

Village of Bellaire

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dan Bennett, Chairman

Patrick Boyd

Eldon McPherson

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2023

10:30 AM

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM

II. Roll Call - Attendance:

Present: Patrick Boyd, Eldon McPherson, and Dan Bennett

Absent: None

Staff Present: Cathy Odom, Treasurer; Nicole Essad, Clerk; and Bill Drollinger, Police Chief

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

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

IV. Approval of Minutes – December 29, 2021: The minutes of the December 29, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson to approve the December 29, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Motion Passed by unanimous voice vote.

V. Conflict of Interest: None presented.

VI. Public Comment: None presented.

VII. Old Business: None presented.

VIII. New Business

- a. Budget FY 2023-24:** General discussion was held about how the possible cost of living increase and the increase to the insurance rates would change the proposed budget for public safety. Chief Drollinger stated that he ordered the new police vehicle in November 2022. He stated that it would be approximately \$34,000 and he believes that he can get \$10,000 out of the old one. Chief Drollinger stated that he was not sure when the new vehicle would be delivered and that it should be \$9,000 going into the CD for the new vehicles because the cost of vehicles has gone up. Treasurer Odom stated that last year the new vehicle was \$49,000 in the budget and based upon Chief Drollinger's statement to her she added about \$10,000 for it to 2023-24's budget. Chief Drollinger stated that he believes that the vehicle is \$34,000 plus \$10,000 for equipment. Treasurer Odom stated that it does not need to be

Village of Bellaire

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dan Bennett, Chairman

Patrick Boyd

Eldon McPherson

\$59,000 in the budget then. General discussion was held about the budget. General discussion was held about new vehicle coming from fund balance and using the CD. Chief Drollinger stated that the \$59,000 is more than what is needed for the new vehicle. Treasurer Odom stated to keep in mind that the General Fund supports the Public Safety Fund. She stated that the higher the expenses the more that is transferred from General Fund to Public Safety. Chief Drollinger stated that he believes the budget looks good.

It was the consensus of the Committee to add \$250 in revenue from the fire department for Chief Drollinger's cell phone and to increase the money put into the CD to \$9,000.

General discussion was held about the vests and other equipment being up to date. General discussion was held about pay. Chief Drollinger stated that his department is on the low side, but the benefits are good. Treasurer Odom stated that when the Michigan Municipal League wage survey is reviewed it shows that the Village is not on the low side but in the middle for pay.

It was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with the budget.

- IX. Correspondence/Reports:** Chief Drollinger stated that the employees at the police department misunderstood how holiday pay worked. He stated that they submitted time cards with holidays for the day after and the day before Christmas and Christmas Eve, and New Year's Day and New Year's Eve. He further stated that Treasurer Odom when doing payroll realized that Officer McBee indicated that he worked a day but he did not work that day. Chief Drollinger investigated the situation, and he stated that Officer McBee printed his time card a week and half before it was to be turned in, and on the day in question Officer McBee was in downstate for his wife's surgery. Chief Drollinger stated that his time card reflected the same mistake for holiday pay, but he was able to use vacation time to account for that. He then stated that Office Gray did the same thing, and that will need to be corrected as well. Chief Drollinger stated that he did not believe there was any malice on anyone's part, it was just a misunderstanding because the police department would have worked over the weekend, but the holidays fell that way. He also stated that there was very little to no police coverage during that time frame. Chairperson Bennett asked for a note to be placed in their files so that this does not happen again. Clerk Essad explained that the handbook stated that if the holiday falls on a day you are not normally scheduled to work, i.e. a weekend, then the Friday before and Monday after are the designated holidays. However, because the Police Department works on the weekends, they only get the actual holiday off, plus their normal days off during the week. Chief Drollinger stated that he was going to put a note in the files, and he thought that this may be an act of termination in his opinion; however, once he received an explanation he understood how it happened. Chairperson Bennett wants a written record of this and how it was fixed. Chief Drollinger stated that he went back to verify the times through dispatch and

Village of Bellaire

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dan Bennett, Chairman

Patrick Boyd

Eldon McPherson

stapled that to their timecards. Clerk Essad stated that any documentation needs to be in the payroll/personnel file as well.

- X. Member/Public Comment:** Chairperson Bennett asked about if there were any employees on their spouses' insurance. It noted that all employees have Village insurance. He then asked about the new DPW employee. It was noted that he seems to be working out well. He then stated that the house on Maple Street looks like a junk yard. It was noted that in the spring Chief Drollinger and Clerk Essad will to a sweep of the Village to write letters for ordinance violations.

Trustee Boyd asked about someone trying to get into Shorts after hours. Chief Drollinger stated that he is aware of the situation, and he has spoken to the Prosecutor about it. He is waiting to hear from Shorts to see if they want to proceed. Chief Drollinger stated that cameras are a big help. Trustee Boyd asked about having more than one meeting a year. General discussion was held about if anyone had a question, they would just call Chief Drollinger.

Chairperson Bennett asked about the deer population in the Village. Chief Drollinger estimated about 130 deer in the Village. He stated that if this is something that Council wants to do, he has talked to the DNR, and he would cull the lead deer and he would need someone to take the venison. Trustee McPherson asked about cost to cull the deer. Chief Drollinger stated that if he were to do it then it would not cost anything, but if the feds were to come in and do it then it would be approximately \$70,000. General discussion was held about car deer accidents in the Village. Chief Drollinger stated that geese are another problem that will need to be rectified soon. He also stated that he has to get permits from the DNR to do anything.

- XI. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM to the call of the Chair.

Minutes compiled by:
Nicole E. Essad, Clerk

Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____