

**Bellaire Village Council
Special Meeting Minutes
March 5th, 2025**

1). **Call to Order:** President Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2). **Roll Call Attendance:**

Present: President Dan Bennett, Council Trustees Patrick Boyd, Trish Drollinger, Bryan Hardy, Eldon McPherson, Helen Schuckel, and Andrew Turner.

Absent:

Staff Present: Bill Drollinger; Chief of Police, Bradley Keiser; DPW Supervisor, Angela St. Pierre; Clerk

Staff Absent: Nora Stead; Treasurer

Also Present: Margie Boyd, Terry VanAlstine, Janet Koch, Tammy Dewulf

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

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

4). **Conflict of Interest:** None presented.

5). **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None Presented.

6). **Old Business**

7). **New Business**

a) **Vacating Grove Street:** A public hearing for the purpose of discussing the vacating of Grove Street for Antrim County for the proposed Public Safety Center project.

1. **Opening of the Public Hearing:** The public hearing was opened at 6:32 PM.

2. **Public Comment:**

- i. **Janet Koch** was present to speak on behalf of Antrim County regarding their request to vacate Grove Street. She stated that this is the next step in regard to moving forward with the Public Safety Center. She then went on to describe the vacating process.
- ii. **Trustee Hardy** asked Janet if the County has received any pushback from anybody.
- iii. **President Bennett** asked Janet if she knew more about the group petitioning against this.
- iv. **Janet Koch** answered that she cannot speak on behalf of them but does know that they are collecting signatures to confirm the votes and if enough certified signatures are collected, the item will be placed on the next ballot.
- v. **President Bennett** then asked why the council did not go for a second millage.
- vi. **Terry VanAlstine** answered that another millage would take them back another year roughly, and that people were not happy with last time. He stated that 1,700 people didn't vote on the back side of ballot last time. He stated that there has been a lot of incorrect information spreading this time concerning the Public Safety Center.

- vii. **Janet Koch** stated that there are no general elections this year and holding a county wide election would cost roughly \$35,000. She then handed out a form that provides common questions and answers concerning the Public Safety Center. She wanted to clarify that the County does not have 60 million dollars sitting around.
- viii. **Trustee Turner** asked about a mention of a lawsuit.
- ix. **Janet Koch** explained for the vacation process there is a friendly lawsuit and is simply the process for vacating the road.
- x. **Trustee Drollinger** asked if the Public Safety Center does not happen, would the road be vacated?
- xi. **Janet Koch** answered that the road would not be vacated as it is contingent upon funding.
- xii. **Trustee Turner** asked about the liability of abandoning the road and if there would be signage put up to indicate the road is abandoned.
- xiii. **Trustee Boyd** answered that the street isn't actually abandoned until they actually vacate the road. The road will be blocked off when construction starts. They won't vacate the road until they secure all funding.
- xiv. **Janet Koch** stated there will be no overlap between vacation process and construction.
- xv. **Trustee Hardy** stated that it takes a long time to vacate street from his experience with vacating a street for ASI.
- xvi. **Bill Drollinger** asked for clarification on a previous statement the County made concerning who will take care of the cost of the vacating process.
- xvii. **Janet Koch** answered that the County will take care of all costs including documentation at the register of deeds.
- xviii. **Trustee Turner** asked about clarification on wording in the resolution provided.
- xix. **Janet Koch** will get clarification on wording and get back with that.
- xx. **Terry VanAlstine** stated that information spewed by people is incorrect and that taxes will not be increased. The project will be done with funding they already have coming into general funds.
- xxi. **Janet Koch** stated that inflation may cause taxes to go up unrelated to this project.
- xxii. **President Bennett** asked if it everybody agrees, this project can't be stopped?
- xxiii. **Terry VanAlstine** answered that once funding is secured, there are a lot of steps the County board has to approve of, but once funding is approved they will move forward on starting other parts and building the Public Safety Center.

3. **Closing of Public Comment Period:** The public comment period was closed at 6:44 PM.

4. **Deliberations:**

b) **Resolution #5 of 2025- Vacating Grove Street:**

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson for a roll call vote on Resolution #5 of 2025.

Roll Call Vote: Yes-Boyd, McPherson, Hardy, Drollinger, Schuckel, Turner, Bennett. Motion carried.

8). Discussion Items: None

10). Department/Committee Reports:

- a) *Committee Reports:* None Presented.
- b) *Clerk/Zoning Administrator:* None Presented.
- c) *Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:* None Presented.
- d) *Department of Public Works:* None Presented
- e) *Police Department:* None Presented.
- f) *Planning Commission:* None Presented.

11. Closing Member/Public Comment: None Presented.

12. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

Compiled by Angela St. Pierre.

Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____