the village hall building to be placed outside the village hall in the grass between the building and the sidewalk on the south side of the building.
 - c) **Ball Field Update:** The DPW Supervisor, Bradley Keiser was present to give an update on the Ball Field. All of the ballfields are up and running. The scoreboards are up and only need some wiring done.
 - d) **Organized Youth Archery:** The Village Attorney advised against allowing any organized archery in that location. Eldon McPherson then asked about changing the ordinance for allowing archery for the harvesting of deer. Bill Drollinger then spoke about allowing Sarah Toth to look into a better location for the organized youth archery and if a better location is found, bundling the ordinance change for both the organized youth archery and discharging of bows for harvesting of deer in Village limits.
 - e) **Marihuana Retail Establishments:** Trish Drollinger was present to give an update. Drollinger spoke with the Village Attorney and other sources about how to word an ordinance for allowing Marihuana businesses. She proposed we allow micro-business or retail only. Sources she spoke with recommended limiting the distance between businesses to help control how many businesses can be in the village. It is recommended to add a discussion about Marihuana and an ordinance change to the next Planning Commission meeting to determine details. Once discussed at Planning Commission meeting, standards can be drafted to then take to legal council for review, then move forward to a public vote.

No action was taken.

8. New Business

- a) **Bond Ordinance:** Andy Campbell was present to speak on behalf of the Bond Ordinance. The proposed Bond Ordinance is to make the loan process official for the CWSRF. The thirty (30) year loan would be for Three Million One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$3,125,000) with an interest rate of two (2) percent. The proposed Bond Ordinance is for if the Village wants to move forward with the bonds if the project is moved forward later on.

Motion by McPherson, seconded by Drollinger, to move forward with the bond. Motion carried by voice vote. Absent -Ciganick

- b) **Consumers Energy Easement:** Bradley Keiser spoke about Consumers Energy’s request for an easement on Village property, Richardi park, for electrical facilities to be placed. Keiser has told them that they cannot have the easement but Consumers Energy needs the official vote of the Village Council.

Motion by Boyd, second by Drollinger, to deny Consumer Energy’s easement request for Richardi Park. Motion carried by voice vote. Absent- Ciganick

- c) **ASI Indoor Sports Facility:** Dave Simcox was present to speak about Area Seniors Inc (ASI) and their plans to collect information from votes on the need/want for an indoor sports facility in the area. The project would be funded by grants and is asking for a community letter of support from the Village of Bellaire to apply for the grants.

Motion by McPherson, seconded by Boyd, to allow Dan Bennett to write a letter of support for ASI. Motion carried by voice vote. Absent- Ciganick

- d) **Grant for Craven Ballfields:** Members of the community, Tina Bearup and Gloria Campbell, found grants available to install batting cages at Craven Ballfields but will need approval from council to apply for the grant.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson, for approval of writing and applying for this grant. Motion carried by voice vote. Absent- Ciganick

- e) **Resolution: State Contract Renewal MDOT:** A resolution for a contract renewal for maintenance of the state trunkline between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Village of Bellaire.

Motion by Boyd, Seconded by Hardy, for a roll call vote on resolution #11 of 2024 for renewing the contract with MDOT. Motion passed by voice vote. Absent – Ciganick

Aye: Boyd, Hardy, Drollinger, McPherson, Schuckel & Bennett

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Ciganick

- f) **Chloes chophouse:** Police Chief Bill Drollinger reported that this item has been resolved and no action is required.

No action was taken.

- g) **Resolution Millage Tax Rate:** A resolution for setting the Village of Bellaire annual millage rates for the FY 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Drollinger, for a roll call vote on resolution #12 of 2024 for setting milage rates. Motion passed by voice vote. Absent – Ciganick

Aye: Boyd, Drollinger, Hardy, McPherson, Schuckel & Bennett
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent: Ciganick

- h) **Clerk Training:** Bennet spoke concerning training for the clerk and how Mrs. St. Pierre found an online program through MSU Extension office for training costing roughly Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250). Bennett would like to allow up to Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) for that training and supplies.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by McPherson, to allow Angela St. Pierre to not exceed \$300 for online training through MSU Extension office. Motion carried by voice vote. Absent - Ciganick

- i) **Sewer Rate Discussion:** Andy Campbell was present to speak about the Sewer Rate increase needed for the sewer project. He presented a final draft analysis for bidding rates. Bids are going to come back for the project the week of June 24th and once the final bids are received from the engineer team, they can finalize everything with EGLE in early July. The sewer project is an ACO project and is a state mandated. Mr. Campbell went on to discuss the final draft analysis presented. It is proposed to increase the sewer rate 25% for every account. The typical homeowner would see an increase of roughly 15 dollars a month for sewer.

No action was taken.

- j) **Toonies Tree Removal and Paving Request:** Toonies is requesting that the tree outside their business be removed as it is blocking visibility of their sign from Northbound traffic. They are also requesting that the space beside their building be paved as the loose gravel and uneven ground is a safety concern for their customers who park there. It was discussed that more removal of trees would like to be avoided. Bradley Keiser will look into having the tree professionally trimmed by the same company who did the tree outside Uniquely North. It was brought to attention that the space beside the building that is used for parking is actually a road and if it were to be improved with paving, parking would no longer be allowed in that space.

No action was taken.

9. Discussion Items: None Presented.

10. Department/Committee Reports:

- a) **Committee Reports:** None Presented.
- b) **Clerk/Zoning Administrator:** Angela St. Pierre is looking forward to starting the training through MSU Extension office.

- c) **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** Nora Stead is working on the audit and that things are going smoothly.
- d) **Department of Public Works:** None Presented.
- e) **Police Department:** None Presented.
- f) **Planning Commission:** None presented.

11. Closing Member/Public Comment: None presented.

12. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.
Compiled by Angela St. Pierre.
Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____