

**Bellaire Village Council
Meeting Minutes
September 2nd, 2026**

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 Patrick Boyd, Benjamin Dominguez-Benner, Stacy Maza, Andrew Turner

Absent: Eldon McPherson, Helen Schuckel,

Staff Present: Jesse Fisher, Chief of Police; Aaron Kirt, DPW Director; Nora Stead, Treasurer; Angela St. Pierre, Clerk

3) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as amended with addition of new business item H. DPW Vacancy.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Maza, 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 Boyd, seconded by Dominguez-Benner, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

6) **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** none presented.

7) **Unfinished Business:**

a. **County Update:** Janet Koch was present to give an update on the county. She stated that the package one bids are due in the next few days. The parking lot and utility work will begin after the Harvest Festival so as to not disrupt the festival. Grove Street vacation is still in the works. They are waiting for a response from Charlevoix Township regarding a special assessment district for dam repairs.

b. **DDA Update:** Margie Boyd was present to give an update on the DDA. They have selected Marcie Dwyer as their Director and look forward to working with her. The Ducky Drop event is “in full swing” and have raised roughly \$27,000 so far.

- **Courtney Bittner Resignation:** Ms. Bittner has resigned from the DDA effective August 26, 2026.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner, to accept Courtney’s resignation and allow the DDA to post for the new one. Motion carried by voice vote.

8) **New Business:**

a. **Chapter 32- Discharge of Firearms, Bows, and Crossbows within the Village Limits: Public hearing**

- **Open the Public Hearing:** The public hearing was opened at 7:09 PM.
- **Public Comment:** Gary Bart, Jessica Vanderhart, and Bradley Keiser addressed the board.
- **Close Public Comment Period:** The public comment period was closed at 7:26 PM.
- **Deliberations:** Discussion continued concerning the draft amendments of Chapter 32. Member comments included wanting the ability for property owners to “opt-in” to being included in the map, addressing concerns with some small parcels included in the draft map, questioning if we can achieve a smaller deer population with feed control and avoid killing if necessary, lack of previously discussed stipulations in the draft

provided such as obtaining neighbor approval, and request to contact a DNR representative regarding our proposed changes. Chief Fisher addressed some concerns stated and clarified that this is a draft and recommends anyone with any opinion or concerns to reach out to him to research further.

No action was taken.

b. ZBA Vacant Position: Board Member Alan Shumaker no longer qualifies for serving on the ZBA.

There is one alternate member that can be appointed to the full board position.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner, to appoint Tammy DeWulf to the ZBA full board position with a term to expire November 15, 2028. Motion carried by voice vote.

c. Crosshatch Downtown Pavilion Use: Katrina Daniels was present to speak on behalf of the request.

Crosshatch is requesting approval to utilize the downtown pavilion for their volunteer check in and central location for their event in October.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Dominguez-Benner, to approve Crosshatch's request for the use of the pavilion. Motion carried by voice vote.

d. 2027 Car Show Request: Bradley Keiser was present to speak on behalf of the request for the 2027 street closure for the car show. The closure requested is North Bridge Street from Cayuga to Antrim, and E. Broad Street from Bridge Street to Hickory Lane on Saturday August 14th, 2027 from 6am to 4pm.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Maza, to approve the request for the car show. Motion carried by voice vote.

e. Administration and Personnel Recommendations

- **Budget Amendment: Capital Outlay Village Hall:** A requested amendment to the Capital Outlay for village hall to cover the costs of the boiler replacement. A quote from Top Notch to replace the boilers was provided.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner, to do the \$20,000 budget amendment to move the money to "Capital Outlay" for village hall repairs. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Dominguez-Benner, to approve Top Notch's bid. Motion carried by voice vote.

- **Downtown Tree:** The tree downtown at the public bathrooms was recommended by the Administration and Personnel Committee to remove the current tree and replace yearly with a potted tree. Since that meeting, new information arose about Northern Tree willing to decorate the tree for free. It was also discussed that it could be asked that students from the school make ornaments for the tree.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Maza, to accept Northern Tree's donation of their time. Motion carried by voice vote.

- **Background Check:** Chief Fisher is recommending updating language regarding background checks for new hires. He is recommending adding language to check driving history.

Motion by Maza, seconded by Dominguez-Benner, to accept a more in-depth criminal background check. Motion carried by voice vote.

- **Leave Days Communication:** The Administration and Personnel Committee discussed concerns regarding department heads notifying about scheduled time off. The committee is recommending having department heads notify the entire council of scheduled days off.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Maza, to approve communication requiring department heads notifying the entire council via email when they are going to be gone more than three days. Motion carried by voice vote.

- f. Parks Recommendation- Park Rental Policy:** The parks committee is recommending approval of the presented draft policy regarding park rentals and rental fees.

Motion by Dominguez-Benner, seconded by Turner, to accept the draft. Motion carried by voice vote.

- g. Resolution #18 of 2026: Budget Amendments:** Budget amendments halfway through the budget season.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Dominguez-Benner, for a roll call vote on Resolution #18 of 2026. Yes:

Boyd, Dominguez-Benner, Maza, Turner, Bennett. No: none. Resolution passed.

- h. DPW Vacancy:** The individual offered the open DPW position withdrew his application. DPW Supervisor stated that he contacted another applicant interested in filling the position.

Motion by Bennett, seconded by Turner, to authorize the DPW Supervisor to fill the vacant position of DPW worker. Motion carried by voice vote.

9) Discussion Items: None presented.

10) Department/Committee Reports:

- a. Committee Reports:** Meeting minutes provided in the packet from committees who held meetings.
- b. Clerk/Zoning Administrator:** Angela St. Pierre provided a written report. She reported that the Parks Committee is coming up with ideas for more playground equipment to purchase this budget. In the next packet will be information from the liability insurance regarding recommendations to limit liability claims that she received from a recent meeting with the risk assessor. Lead letters will be sent out in the next few months as is required by the State.
- c. Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** Nora Stead provided a written report. She also reported that roughly 35% of taxes have been paid which are due September 14th. Campground revenue has increased from last year. She has received the final deposit of DWAM grant.
- d. Department of Public Works:** Aaron Kirt reported that the playground is complete and that the Friends of Richardi helped spread mulch. They are working on the sand filter at the treatment plant. There are a lot of flags for Miss dig around town for the fiber optic install and that a larger crew will be coming in the next couple of weeks for individual house fiber optic installs.
- e. Police Department:** Jesse Fisher reported that the ducky festival went smoothly and that Mancelona and Antrim County helped patrol. He expressed concerns with the parade route and would like to discuss changing the detour to provide for better safety. There are still no applicants for the open police position. The new car has been ordered and is coming late this month or early next month. There was a general discussion on the wages for police position and the lack of applications.
- f. Planning Commission:** None presented.

11) Closing Member/Public Comment:

12) Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Compiled by Angela St. Pierre
Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____