

**Bellaire Village Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2023**

1. **Call to Order:** President Bennett called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

2. **Roll Call Attendance:**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Drollinger

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

**Also Present:** Terry McBee

3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of new business item b, Community Project Funding.

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

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

5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.

6. **Old Business:** None presented.

7. **New Business**

a) **FY 2023-24 Budget:** Council is meeting tonight to discuss the FY 2023-24 Budget. The budget forecast shows a decrease in fund balance with that trend potentially continuing into future budgets. Treasurer Odom explained the current budget shortfall and how it affects the current fund balance. She also explained that the proposed 23-24 budget expenditures exceed revenues and if there are no line items that go over budget, which is almost impossible, our fund balance will be reduced to approximately \$73,000 for FY 2024-25. Clerk Essad also noted that this does not include any catastrophes, issues or unexpected cost increases that may happen. To address this, staff put together a list of items to consider that could reduce the deficit. It was noted that they tried to think of everything that could be done. Others may have more ideas to share, and all ideas could be considered. The options and the outcome of those options were presented. Some options discussed were no wage increases, health insurance options and how to pay for them, cutting hours, cutting the pension contribution, and trying for a police millage to help cover some costs. Looking into a special assessment was also discussed. The council reviewed and discussed all options that were proposed. Trustee Ciganick noted that we want to cover health insurance and provide wage increases but we are on a fixed income, and we have to take that into consideration. Discussion occurred about making the necessary cuts for this budget and then over the next year looking for a more permanent solution. How much overtime we accrue was also discussed, which lead to a discussion about the federal overtime regulations. It was noted that policies could be developed that would allow us to change how overtime is computed. Trustee Ciganick noted we could eliminate the pension, eliminate the wage increases, cover the insurance, and remove both new vehicles from the budget. We will still have a deficit, but it will be manageable. We also go for the police millage and re-look at the village to city option. Treasurer Odom will have to look into what we are allowed to do for our pension based on the pension agreement we have in place.

**Motion by Ciganick, seconded by Boyd, that for the 23-24 budget we reduce the contribution from the village to the pension fund from 10% to zero, providing that we can do that, if we can't we only contribute what the minimum requirement is, we reduce the cost of living increase from 3% to zero, and eliminate the purchase of the F-550 and police vehicle. Motion carried by voice vote.**

- b) **Community Project Funding:** President Bennett received information from Mr. Bergman's office about potential grants that can be used for police. This is a congressional grant. It is not a competitive grant, nor does it require a match. The council agrees that we should apply for this.

**Motion by Bennett, seconded by Boyd, to apply for the Community Project Funding grant. Motion carried by voice vote.**

## 9. Discussion Items:

- Trustee Ciganick informed the Council that he will gather information about going from a village to a city and he will talk to some people who were involved when we previously attempted this.
- President Bennett noted that a Council member will have to think about volunteering to be on the union negotiation team on behalf of the Village. Keep this in mind and we will address at the next meeting.
- Trustee Boyd asked about changing our fiscal year so we could have more permanent revenue numbers when we calculate the budget. It was noted that we could look into the process if the Council chooses to address this.

## 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:** Nothing presented.
- c) **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** Nothing presented.
- d) **Department of Public Works:** Mr. Keiser informed Council that he had applied for a grant that would help with the inventory for the lead line water project. It had been submitted in 2021 and we will be awarded \$111,000. Trustee Ciganick asked about Council receiving an updated report of where we stand on the lead line replacement accounts and Mr. Keiser said he provides one to EGLE and will also provide it to Council.
- e) **Police Department:** Nothing presented.
- f) **Planning Commission:** Nothing presented.

## 11. Closing Member/Public Comment: None presented.

**12. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM

Compiled by Cathy Odom  
Minutes are subject to approval.

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

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