

**Bellaire Village Council
Meeting Minutes
April 3, 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 and Helen Schuckel.

Absent: Trish Drollinger & Dave Ciganick

Staff Present: Nora Stead, Treasurer & Bradley Keiser, DPW Supervisor.

Staff Absent: Bill Drollinger, Chief of Police.

Also Present: Terry VanAlstine, Chrissy Stahl, Margie Boyd, Shelly Dayton, Doreen McGuire, Mr. McGuire, Sheriff Hoch, Shannon Patton, & Barry Cole.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the additions of new business item f, July 3rd meeting date change.

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

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

7. **Old Business**

a) **County Update:**

Sheriff Hoch was present to give an update on the Village and Township reports. Sheriff Hoch stated that the Village has had three warrant arrests, five traffic stops, and six suspicious situations which could be a vehicle stopped on the side of the road with flashers on to individuals wandering around other properties. The department will go out to check any suspicious behaviors. Sheriff Hoch stated there were five 911 checks. 911 calls and 911 checks are different. A 911 check occurs when a 911 call comes in and central dispatch sends a text to confirm everything is good. If a text came back to central dispatch stating all is fine, the Sheriff department will still go out to the location to check in person. Sheriff Hoch states the Village of Bellaire had 39 calls for service.

Sheriff Hoch states the Deputy rate has been up, but the department just lost a couple deputies. The Corrections division has two positions to fill, and they will be fully staffed. Sheriff Hoch stated they just hired an individual in the corrections division, and he is going through training. The central dispatch center is fully staffed.

Sheriff Hoch stated there is a vehicle that will need to be replaced due to an accident that occurred while on a call. Thankfully the Deputy involved was okay, but the vehicle was a total loss.

Sheriff Hoch stated the county does have a diving team and things are going well with that. The Northern Michigan Dive Team which entails all the counties in Northern Michigan. We can have about 100 divers available within 45 minutes to a dive site in Antrim County. The commissioners provided drysuits a few years back that are available to put on over clothing if an officer responds to a call in uniform.

Sheriff Hoch opened the discussion for any questions, none presented.

Barry Cole was present to speak and stated he is running for the next probate judge. Judge Hayes is retiring so the position will be open for a new probate judge. Mr. Cole stated he has 33 years of experience in both probate and district courts. He grew up in Antrim County and graduated from Mancelona Highschool in 1973. He obtained a bachelor's degree in prelaw from Michigan State University followed by a law degree from The Thomas Cooley Law School in 1981.

Terry VanAlstine was present to give a county update. Mr. VanAlstine stated that the county building received some broken sills upon delivery. They are waiting for replacements so they can finish installing the windows. The building project is moving along, and the sidewalks are being poured.

Mr. VanAlstine stated the county received a 2% grant from the Ottawa and Chippewa Tribes. They county received \$59k with this grant which was used to purchase 8 radios at the cost of \$16k with the rest to be saved for emergency services vehicle.

A resolution was approved at the last county meeting to bring the control back to the local entities on wind and solar energies.

The Village of Mancelona presented a petition to the board of commissioners to annex in a section where Blarney Castles building is. The township approved it, along with the Village of Mancelona and the property owner.

Mr. VanAlstine stated that a letter of support was sent for Argi- Valley and Pigeon to continue on with the broadband connection in the Alba area with an end point at 10 mile. As soon as Peninsula Fiber gets the middle mile complete then they can move on with the project. They are working on a grant to complete the project.

- b) **DDA Update:** Ms. Dayton was present to give an update on the DDA. Ms. Dayton stated that the majority of the last DDA meeting was choosing the new board members.

Ms. Dayton stated that the Flip Flop and Flamingos event is the next event scheduled for Saturday, April 20th.

Ms. Dayton stated that the buy local has a website now as well as the Art Exhibit.

A discussion was made regarding the purchase of a laptop for the DDA board members to use.

Doreen McGuire was present to give an update on the Home, Cottage, and Garden Show scheduled for Saturday, May 18th from 10am – 4pm. Ms. McGuire is hoping to use Broad Street as overflow and vendor parking. Ms. McGuire stated that the DDA has locations secured at the

Bellaire Hardware parking lot, Bellaire Bar, the space in front of Frontier, The Flying Pig, and Paddles and Pedals.

Ms. McGuire stated that the Unique Art of Antrim County has 12 artists chosen with a total of 14 exhibits to display. The process of photographing the images will start next week. The opening ceremony will hopefully be in May with the exhibits installed by the end of May. The opening of the exhibits is scheduled for June 1st.

Ms. Dayton stated that there is a DDA Meet and Greet scheduled for Tuesday, April 23rd from 5pm – 6:30 pm at The Flying Pig. The new members will be introduced along with updating the public on the Art Exhibits and the Home, Cottage, and Garden Show. The DPW Supervisor will also be present at the meet and greet to talk about the Street Scape Grant.

- c) **Ball Field Update:** The DPW Supervisor, Bradley Keiser was present to give an update on the Craven Ball Field Project. A lot of progress has been made. AA Hometown Builders has done a great job stepping in and completing the dugout project. Mr. Keiser stated he has spoken to the Bellaire Athletic Director and the first home game for both the Baseball and Softball teams is scheduled for April 12th. The baseball team has been practicing on the field and they are happy with the new field. The softball team has decided to continue practicing on the rotary fields for now until the new field is complete and ready to host their first home game. Mr. Keiser stated that the Health Department has some issues regarding the food truck concession stand. This issue is currently being investigated. Bleachers will be installed this week or next week. This was delayed due to the ground conditions. AA Hometown Builders have reached out stating they would like to see the remaining four dugouts to be completed for the Little League fields and will submit a proposal. Mr. Keiser stated we may have to do something temporary for this year as the dugouts for the Little League would not be able to be completed until the fall of this year per AA Hometown Builders. A discussion was made regarding the lease of the rotary fields. Mr. VanAlstine states the lease was renewed for one year. Mr. Keiser is checking to confirm this.

There was public comment presented regarding the ballfields. This individual stated her frustration with the progress of the Ballfield project not being completed in a timely manner. A discussion was made regarding the planning and funding of the ballfield project along with who owns the current dugouts at the rotary fields. This individual stated that due to no funds for the little league dugouts she proposed the idea of moving the dugouts from the rotary field to the new Craven ball field. This would provide coverage and protection for the little league teams for this season temporarily until the new dugouts were complete for next season. It was also stated that there are volunteers to come and move the dugouts at no cost to the Village. Mr. Keiser stated that the dugouts are property of the county. The rotary funded the fields to be built on county property. Mr. Keiser stated that the lack of funding, much lower fundraising amounts, and some planning issues caused the delay in the completion of this project.

A discussion was made that with the County's permission the dugouts would be able to be moved from the rotary fields to the new Craven little league fields. Mr. VanAlstine stated the Village would have to submit a request to the County to remove the dugouts.

A discussion was also made regarding the installation of overhead nets between the fields for protection of the spectators at the games.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson, to have Mr. Keiser draft a request to present to the County to give permission to move the dugouts from the rotary fields and place them at the Craven Ball fields for the little league fields with the help of volunteers and no cost to the Village. Motion carried by voice vote.

8. New Business

- a) **Proclamation – Woman’s Resource Center:** The Women’s Resource Center (WRCNM) is once again asking the Council to approve a proclamation supporting April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Motion by Hardy, seconded by Schuckel, to approve a proclamation supporting April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Motion carried by voice vote.

- b) **Village Clerk Applications:** Four applicants were chosen to interview, but two of the four applicants had accepted other positions. Therefore, two interviews were conducted. Mr. Bennett stated that Mr. Ciganick and Mr. Hardy did research on the two applicants along with background checks. One applicant did not sign a release for a background check; therefore, no background check was completed on the first candidate.

Mr. Hardy stated that the administration committee had a recommendation to hire the first applicant in at \$21.85 per hour due to her amount of experience with the second applicant being offered the job if the first applicant declines the offer or cannot fulfill the position.

Motion by Hardy, second by Boyd to approve the recommendation of hiring the first applicant with the second applicant being offered the position if the first applicant declines the offer or cannot fulfill the position. Motion carried by voice vote.

A discussion was made regarding the first applicant. There was a negative response from the reference check on the first applicant. The second applicant had great references. Mr. Hardy suggests that due to the outcome of the reference check on both candidates we do not offer the position to the first candidate and instead offer the Clerk position to the second candidate.

Motion by Hardy, seconded by Boyd, to not offer the clerk position to the first candidate. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by Hardy, seconded by Boyd, to offer the Clerk / Zoning Administrator position to the second candidate at \$19.64 per hour. Motion carried by voice vote.

- c) **Treasurer Pay:** Mr. Bennett has suggested that due to the additional responsibilities of the Treasurer position the rate for the Treasurer position should be increased to \$20.36 per hour. A discussion was made regarding the responsibilities of both the Clerk and the Treasurer positions. The pay scale will be revisited in a future meeting.

Motion by Bennett, seconded by Hardy, to approve the increase of the Treasurer pay to \$20.36 per hour. Motion carried by voice vote.

- d) **New DDA Members:** Shelly Dayton stated that 3 new board members were chosen. The members chosen are Margie Boyd, Jamie Creason, and Adrienne Wolff.

Motion by Bennett, seconded by Boyd, to accept the three new members into the DDA. Motion carried by voice vote.

- e) **Ruth Basch – Bridge Flower Boxes:** Ms. Basch was unable to attend the meeting but is requesting the Villages help with the purchase for the flowers used in the bridge flower boxes again this year. We have budgeted \$175 in the past, but she is asking for \$225 this year due to the increasing costs.

Motion by McPherson, seconded by Hardy, to approve the budget of \$225 for Ms. Basch to purchase flowers for the bridge boxes. Motion carried by voice vote.

- f) **July 3rd meeting date:** President Bennett stated our July 3rd meeting date should be rescheduled due to the Holiday to July 10th. Mr. Keiser suggested we move the date to July 17th. Mr. Keiser stated July’s meeting is when we must accept the bids for the sewer project, so instead of having 2 meetings back to back we should have one meeting on July 17th.

Motion by Hardy, seconded by Boyd, to reschedule the July 3rd, 2024 Council meeting date to take place on July 17th, 2024 due to Holiday. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. Discussion Items:

- a) **Air B & B Restrictions:** President Bennett states that he is concerned about the influx of air b&b housing in the area. A discussion was made regarding having a combined meeting with the Planning Commission on the April 13th date.

10. Department/Committee Reports:

- a) **Committee Reports:** None Presented.
- b) **Clerk/Zoning Administrator:** None Presented.
- c) **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** None Presented.
- 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 7:52 P.M.
Compiled by Nora Stead.
Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____