

Village of Bellaire

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Eldon McPherson, Chairperson

Dan Bennett

Tricia Drollinger

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2022

12:30 PM

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM

II. Roll Call - Attendance

Present: Dan Bennett, Tricia Drollinger, and Eldon McPherson
Absent: None
Staff Present: Cathy Odom, Treasurer; Bradley Keiser, DPW Supervisor; and Nicole Essad, Clerk
Public Present: Michael Engels

III. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Bennett to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Passed by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Approval of Minutes – April 25, 2022: The minutes of the April 25, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Bennett approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion Passed by unanimous voice vote.

V. Conflict of Interest: None presented.

VI. Public Comment: None presented.

VII. Old Business: None.

VIII. New Business

- a. Water & Sewer Rate Study:** Mr. Engels from Michigan Rural Water presented his findings on the water and sewer rate studies he conducted with the help of Village staff. He explained the water rate study, which did not change a lot. It was noted that the per 1000 gallons would increase less than 3%. There was general discussion about raising the ready to serve rate. Trustee Drollinger stated that she thought there needed to be an increase in both the ready to serve and the per 1000 gallons for water. Mr. Engels stated that his projections include a 4.5% increase in rates each year. General discussion was held about the increase of expenses and rates each year. Mr. Engels then explained the sewer rate study. It was noted that there were several sewer projects that must be completed in the next year to three years, if not sooner, due to EGGLE requirements. This means that the sewer rates must be raised

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to pay for those projects and/or any bonds that the Village must take out to complete the projects. DPW Supervisor Keiser explained that that these projects were mandatory. General discussion was held about the Clean Water Revolving Fund and bonding for the projects. It was noted in the rate studies that the cost of goods/living will increase each year, which means that the rates for both water and sewer should also increase each year to cover those costs. Trustee Drollinger stated that she thought to get one loan/bond for everything and save the cash on hand would be a good idea. General discussion was held about the different projects that need to be done and how to pay for them. General discussion was held about whether to raise the rates more than what Mr. Engels suggested to cover the projects.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Bennett to recommend to Village Council to approve the rate increases of just under 10% to the sewer ready to serve and per 1000-gallon rates, and the rate increases of just under 3% to the water per 1000-gallon rates, and to review rates again next year. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- a. **Bonding Sewer Projects:** Trustee Drollinger stated that she thought to get one loan/bond for everything in priority one and save the cash on hand would be a good idea. General discussion was held about the different projects that need to be done and how to pay for them. Treasurer Odom stated that there is a limit on the amount of bonds that Village can take out, and that needs to be checked to see how much the Village can borrow for the projects. Treasurer Odom stated that the three options are the USDA loan, the Clean Water Revolving Fund, and bonds. She stated that the last one was the pre-closing costs for the USDA with Fleis and Vandenbrink. She stated that she knows the Village is not over the limit but is not sure how much the Village can still borrow. She is still gathering information, and that it takes about 90 -120 days.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Bennett to recommend to Village Council to pursue bonding options for sewer projects. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

IX. Correspondence/Reports: None presented.

- X. **Member/Public Comment:** Chairperson McPherson asked about the line extension for Tractor Supply. DPW Supervisor Keiser stated that they have not even decided on a parcel but are looking at a lot outside of the Village limits on the corner of M-88 and Shanty Creek Road.

President Bennett asked about the status of asking the County and Kearney Township about helping. DPW Supervisor Keiser stated that part of the push from Village to City was for the Townships to contribute to the Village Roads. That happened for a few years but has not happened in about 10 years. He also stated that he met with Kearney Township, and they declined because the Road Commission stated that they needed 80% to do Eddie School Road. DPW Supervisor Keiser stated that the County is not going to help because they do not get road millages. Trustee Drollinger stated that the County may help if Meadowbrook was

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annexed in. General discussion was held about what the Townships are doing to help the Village residents that pay taxes to the Townships.

XI. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 PM to the call of the chair.

Minutes compiled by:
Nicole E. Essad, Clerk

Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____