

**Bellaire Village Council
Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2026**

1) **Call to Order:** President Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

2) **Roll Call Attendance:**

Present: Council Trustees Patrick Boyd, Ben Dominguez-Benner, Stacy Maza, Eldon McPherson, Helen Schuckel, Andrew Turner

Absent: President Dan Bennett

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. Parks Recommendation.

Motion by Schuckel, seconded by Turner, 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 McPherson, seconded by Maza, 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:** Terry VanAlstine was present to give an update on the county. He provided a handout for disaster assistance from FEMA. There has been soil boring at Intermediate Lake to determine if the soil is clean enough to put at the airport. There is a meeting with Charlevoix County for special assessments to repair the dam and chain of lakes.
- b. **DDA Update:** Margie Boyd was present to give an update on the DDA. They are asking if the artwork from the art exhibit could be placed in the Village Hall to get more eyes on it for sales. There is a new event planned called the “Ducky Drop” that would be held on new year’s and will be giving more updates and will follow up for approval of Broad Street once more information is tacked down.

- **Shelly Dayton Reappointment:** At the recent meeting it was pointed out that Ms. Dayton term expired and needs reappointment with a term to expire in 2030.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner, to reappoint Shelly Dayton with a term to expire in 2030. Motion carried by voice vote.

8) **New Business:**

- a. **ASI Update:** Dave Simcox was present from ASI to give an update on their grant efforts and wanted to thank the Village for their help. There is a community engagement event scheduled for August 24th at the Community Center. He also requested that the MOU between ASI and the Village stay open for future grants for the Village to be their fiduciary.

No action was taken.

- b. **Ord #1 of 2026: Traffic Control Amendment:** Discussed at the July 1st meeting, provided was a draft amendment to Chapter 108 of the Village Codebook to amend wording to restrict parking on the south

side of Broad Street during the winter months to provide for safer passage when snow is piled up and the road narrows.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson, for a roll call vote on Ord #1 of 2026. Yes: Boyd, McPherson, Dominguez-Benner, Maza, Schuckel, Turner. No: none. Adopted.

- c. **Bow Hunting Ordinance Amendment Draft Review:** Included in the packets was a draft amendment to Chapter 32 of the Codebook addressing changes to allow bow hunting within Village Limits. Chief Fisher addressed a few concerns with the draft. Clerk St. Pierre stated she highly recommends the council hold a public hearing prior to adopting any changes to this chapter.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson, to hold a public hearing at the next regular scheduled meeting on September 2, 2026 with notice posted in the local newspaper for the draft amendment to chapter 32 of the Village of Bellaire Codebook. Motion carried by voice vote.

- d. **ZBA Vacant Position:** Margie Boyd is no longer able to sit on the ZBA after being appointed to the Planning Commission. The ZBA currently has two alternates for consideration for this full-time seat.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Dominguez-Benner, to appoint David Drummond to the ZBA vacant position with a term to expire November 15, 2028. Motion carried by voice vote.

- e. **Administration and Personnel Recommendation: WWTP Wage Recommendation:** The Administration and Personnel committee met and are recommending increasing the posted starting wage for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent to encourage applicants to apply. The current posting is \$25.00 per hour, the committee is recommending increasing to \$31.00 per hour.

Motion by Administration and Personnel Committee, seconded by Turner, to increase the starting wage of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent position to \$31.00 per hour. Motion carried by voice vote.

- f. **DPW Applicant Review:** The DPW Supervisor is requesting permission to hire Michael Goodwin for the open DPW worker position.

Motion by McPherson, seconded by Maza, to hire Mr. Goodwin. Motion carried by voice vote.

- g. **Resolution #17 of 2026: DDA Budget Amendment:** An amendment to add a line item under revenue and add a line item under expenditures to properly document monies from a new DDA event "Rubber Ducky Drop".

Motion by McPherson, seconded by Boyd, for a roll call vote on Resolution #17 of 2026. Yes: McPherson, Boyd, Dominguez-Benner, Maza, Schuckel, Turner. No: none. Adopted.

- h. **Parks Recommendation:** The Parks committee met and is recommending donating the wooden play structures to the Friends of Richardi Park Group for them to raise money for the Richardi Park update.

Motion by Parks Committee, seconded by Turner, to donate the wooden play structures to the Friends of Richardi Park group. Motion carried by voice vote.

- 9) **Discussion Items:** Member Boyd mentioned the idea of hiring a part-time Zoning Administrator for the Village to allow for regulating Short-Term Rentals. He mentioned that currently the Village staff is limited and does not allow for proper regulation of Short-Term Rentals.

10) Department/Committee Reports:

- a. **Committee Reports:** None presented
- b. **Clerk/Zoning Administrator:** Angela St. Pierre reported that the Planning Commission has been meeting on the Master Plan update and that it is important that all boards and committee be aware that they should know the Master Plan and how to implement it. She also reported that the

parks and recreation plan survey was sent out with tax bills and that the September meeting will return to the regular 7pm time.

- c. **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** Nora Stead provided a written report.
- d. **Department of Public Works:** Aaron Kirt reported that the DPW have been working to keep the bathrooms clean, cutting the grass, and working on the playground structures. He also reported that the backflow testing has roughly 9 left for testing and that they have been trying to reach these homeowners. The Forest Home dog park has water available now and the boat launch has a garbage can now. Trustee Turner asked Mr. Kirt the status of inspecting properties for sump pumps and improper connections to the sewer system. Mr. Kirt answered that he has tried to reach out to 3rd party companies to see about contracting out but have not been able to find anyone interested. It was further discussed that this is a concern and that these improper connections need to be inspected and addressed.
- e. **Police Department:** Jesse Fisher reported that it has been a busy month and that there have been no new applications for the open officer position. He also reported that he is looking into updating some policies, specifically the background checking portion of new hires as what is currently allowed is very minimal.
- f. **Planning Commission:** Member Boyd reiterated that the Planning Commission has been meeting to go over the Master Plan Update.

11) Closing Member/Public Comment:

- a. **Terry VanAlstine** commented that it may be beneficial to contact the surrounding Townships to look into splitting a zoning administrator for regulating short term rentals.
- b. **Chrissy Langdon** commented that she had recently spoke with Kearney Township Planning Commission member Heidi Shaffer about Short Term Rental regulations.

12) Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

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

Approved: _____

Date: _____