

**Bellaire Village Council
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 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, Trish Drollinger, Stacy Maza, Eldon McPherson, Helen Schuckel, and Andrew Turner.

Absent:

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

Staff Absent: Bill Drollinger, Chief of Police

Also Present: Diane Bennett, Terry VanAlstine, Chrissy Langdon, Dave Simcox, Margie Boyd, David Drummond, Sylvia Schonauer-Kalchik, Eric Douglas, and three other unidentified

3). **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as amended with the addition of new business of item c) Police Position Posting.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by McPherson, 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 with a correction noted on spelling.

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

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

7). **Old Business**

a) **County Update:** Terry VanAlstine was present to give an update on the County. There is a lake level advisory meeting January 26th at 1:00pm in the County Commissioners room.

b) **DDA Update:** Margie Boyd was present to give an update on the DDA. The DDA has approved their budget and is sending it to council for final approval during the budgeting process. They are applying for a Michigan Arts and Culture grant where they are eligible for up to \$20,000 to help continue with art projects downtown. The 2026 banners are going to be tied in with the historical society anniversary. They are working on finalizing a job description for a DDA Director position. Doreen McGuire has resigned from her position on the DDA.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner to accept Ms. McGuire's resignation and post for the open position. Motion carried by voice vote.

Included in the members packets was an application from Tammy Dewulf for the open position after Ms. McGuire's resignation. The DDA are recommending to Council to appoint Ms. Dewulf. It was discussed that the position had not properly been posted after accepting Ms. McGuire's resignation and that it wouldn't be appropriate to appoint a new member at this meeting. It was discussed to wait until the next council meeting to fill this vacancy so that the position can be properly posted to allow for more candidates the chance to apply.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner to table until next months meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

c) **JSI Engineering: Peninsula Fiber Network Agreement Request:** The company did not submit the proper applications for review as requested and required by Village Ordinances. The Village has been advised by their attorney to not take action until proper documents are obtained.

Postponed until proper documents provided by JSI Engineering.

- d) **Lions Club Parade Request:** Tabled at the last meeting to allow the Lions Club to have a representative speak and answer questions. No representative appeared and no answers were provided prior to meeting.

No action taken.

8). New Business

a) Public Works Committee Recommendations:

- **FY Budget 2026-27:** Included in the packets is the budget for public works with recommendations directly from the committee.

No action taken.

- **Water Line Replacement:** 205 and 207 W Forest Home share a water line. This is not the correct way to provide water to residents and it is unknown when this was allowed to happen. This type of connection limits water pressure to the second house on the line. The committee is recommending providing a new tap in for 207 W Forest Home to correct the issue at no cost to the homeowner.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Maza to provide a separate water tap-in for 207 W Forest Home at no charge to the property owner. Motion carried by voice vote.

b) Schedule Budget Public Hearing: Dates for the annual budget public hearing were discussed.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner, to schedule the public hearing for the budget on February 11th at 7:00 pm. Motion carried by voice vote.

c) Police Position Posting: With Chief Drollinger's upcoming retirement it was discussed to post to fill his position.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Turner to allow Bill to post for a Chief of Police position. Motion carried by voice vote.

- 9). **Discussion Items:** Trustee McPherson requested the council members be provided a packet of correspondence from the Antrim Conservation District's attorney dated December 10, 2025 regarding the early termination of their lease with the Bellaire Conservation Club. Trustee Boyd reminded the council that the Village does not own the building and that this conflict is between the two organizations.

10). Department/Committee Reports:

- a) **Committee Reports:** None Presented.
- b) **Clerk/Zoning Administrator:** Angela St. Pierre provided a written report.
- c) **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk:** Nora Stead provided a written report.
- d) **Department of Public Works:** Aaron Kirt reported that the DPW has been busy pushing snow and fixing trucks. He also reported that when the weather warms up some downtown streetlights trip the from the moisture and will stay off until it dries out. He also reported that last month's water bills were estimated due to software issues that were addressed with the company. He was also asked about the Silversmith GPS software the Village bought last year and how that has been utilized.
- e) **Police Department:** Jesse Fisher reported that December had not been too crazy and the department holiday time is contributing to low traffic stop amounts seen on the reports.
- f) **Planning Commission:** None Presented.

11. Closing Member/Public Comment:

- **Dave Simcox** gave an update on ASI. They are waiting to hear back about the tribal grant and wanted to thank the council and staff for their help. February 13th at 5:00 pm they will be having a meet and greet. January 26th at 9:30 am they are expecting a visit from Senator Damoose where he will speak about his legislative work.
- **Eric Douglas**, Bellaire Conservation Club President, spoke about the previously mentioned packets from the Antrim Conservation District's attorney. He reiterated that this is not a concern of the Village and that recent comments made by council members on a public platform were not appropriate.

12. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.
Compiled by Angela St. Pierre.
Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____