

Village of Bellaire

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Patrick Boyd, Chairman

Dan Bennett

Eldon McPherson

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2025

1:00 PM

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by the call of the chair.

II. Roll Call - Attendance:

Present: Patrick Boyd, Eldon McPherson, and Dan Bennett

Absent:

Staff Present: Nora Stead, Treasurer; Angela St. Pierre, Clerk; and Bill Drollinger, Police Chief

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

Motion by McPherson, seconded by Bennett to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2023: The minutes of the February 9, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

Motion by Bennett, seconded by Boyd to approve the February 9, 2023 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. FY 2025-26 Budget:** A general discussion of the budget was held. Treasurer Stead spoke that the previous treasurer would be in the office to double-check the police transfers. There is some money that was not received by the fire department for the last two years that Mr. Drollinger would recommend be put toward the vehicle fund. It was discussed the recommendation to continue to have two vehicles to have one as a backup if the primary one has a failure. The need for hiring another officer was discussed along with the wages of that officer. Chairperson Boyd recommends the village have two officers at a time. Mr. Drollinger stated that there are 165 jobs available on M-POL. He stated that State officers are getting an average of \$104,000 per year and a starting wage of \$16.00 per hour is not going to draw many people in. Mr. Drollinger does recommend hiring someone prior to his retirement for training

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purposes. He also commented that County and State officers cannot police our local ordinances, and that responsibility would fall on the zoning administrator. The starting rate for a county officer currently is \$24.00 per hour. The financial aspects of hiring another officer was discussed. Chairperson Boyd mentioned how if marijuana businesses were allowed, this would bring in money which would help pay for another officer. A general discussion was held about the current budget allowing for hiring a new officer. Mr. Drollinger is recommending to hire and fill this position this summer and order a new police vehicle in the fall. Chairperson Boyd stated the proposed wages for public safety be changed from \$60,000 to \$110,000 for hiring another officer. With hiring another officer, the social security and fringes would need to be adjusted in the budget as well. The State is providing funding for training purposes. A general discussion continued.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson, to recommend to the Village Council to amend the recommended budget to reflect the changes associated with hiring another officer. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson, to recommend to the Village Council that if the Village moves forward with allowing marijuana retail, the funds from the State for marijuana go directly to public safety. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

IX. Correspondence/Reports: None presented.

X. Member/Public Comment: Member Bennett asked Mr. Drollinger his opinion on a three-step wage scale. Mr. Drollinger believes admin can look at this topic.

XI. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 PM to the call of the Chair.

Minutes compiled by:
Angela St. Pierre, Clerk

Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____