

**Bellaire Village Council
Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2026**

1) **Call to Order:** President Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2) **Roll Call Attendance:**

Present: Dan Bennett, Patrick Boyd, Benjamin Dominguez-Benner, Stacy Maza, Eldon McPherson, Helen Schuckel, Andrew Turner

Absent:

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 presented.

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

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

5) **Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda was approved as amended with clerical correction to September 2, 2026 minutes.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

6) **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** Nanette McClellan asked to have the agenda posted prior to the meeting so the public can see what the meeting is about. It was clarified that the agenda was posted six days prior to the meeting in three locations.

7) **Unfinished Business:**

a. **County Update:** Terry VanAlstine was present to give an update on the county. He stated that the construction on the Public Safety Center project has begun. There is a permanent easement agreement for one of their landlocked properties. Charlevoix County approved to allow a special assessment district for the dam and dredging work. The recent dredging results showed that the soil from dredging is clean and can be placed at the airport, saving money.

b. **DDA Update:** Margie Boyd was present to give an update on the DDA. At their recent meeting they discussed the need for dog waste stations downtown and are requesting the village split the cost of those stations for a total cost not to exceed \$1,000. They are looking to apply for a permit with MDOT for their new event, Ducky Drop, to possibly block off M-88.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner, to allow DPW to spend up to \$500 on dog waste stations. Motion carried by voice vote.

c. **Chapter 32- Discharge of Firearms, Bows, and Crossbows Update:** Chief Fisher gave an update on the proposed amendments to Chapter 32 of the Village Codebook. He spoke with a DNR representative and will follow up with them on their opinion on the draft amendments. He informed that he would reach out to other knowledgeable people to get their opinions. It was discussed the concerns with feeding deer encouraging them to come into the village.

8) **New Business:**

a. **Glacial Hills Agreement Renewal:** Trustee Boyd was able to speak on behalf of the renewal request. He stated that the renewal was only changing the term expiration date.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Maza, to approve the agreement to renew the Glacial Hills contract.

Motion carried by voice vote.

- b. Charter Communications Franchise Agreement Renewal:** The renewal was discussed and the franchise fee was discussed. It was questioned what the franchise fee was for and who paid it. It was explained that the franchise fee is charged to the customers of Charter and placed in the General Fund.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner, to approve the renewal with a 0% franchise fee. Motion carried by voice vote.

- c. Domestic Abuse Awareness Proclamation:** A proclamation naming October as Domestic Abuse Awareness Month.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Maza, to proclaim October as Domestic Abuse Awareness Month. Motion carried by voice vote.

- d. Family Court Awareness Month Proclamation:** A proclamation naming November as Family Court Awareness Month.

Motion by Schuckel, seconded by Turner, to proclaim November as Family Court Awareness Month. Motion carried by voice vote.

- e. Parks Recommendation: Camper Storage Policy Repeal:** The Parks Committee recently met and are recommending repealing a policy on camper storage that has never been utilized since it was adopted in 2008.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Schuckel, to repeal the policy. Motion carried by voice vote.

- f. Consumers Energy Street Light Removal Request-PSC:** Consumers energy is requesting approval to remove the streetlight on the corner of E Cayuga and Grove Street with the construction of the Public Safety Center.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner, to accept the streetlight removal request for the corner of Cayuga and Grove Street. Motion carried by voice vote.

- g. FLYER Non-Motorized Master Plan Update:** Pam Singer and Matt Gabris were present to give an update on the FLYER group efforts in creating a more walkable/bikeable community and connections between communities.

No action was taken.

- 9) Discussion Items:** DPW Supervisor Aaron Kirt stated he had someone reach out and ask if they could have the compost from down at the garage. It was asked if the compost pile was tested for an invasive species that had previously been found there and if the compost should leave the location. President Bennett asked Mr. Kirt if the DPW position has been filled, he responded that the position is still open. Mr. Bennett commented that the village needs to look at increasing the pay of the workers to compete with other local wages.

10) Department/Committee Reports:

- a. Committee Reports:** None presented.
- b. Clerk/Zoning Administrator:** Angela St. Pierre provided a written report. She commented that the ZBA is still in need of two alternate members, the Planning Commission is continuing the master plan review, and that the Camping season is almost done but that next season reservations are available.

- c. **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** Nora Stead provided a written report. She commented on the parks equipment survey for what to purchase next, and a billing issue with the Conservation Club switching accounts for the electricity. Concerns with the survey were voiced and how to restrict non-locals from voting. It was explained that the survey site is free but a plan may be able to be purchased to ensure voting is protected from automatic voting's by spam software.
- d. **Department of Public Works:** Aaron Kirt reported about the bridge on Cayuga and the process for funding and repairs. Concerns with the Bellaire Highway speed limits signs were voiced and where the village could place the sign. It was explained that a traffic study would be needed depending on where the sign is placed. Mr. Kirt was also asked for an update on the 4-way stop. He stated that he has not received any update.
- e. **Police Department:** Jesse Fisher commented that the new vehicle will be delivered this upcoming month and is hoping to have the outfitting completed by December. The monthly police report is going to look different to avoid HIPPA concerns and privacy concerns. One individual has shown interest in the open position but has not submitted an official application yet.
- f. **Planning Commission:** None presented.

11) Closing Member/Public Comment:

- a. **Terry VanAlstine** commented that the Grass River held an open house in September for the longest ADA compliant boardwalk. They are also working on grants to finish the playground there to remove the metal play structures and replace with a natural playground.
- b. **Nanette McClellan** commented that she had trouble contacting the DPW garage and stated they did not have an answering machine. She also voiced some concerns with signage and confusion with how the Village and County own opposite sides of the road outside of her house. She also requested an update on the Lofts project at the next meeting.
- c. **Dave Ciganik** commented that he reiterates concerns voiced by Chief Fisher regarding the deer population and that the spaces available to hunt with the current regulations are very limited. He stated that he encourages a cull instead of allowing the general public to hunt for more accuracy.

12) Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

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

Approved: _____

Date: _____