

# Village of Bellaire

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dan Bennett, Chairman

Patrick Boyd

Eldon McPherson

### COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2021

9:00 AM

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM

**II. Roll Call - Attendance:**

**Present:** Patrick Boyd, Eldon McPherson, and Dan Bennett

**Absent:** None

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

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

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

**IV. Approval of Minutes - November 23, 2020:** The minutes of the November 23, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

**Motion by McPherson, seconded by Boyd to approve the November 23, 2020 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.

**VIII. New Business**

- a. Third Officer:** Chief Drollinger stated that the number of complaints for the Village has gone up, and that it is too the point of entertaining the idea of hiring a third officer. He suggests to sponsor a third officer through the police academy. He stated that there was about \$10,000 left from in the Public Safety 2020-21 budget and this amount could be put towards the cost of the academy. He stated that he is looking at the intern that was with the Village last summer, and that she is enrolled at LSSU as a Criminal Justice Major. Chief Drollinger asked this Committee if he can continue to pursue hiring a third officer. He stated that staff would need to find a way to pay for a third officer, because it was not in the 2021-22 budget. General discussion was held about the past third officers being paid for by grants. Chief Drollinger stated that finding applicants that want to be police officers is hard. He stated that the cadets in the upcoming academy are mostly being sponsored by departments. Trustee McPherson

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stated that it seems that \$10,000 is not much to get it going. Treasurer Odom stated the Village needs to find the money in the budget to support the third officer once the academy is finished. Chief Drollinger stated that there is money in the fund balance to cover the third officer for the 2021-22 fiscal year, and that moving forward, if cuts need to be made then that needs to happen. Trustee McPherson stated that the Village is very busy and keeps growing that there is a need for a third officer. Treasurer Odom stated that unless there is revenue to cover the third officer, the Village will continue to use fund balance to cover that cost, until the fund balance is depleted. Trustee Boyd agreed with Trustee McPherson. Trustee Boyd stated that town will not get less busy, and the Village needs to find a way to add a third officer. General discussion was held about how to find money to support the third officer. Chief Drollinger explained that in the past when the Village has sponsored someone through the academy, that person was paid through the academy, and had to work for the Village for five years. He stated that the person he was looking at agreed to minimum wage during the academy. Chief Drollinger clarified that the minimum wage was in addition to the academy cost. General discussion was held about the cost of the academy, how long it would be, and how other communities paid for police. General discussion was held about the fund balance. Trustee McPherson stated that the Village will have to prioritize the items in the budget to make this work, and if need be, then a possible millage for police will have to be done. Chairperson Bennett stated that the Village should not be a bank. He stated that there is a need for a third officer. Trustee McPherson stated that the Village Council will need to prioritize the services, and there is a need for money for the police service.

**Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson to recommend to the Village Council that move forward with a third officer. Motion Passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson to recommend to the Village Council that the leftover Public Safety money from the 2020-21 Budget be allocated for use in the 2021-22 Public Safety Budget to put the third officer through the police academy. Motion Passed by unanimous voice vote.**

- b. Police Vehicle:** Chief Drollinger explained that normally there was \$7,000 put away for a new patrol car, and \$3,000 for maintenance, and that this year there was significant maintenance for his 2013 patrol car. He explained the prices for new police vehicles, which includes a warranty. He suggested that the money that is put away for the new vehicle be increased to \$9,000, with the extra \$2,000 coming from maintenance (if it is left at the end of the budget), and that the new patrol car be purchased next year (2022-23 Fiscal Year) with the bumper-to-bumper warranty. He stated that he did not think that this had to be voted on by this Committee but that this was what he would like to do next year. Chief Drollinger wanted to give this Committee an update on the prices of patrol vehicles.

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**IX. Correspondence/Reports:** None presented.

**X. Member/Public Comment:** None presented.

**XI. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 AM to the call of the Chair.

Minutes compiled by:  
Nicole E. Essad, Clerk

**Minutes are subject to approval.**

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

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