

**Bellaire Village Council Public Hearing  
Meeting Minutes  
October 3, 2012**

1. **Call to Order:** President Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and read the public hearing notice. The purpose being to discuss whether or not the Village should adopt an ORV ordinance.
2. **Roll Call Attendance:**
  - Present:** Officers David Schulz, Councilpersons Laurie Sexton, Helen Schuckel & Butch Dewey, Trish Drollinger & Brent Nelson.
  - Absent:** Anne Wendling
  - Staff Present:** Cathy Odom, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk, Janet Koch, Clerk/Planner & Brad Rowe, Chief of Police.
  - Also Present:** Kevin Keiser, Dan Arsnoe, Mike Bigelow, Steve Lacy, Thomas Lapointe & Art Trowbridge.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

**Motion by Schuckel, seconded by Sexton, to approve the agenda as presented.  
Motion carried by voice vote.**
4. **Conflict of Interest:** None presented.
5. **Communications/Informational:**
6. **Public Hearing – Adoption of an ORV Ordinance:** President Schulz informed the board that he received an unsigned letter from an anonymous person against an ORV ordinance within the Village. He did not submit the letter into the hearing due to the lack of a signature. He also asked those present that would like to present their opinions on the subject to state their name, whether they live in the village limits or not and to keep their comments between 3-4 minutes.
  - a) **Open Public Hearing:** President Schulz opened the public hearing.
  - b) **Public Comment Period:**
    - **Steve Lacy:** (Maple St)-stated that we should look at other community ordinances and it was noted that we have done that. He would like to see an ordinance adopted.
    - **Kevin Keiser:** presented a study from the State of Michigan that shows a favorable economic impact on businesses in communities from ORV traffic. He discussed sizes of ORVs and stated that speed limits could be set. With that in place he doesn't see a problem with allowing ORV traffic into the Village. He stated that all of Cheboygan County is open which allowed them to stop for lunch downtown and felt it was very nice.
    - **Mike Bigelow:** also discussed speed limits and believes that 15 mph in town is all that is needed. He also likes the idea of having an ordinance in place for ORVs. He is sure that the businesses outside of town (gas stations, etc) would benefit. Riders could also ride trails, especially now during the fall color season.
    - **David Schulz:** cleared up a comment in the paper that was stated incorrectly. He is interested in the benefits of having an active ORV population that could help get people from the east side of town to the west side of town.
    - **Dan Arsnoe:** stated that he would like to see the ordinance in place. He currently has to go to Central Lake to get gas.
  - c) **Closing of Public Comment Period:** President Schulz closed the public hearing at 6:20 PM.
  - d) **Deliberation:**

- **Dewey:** stated he received a call from two people against an ordinance to ride in the Village. He also stated he doesn't see riders coming here to ride trails because we do not have any. He stated that this ordinance would be more directed to the local people. He also stated he would like to see speed guidelines so as not to rip up the streets and asked how easy it would be to police ORV speeds. Drivers ages were discussed.
- **Drollinger:** stated she was under the impression that under age 16 could not drive an ORV in the village limits. Clerk Koch stated the County's ordinance says that ages 12-16 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, but they can be driving.
- **Schulz:** also states that this would not be a huge issue.
- **Chief Brad Rowe:** stated he has no opinion one way or the other on and adoption of an ordinance. He does recommend if the Council proceeds with an ordinance that we parallel the County's because drivers who know their ordinance will know ours. He doesn't see anyone taking the time to check differences between the two. Speed limits are enforceable. The County doesn't include golf carts in their ordinance, however, Central Lake does and in speaking with their Chief there are no current problems with them.
- **Nelson:** has no problems with development of an ordinance if we can get the residents from one side of town to the other as long as the speeds are kept down and everyone stays safe.

7. **New Business:** None presented.

8. **Closing Member/Public Comment:**

- **Sexton:** anything that helps provide a service for the community is good.
- **Thomas LaPointe:** asked about the problem with golf carts. Schulz explained that the definition of golf carts could be included in the ordinance that would eliminate the problems of them not being allowed in the limits.

9. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted:  
Cathy Odom, Deputy Clerk

Minutes subject to approval

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_