

**Bellaire Village Council
Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2014**

1. **Call to Order:** President Schulz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. **Roll Call Attendance:**

Present: President David Schulz, Council Trustees Trish Drollinger, Butch Dewey, Dan Bennett, Laurie Sexton & Eldon McPherson.

Absent: Helen Schuckel

Staff Present: Lori Lockett, Clerk, Cathy Odom, Treasurer & Brad Rowe, Chief of Police.

Also Present: Colette Stanish, Patti Savant, Rachel Krino, Marguerite Karabin, Tina Sandeluo, Don Seman, Mary Ellen Murphy & Ruth Basch.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

Motion by Sexton, seconded by Bennett, to approve the agenda with the addition of new business item e, Municipal/Zoning Approval and discussion item e, DDA. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

5. **Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda was approved.

Motion by Bennett, seconded by Dewey, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.

7. **Old Business:**

a. **Ball Field Use Costs:** There is a co-ed league that will be coming back to Craven Park to play. Previous electric use charges were discussed. Treasurer Odom stated their games will be on Sunday and could be completed before dark, in which case, they will not be using any lights. However, we won't know for sure until a schedule is complete. Trustee Dewey asked about the condition of the lights and it was noted that there are some bulbs that do not work. President Schulz stated one option was to charge a nominal fee for the electric use. Another option is to waive the charge for electric use. Trustee Drollinger suggested not charging for electric use unless we see an increase in the bill. They could then pay the difference at the end of the season.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Schulz, to wait until the end of the season, compare costs, and ask them if they would be willing to pay the difference if electric costs are higher. Motion carried by voice vote.

b. **Police Officer Position:** Council previously charged the Administration Committee with reviewing applicants and extending a conditional job offer based on its findings. After reviewing the applications and an interview the committee extended an offer of employment to Mr. Tom Ramsey contingent upon him passing a physical standards test for the academy. President Schulz explained that he did not pass a portion of the testing. One option is to review new applications that were received. The other option is to wait until the next available academy, which will be at Kirtland Community College, and have Mr. Ramsey ready for that class. The Chief contacted Officer Light and he is willing to pick up two shifts a week for the summer which will allow coverage until Mr. Ramsey completes the academy. This is the option the Chief prefers. Trustee Dewey would like to see Mr. Ramsey continue with the next academy and have Officer Light fill in. The Chief explained that he was originally going to attend class in the fall, which would have given him more time to train for the physical standards test, but due to hiring him, his testing was pushed up.

Motion by Dewey, seconded by Schulz, to have Mr. Ramsey retest and support him in attending the next academy at Kirtland Community College. Motion carried by voice vote.

- c. **Letters of Support-Youth Center:** The Youth Center would like additional letters of support for two other grants that they will be applying for. One for the Great Lakes Energy People Fund and the other for the Begonia Charitable Foundation.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by McPherson, to authorize the Village President to sign the two letters of support for the Youth Center grant applications. Motion carried by voice vote.

8. New Business:

- a. **Garden Club:** The Garden Club would like to have the bridge boxes in by the end of next week. They would like to ask the Village to help with the cost of the flowers and to make sure that the Village will be watering them again.

Motion by Bennett, seconded by Sexton, to reimburse for the cost of the flowers up to \$225 and to continue watering them. Motion carried by voice vote.

- b. **Parkside Arts Council:** Mary Ellen Murphy from the Parkside Arts Council explained that one evening they were setting up for their Beer Inspired Art Show. The next day they received an email explaining that the posters were removed due to a visit being planned by Congressman Benishek. The PAC felt the removal of the posters was unnecessary due to the Short's grant being the reason for his visit. They felt the posters were not offensive and said they sometimes feel disrespected. President Schulz read the section of the lease that discusses art being placed in the hallway. Due to the Congressman's visit, and not knowing if any or what kind of press was going to be in attendance, he determined that the posters should come down for the visit. He said he felt the Village could have been disrespected because the lease calls for permission for art to be placed in the hallway. Permission was not sought and the posters were put in the entranceway. He also said that Village staff put in many hours helping Short's achieve the grant showing we were also in support of the grant. President Schulz explained that the Council has bent over backwards to accommodate the PAC and they should not feel disrespected. He stated that we appreciate them being here, but in this case, we acted appropriately to make sure things were good for the Congressman's visit.

- c. **Fair Housing Ordinance-MEDC Grant:** Due to the MEDC grant awarded for Short's we are required to pass a fair housing ordinance, have a plan in place that identifies and undertakes at least one activity to further fair housing, which we have already completed by placing a poster in the hallway, and we must maintain a fair housing complaint process. President Schulz would like to have the attorney review the ordinance and seek the help of Jan Kellogg from the NLEA to get examples of complaint processes.

Motion by Bennett, seconded by McPherson, to forward the text of the ordinance to legal counsel for review. Motion carried by voice vote.

- d. **Fixed Asset Policy Amendment:** Our current fixed asset policy states that we will capitalize any assets over \$1,000. The auditors are requesting that we amend this to read assets over \$5,000, which is consistent with most other entities.

**Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Bennett, to amend the Village's fixed asset policy, #003, replacing currencies of \$1,000 with \$5,000. Motion carried by roll call vote.
Ayes: Drollinger, Bennett, Dewey, McPherson, Sexton & Schulz.**

- e. **Municipal/Zoning Approval:** The Planning Commission approved a site plan and special use permit for a used car lot at 6612 Bellaire Highway. For the owner to obtain his licensing, municipal and zoning approval forms need to be signed by the local unit.

Motion by Dewey, seconded by McPherson, to authorize the Village President to sign both the municipal and zoning approval documents for 6612 Bellaire Hwy. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. Discussion Items:

- a) **Election Deadline:** The terms for Trustee Dewey, McPherson and Drollinger, along with President Schulz, expires in November. If running in the next election, the deadline date for petitions is July 22, 2014 and must be filed at their respective townships.
- b) **Personal Property Tax Laws:** Proposed language for personal property tax legislation to be included on the ballot in the August primary, if approved, will eliminate personal property tax for any property that has a taxable value of under \$40,000. The language will also include lost revenue reimbursement proposals. We are estimated to lose approximately \$10–\$15,000.
- c) **Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI):** Clerk Luckett explained the Northwest MI Council of Government sent a letter asking for our input to identify regionally aligned growth and investment strategies for Lansing to support. This will focus on streamlining state services and highlight regionally defined goals that will further our region’s success. The Clerk filled out the form and sent it in.
- d) **Michigan Right to Farm Act:** The State Department of Agriculture has rescinded a portion of the Right to Farm Act. This will not affect our local ordinances, specifically our chicken ordinance, which will remain intact.
- e) **DDA:** There have been several people who have expressed interest in serving on the DDA board. President Schulz will begin the process of speaking to others about possible interest of serving. Tax incremental financing (TIF), which is a funding source for the DDA was discussed.

10. Department/Committee Reports

- a) **Committee Reports:** None presented.
- b) **Clerk/Planner:** None presented.
- c) **Deputy Clerk/Treasurer:** The audit is complete and Council received a copy.
- d) **Department of Public Works:** None presented.
- e) **Police Department:** A written report was presented. Chief Rowe informed the Council that he is currently working on nuisance violations and to let him know if they know of any he might be missing.
- f) **Planning Commission:** The PC met to discuss the inconsistencies in the zoning ordinance and Clerk Luckett will be reviewing them for possible amendments. President Schulz also said that Mr. Fedraw’s seat on the Planning Commission is vacant because he is relocating and if anyone knows of an interested candidate let him know.

11. Closing Member/Public Comment:

- **David Schulz:** asked the Council what, if anything, they heard about the Short’s anniversary party. Trustee McPherson and Dewey said they only heard positive comments. President Schulz asked staff to write a letter of thanks to Short’s for their thoroughness in planning and in executing their event. He informed Council that the fire

department also helped with cleaning up by hosing down the area. Trustee Drollinger suggested putting this in the paper as a letter to the editor. He also informed the Council that he asked Clerk Luckett to set up meetings with Mr. Stead & Heidi from the Conservation District to discuss the portage station that we would like to put in the park. Clerk Luckett said she met with Heidi and Mark Stone from the County about possible locations. President Schulz also mentioned that we may have to get permits from the MDEQ for the installation.

- *Eldon McPherson:* The signs in the park that are faded and we can't see anymore, were initially put up by the Conservation District. He suggests that if we can't replace them then we should take them down.
- *Patti Savant:* asked what the rules were to be on the Planning Commission. The zoning ordinance and the necessary constant review of it was discussed. Ms. Savant suggested looking into the regulations that address cleanup of buildings downtown so our downtown looks as good as we want it to look, which is beautiful.

12. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Compiled by Cathy Odom
Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____