

**Bellaire Village Council
Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2023
7:00 PM**

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 Bryan Hardy, Trish Drollinger, Pat Boyd, Eldon McPherson & Helen Schuckel.

Absent: Trustee Dave Ciganick.

Staff Present: Cathy Odom, Treasurer, Nicole Essad, Clerk & Bill Drollinger, Chief of Police.

Also Present: Terry VanAlstine, Margie Boyd, Doreen McGuire, Taylor Sutherland, Janet Koch & Linda Gallagher.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of new business item d, Draft Financial Statement and moving closed session from item d to item e.

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

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

7. **Old Business**

a) **County Update:** Janet Koch updated the Village on the facade project. The project is moving forward and will begin shortly. Department offices are moving to other areas of the building during the renovations and parking during the project was discussed. Mr. VanAlstine informed the Council that Sheriff Bean is retiring on September 8. The Clerk, prosecuting attorney and the Judge of Probate will be choosing the interim Sheriff. Applications are due June 8, 2023. Household hazardous waste is scheduled in Bellaire for July 22, 2023. Antrim County maps are available at the county administration office. The work on Eddy School Rd. will begin next week. It will be a Class A road when complete. The Health Department building renovation will begin and the Sheriff's office will move to that location once the renovation is complete. The County approved an easement with Spillway Lodges for their sign. The County approved a 40-year lease for land that will house a new Milton Township Park. The Commission on Aging is working with the Sheriff's Department on a personal ID program called Miles for Memories. They will distribute a personal ID with a QR code that can be scanned to determine the identity of persons in need.

b) **DDA Update:** Mr. Sutherland updated Council on DDA business. The Buy Local Group Spring Fling Event went well. Flowers are planted throughout the Village. Tables and chairs were put out around town. They would like permission to put some under the restroom pavilion. The Art & Music Stroll is scheduled for this fall. Cindi Place is continuing to work on Wi-Fi and recently

attended a meeting where she discovered that the FCC map had Bellaire and covered for Wi-Fi connection, which isn't correct. She had that corrected on their map. They received quotes from a civil engineer for a parking survey. They will look to put it in their budget for next year. This will help in the future for possible grants. They would like to have their own directory page and would also like to have permission to open an account at the hardware store for DDA business. Mrs. McGuire updated Counted on the art project. 10 of the 13 pictures have been installed. The other three will be installed by paddles & Pedals, the Flying Pig and by Bee Well Meadery. They are installing the QR codes in the pictures. They received an additional \$1,000 for the grant they were awarded due to excess funds. They are looking at a new grant opportunity through the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and they would like Council permission to move forward with the application. This would be used for another art display that can be inside or outside and would run from October 2023 through September 2024. This is a \$5,000 grant with a match from the DDA.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson, to allow the DDA to work with the DPW Supervisor to place tables and chairs at the restroom pavilion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by Hardy, seconded by McPherson, to allow the DDA to open an account for themselves at Bellaire Hardware. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Hardy, to give permission to the DDA to apply for the grant from the Michigan Art & Culture Council. Motion carried by voice vote.

- c) **Ball Field Update:** The grass is growing, and it looks like it can finally be mowed. A gentleman in the audience asked about the status of the ballfield and it was noted that we are working on fundraising to be able to finish the project. If there is a timeline, we are hoping it will be completed for next year.

8. New Business

- a) **Friends of Veterans Request:** The FOV is requesting permission to host a Flag Day walk on M-88 from Northshore Physical Therapy to Richardi Park on June 14, 2023. It was noted that they have not yet received permission from Council but have already advertised it. Discussion occurred about obtaining required permits from the State in a weeks' time, which may not be feasible. Chief Drollinger said he would make it work but that it may create some overtime for a couple of officers.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Hardy, to approve their request to host the Flag Day walk if the Chief can work out the details in time. Motion carried by voice vote.

- b) **Administration Committee Recommendations:** The Administration Committee met and is making several recommendations to the Council.
- **Employee Contracts:** There was a discussion about eliminating employee contracts. The committee is recommending that we no longer have contracts for the DPW Supervisor, Treasurer, Police Chief, and the Clerk. These positions would now fall completely under the guidelines of the employee handbook. It was noted that the Clerk's contract is currently the only one that has not expired.

Motion by Hardy, seconded by Boyd, to no longer have employee contracts for the DPW Supervisor, Treasurer, Police Chief and Clerk positions, to dissolve the Clerk's contract, while maintaining her employment and to amend the handbook to

include a 60-day written notice for those employees to be paid their paid leave if they terminate employment. Motion carried by voice vote.

- **Bank Accounts-Interest:** We currently have accounts that do not earn interest. The Treasurer researched FDIC coverage and found that due to limited coverage, we are not fully insured for all our funds. Because we are not fully insured whether they are interest bearing accounts or not, the Treasurer is recommending that we change all accounts to be interest bearing accounts.

Motion by Hardy, seconded by Boyd, to have all Village accounts be changed to interest bearing. Motion carried by voice vote.

- **Village Property Foreclosures:** There are two properties up for tax sale along Ohio St. by the boat launch. We can place a bid for the properties online or we can attend the auction to place our bids. Trustee Boyd suggested we bid on this property. Trustee Hardy said it would not go for the minimum bid; it is liable to go for at least double that amount.

Motion by Boyd to offer the minimum bid for one property and up to \$1,000 on the smaller property. Motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Bidding amounts were discussed, with Trustee Drollinger suggesting bidding a higher amount. We could also place a bid of an amount “up to” a certain amount. Trustee Boyd noted that we could use the park CD money to purchase the property. Trustee Drollinger agreed. Trustee Boyd suggested going “up to” fair market value in the bid. Treasurer Odom reminded the Council that this is not in the budget and budgets are tight. Chief Drollinger asked what benefit this gives the Village? It was noted that it would give us more space for the boat launch, opening more potential parking. Trustee Hardy stated that we need to use an escalation clause in the bid.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Hardy, that we place a bid for the properties up to \$18,000 for the property that goes to the water and up to \$6,000 for the smaller property. This motion further states that we will use an escalation clause, which will increase the bid \$1,000 above the highest bid up to the amounts listed above. Motion carried by voice vote.

- c) **ZBA Resignation & Appointment:** Georgia Jean Burns resigned her position on the ZBA and Alan Shumaker would like to move from the alternate position to the seat vacated by her.

Motion by Bennett, seconded by Boyd, to accept Ms. Burn’s resignation and move Alan Shumaker from the alternate position to her vacated seat on the ZBA. Motion carried by voice vote.

- d) **Draft Financial Statement:** The draft financial statement for FY2022-23 is ready for approval.

Motion by Hardy, seconded by Boyd, to approve the draft financial statement for FY2022-23. Motion carried by voice vote.

- e) **Closed Session:** A closed session was called to update the Council on union negotiations.

At 7:40 p.m. motion by Boyd, seconded by Hardy, to go into closed session pursuant to Section 8 (c) of Michigan Open Meetings Act, Public Act No. 267, being MCL 15.268 (c), as amended, for the purpose of discussion regarding strategy and negotiations connected with

the negotiations of the collective bargaining unit. Motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes: Boyd, Hardy, Boyd, Drollinger, McPherson, Schuckel & Bennett. Nays: None, Absent: Ciganick

Closed session was called at 7:40 PM

Closed session ended at 8:07 PM

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Drollinger, to rise from the closed session. Motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes: Boyd, Drollinger, Hardy, McPherson, Schuckel & Bennett. Nays: None Absent: Ciganick

9. Discussion Items: None presented.

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:** They are working on letters to send out to residents who require some clean up and is playing catch up now that she is back in the office.
- c) **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** Nothing presented.
- d) **Department of Public Works:** Nothing presented.
- e) **Police Department:** Chief Drollinger said they have been busy. Officer McBee and Officer Gray did save someone this past week and wanted to inform Council.
- f) **Planning Commission:** Nothing presented.

11. Closing Member/Public Comment: Nothing presented.

12. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

Compiled by Cathy Odom
Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____