

**Bellaire Village Council  
Meeting Minutes  
September 4, 2024**

a) **Call to Order:** President Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

b) **Roll Call Attendance:**

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

**Absent:**

**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, Shelly Dayton, Andrew Turner, and Angie Less.

c) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the additions of new business item b. Hiring DPW Worker, and discussion item a. Police Millage.

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

d) **Conflict of Interest:** Patrick Boyd abstains from Planning Commission Seat Vacancy selection as his wife is one of the applicants.

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

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

f) **Public Comment:** None Presented.

g) **Old Business**

a) **County Update:**

- 1). Janet Koch and Sherrif Hoch were present to give a presentation on the proposed Public Safety Center that is on the November 5, 2024 ballot. The current jail has been assessed and is non-compliant, deficient, and unsafe for workers, attorneys, visitors, and inmates. The proposed public safety center would create a safer more secure jail that meets the required standards. This proposed center would not only house 56 jail beds, but it would also house the Sheriff, Detectives, Road Patrol, 911 Dispatch, Investigative facilities, Emergency Management, Training room, and secure flex spaces. The max estimated cost of this facility is \$32.5 million with the estimated County upfront payment of \$7 million. The 20-year construction bond amount would be for \$25.5, a maximum of 0.56 mills/year. The estimated annual max impact for the average taxable value for a residential property ranges between \$5.65 and \$95.02 depending on the townships. Star Township at \$5.65 annually and Torch Lake Township at \$95.02 annually. A Public Safety Center would strive to decrease recidivism, create a safer and more secure jail that meets requirements, and focus on mental health and flexibility for a stronger community. More information can be found at [tinyurl.com/antrimpsc](http://tinyurl.com/antrimpsc).

- 2). Sheriff Hoch also spoke about how Chief Bill Drollinger helped save the life of a woman who suffered from a heart attack with the speed of his response. Sheriff Hoch had presented him with a Lifesaving Award and would like to acknowledge his great work.
  - 3). Terry VanAlstine was also present to give an update on the county. The county approved new video equipment for the circuit court. This new equipment would allow to replace the stenographers as they retire. This equipment can be operated by the judge with one button. The elevator in the county building is 46 years old and is getting fixed and working as it should. Commission on aging is looking to buy new vehicles for meals on wheels. They are moving forward with new vehicles for the building department as well. The old building department vehicles will be distributed throughout the county for other needs. The Grass River boardwalk is underway. There is also parking expansion at Glacial Hills.
- b) **DDA Update:** Shelly Dayton was present to give an update on the DDA. At their recent meeting they were not able to vote on anything as they did not meet the quorum. They did see a presentation from Janet Koch on the Public Safety Center. They had a quick update on the grants committee and they still cannot find the missing piano.
  - c) **Sewer Project Update:** Bradley Keiser spoke on the sewer project. The loan closed and the Village can officially start applying for reimbursements for payments made. He spoke with the contractors and they will send a construction schedule which will allow to start contacting vendors and purchasing materials with plans to break ground this fall.

#### **h) New Business**

- a) **Planning Commission Seat Vacancy Applications:** There are two applications to consider for the planning seat vacancy; Margie Boyd and Christine Stahl. It was brought to the attention of the applicants that there is also an open seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**Nomination by Drollinger to appoint Christine Stahl to the Planning Commission open seat.  
Nomination by Hardy to appoint Margie Boyd to the Zoning Board of Appeals open seat.  
Motion carried by voice vote.**

- b) **Hiring DPW Applicant:** The Administration and Personnel committee is recommending to the council to hire Jason Alsbaugh for the DPW open position. Jason holds many certifications and licenses along with having beneficial skills for the open position at the DPW.

**Motion by Drollinger, second by Boyd, to hire Jason Alsbaugh for the DPW position at a starting wage of \$18.47. Motion carried by voice vote.**

#### **i) Discussion Items:**

- a) **Police Millage:** President Dan Bennett, after speaking with Chief Drollinger and county representatives, believes the Village needs to have three officers and would like to consider millage for these officers. The next millage election would be May of 2025. Mr. Bennett also brought up how he believes the wages need to be looked at as the cost of living is significantly higher than it has previously been. A general discussion was held concerning the sustainability of hiring on more officers.

Patrick Boyd spoke about how he does not feel as though a millage would pass as there have been increases to sewer charges and that asking for more from the residents would not pass. He brought up that the recreational marihuana businesses pay fees to municipalities and that each marihuana business would almost pay for one officer's wages. Mr. Boyd proposes that the additional revenue that the Village receives from marihuana sales goes to public safety.

## 10. Department/Committee Reports:

- a) **Committee Reports:** None Presented.
- b) **Clerk/Zoning Administrator:** Angela St. Pierre updated the council on Meadowbrook's water/sewer bill after it was approved to combine their bill. After a combined meeting between Village staff and Meadowbrook staff it was determined to continue billing separately as this would be better for their government funding. They have agreed to install a sewer meter to measure Meadowview's sewer usage and reinstall their fixed sewer meter for Meadowbrook. Mrs. St. Pierre has also received many complaints from residents who have not been getting their water/sewer bills in the mail. She has sorted through the recent mailings to make sure the residents who have repeatedly not received their bill were indeed being printed properly. Those bills were printed and dropped off at the local post office for mailing. She is looking into paperless/email bills for those who would like to sign up and needs to find some more information to get that service set up and found it would not cost anything to turn this service on and would actually decrease the cost of sending these bills as postage and specialty paper would not be needed. The ZBA still has another position to be filled currently even with Margie Boyd filling one seat and will have another open seat after November this year as Robert Massey does not wish to continue with the ZBA. A discussion was held concerning who is responsible if the resident does not get their water bill from the mailings sent through the post office. It was determined that the resident is responsible for their water bill whether or not they receive their bill in the mail. The bills are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, and it is the resident's responsibility to look into it if they have not received their bill. They can call the office or stop into the office to get their current amount to pay their bill prior to the due date to avoid late fees.
- c) **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** Nora Stead stated that the audit is finalized and audit packets are available for council members in their mailboxes. She has been processing tax bills daily.
- d) **Department of Public Works:** Bradley Keiser spoke about how they have been working on sewer project and are about halfway to two thirds through the lead service line inventory that is due by the end of the month. All the lead and copper testing for the year has been completed. Trustee Ciganick asked Bradley if we are on track with the lead line replacements. Bradley answered that they are on track as long as the state does not change the deadline as they have done three times already. There is a new update coming up in November and Bradley will update the council at that time. The lead line replacement project is why the Vactor truck has been operating all over town. Mr. Keiser stated that several other communities have asked to pay the Village to rent and/or operate the Vactor truck. He has also talked to Apple Fence again about fixing the fence at Richardi park in hopes to move them along with getting the fence fixed.

- e) **Police Department:** Bill Drollinger stated that there was one accident at the recent DALMAC bike tour on Broad street that the County handled. Paddle Antrim will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month so it is expected to see a lot of kayaks coming through the village. Mr. Drollinger wanted to thank the County for their help with the recent Rubber Ducky Festival. He also thanked Bradley Keiser and the other workers at the DPW for their help setting up the festivals and other events.
- f) **Planning Commission:** None presented.

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

Andrew Turner brought a few concerns to the council. His first concern was the snow fence erected on the walking path and his concern that they will place a permanent fence where the snow fence is currently placed. His second concern is that the Vactor truck bounced over a curb on his property and the grass and soil was affected by the weight of the truck leaving divots. Bradley Keiser spoke about how they will come and black dirt and seed the divots from the Vactor truck. He also spoke about the fence on the walking path and that the permanent fence will be 4 feet off the walking path. The walking path is a tricky situation and the property it is on is owned by Spillway Lodges and the Village has an easement for the walking path. Spillway Lodge’s zoning permit is for a solid wood fence to be placed 4 feet off the walking path. Mr. Turner then spoke about his concern with Shorts music, specifically the bass, that he can feel at his residence. He would like to have the bass addressed and possibly turned down to not be so loud or travel as far.

Nanette McClellan asked if there was an update on the Bellaire Lofts project. Bradley Keiser stated that the water permit was finalized. They were waiting on the State to finalize paperwork. Terry VanAlstine spoke about how he was in contact with MSHDA and how they finally gave them written approval.

Angie Less a resident from Bellaire spoke about a proposed ordinance from Star township and Chestonia Township which would allow ORV’s on the roads in the Jordan River Valley. Based upon her FOIA request, Chestonia and Star Township did not notify every municipality in the county as they were required by county ordinance and state statutes. Chestonia plans to vote on this proposed ordinance on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Less voiced concern with those who will neglect the land and destroy the natural habitat if these ordinances were passed. September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm is the Star Township public hearing concerning these ordinances.

**12. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.  
 Compiled by Angela St. Pierre.  
 Minutes are subject to approval.

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

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