

VILLAGE OF BELLAIRE

PROPERTY & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Bryan Hardy, Chairman

Daniel Bennett

Helen Schuckel

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 29, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Hardy called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.
2. **Attendance:**
 - Present:** Chairman Hardy, Trustee Bennett and Trustee Schuckel at 7:35 a.m.
 - Absent:** None.
 - Staff Present:** Clerk Lockett
 - Also Present:** Leslie Meyers and Robert Smalley
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
 - Motion by Trustee Bennett, seconded by Chairman Hardy, to approve the agenda as presented.**
 - Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**
4. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the November 20, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.
 - Motion by Trustee Bennett, seconded by Chairman Hardy, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**
5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** Chairman Hardy wanted the record to reflect that Leslie Meyers and Bob Smalley were in attendance. There were no other comments presented.
6. **Old Business:** None presented.
7. **New Business:**
 - a) **Sidewalk Assessment** – Chairman Hardy asked Mr. Smalley about the sidewalks in front of Mr. Smalley’s home. Mr. Smalley explained that there are several spots where the sidewalks have heaved 6” to 8” up from the tree roots. There is one spot on the north end of property where a tree had been removed with three sections of sidewalk that were never replaced. At the other end, where a tree had been removed, the stump and part of the sidewalk were left. He explained that no one has used the sidewalk except for kids who were using it as a jump for their bicycles. No one uses the sidewalk because it is not safe. Trustee Bennett stated that there is a problem with the sidewalks in town because they were installed with a layer of cement over gravel. The sidewalks are dangerous. Chairman Hardy explained the sidewalk use in front of his home. Mr. Smalley expressed his preference for taking the sidewalk out in front of his house. Trustee Bennett explained that he had taken the sidewalk out along his house. Chairman Hardy asked Mrs. Meyers about her concerns with the sidewalks. She commented about the sidewalks on her route to work. She thinks the sidewalks on Court Street are a disgrace. She said that she was walking home from work one day and tripped three times because of the sidewalks. She is concerned about the lack of parking and need to provide safe passage for people coming to town. She is also concerned about pedestrian traffic up West Cayuga; it is not clearly marked or safe. Sidewalks are bad everywhere in town. She suggested that grants might be available. There was discussion about the replacement of sidewalks and who pays if removal or replacement is requested. Mr. Smalley noted that people walked on the streets to get to the Rubber Ducky events not the sidewalks. Chairman Hardy spoke about the condition of sidewalks and trees in front of his house. Mrs. Meyers wants businesses in towns to be successful. That means improving the

infrastructure. She expressed her willingness to pay increased taxes. Clerk Luckett explained that she had found a map that could be used to identify sidewalks in need of repair. She suggested that the village could be divided into quadrants and committee members could independently evaluate the condition of sidewalks. As Director of Emergency Management, Mrs. Meyers offered to contact Julie Weston at GIS to get maps. DPW Supervisor Stead arrived. Chairman Hardy requested that DPW Supervisor start doing an inventory of the sidewalks identifying them best to worst. What does homeowner do? Supervisor Stead explained that in the past, the homeowner removed and installed the sidewalks and the village paid for the concrete. There was no labor provided for sidewalks off M-88. Sidewalks were installed by either the resident or a contractor hired by the resident. Mrs. Meyers asked if there was an ordinance. Clerk Luckett was asked to research the sidewalk ordinance. Supervisor Stead provided an explanation of the pedestrian passage along West Cayuga. He noted that a biking lane was put in for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Pavement was also wider along the Terrace. Supervisor Stead asked whether the pedestrian lane could be painted to identify it. He said it could be done. Mrs. Meyer suggested that if Supervisor Stead could take a map and mark where the sidewalks are, Julie Weston could create a good map to inventory sidewalks. Chairman Hardy asked about the map. Maps will be done at no charge because it is being done at the request of the emergency manager. A pdf may also be provided. Trustee Bennett said that it is interesting when some want sidewalks and others do not. Trustee Bennett thought that most people want sidewalks taken out. He suggested that it might be better to widen the pavement and add a bike lane and pedestrian walkway. Trustee Bennett would like Mr. Smalley's sidewalk removed and the concrete around the drinking fountain repaired. Trustee Bennett made a motion to recommend to village council that the sidewalk along the Smalley property be removed as requested and area reseeded. Trustee Bennett asked that a letter be sent to another identified resident to see if she would like sidewalk removed in front of her house.

Motion by Trustee Bennett, supported by Trustee Schuckel, to recommend to the village council that the sidewalk along the Smalley property be removed as requested and area reseeded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Clerk Luckett requested clarification. Mrs. Meyers would be obtaining another map. She asked whether committee members would be evaluating the sidewalks before the next meeting. Supervisor Stead will be marking the maps to identify the location of sidewalks. Chairman Hardy asked about smaller map. Clerk Luckett suggested maps could be divided into quadrants. She reminded the committee members that sidewalks in the DDA District would also be covered by TIF funds.

b) Risk Control Recommendations – The committee reviewed the recommendations from the Michigan Township Participating Plan Risk Control Representative. He had suggested that the community hall and DPW buildings have “EXIT” signs above the exits from the building. He also suggested that an emergency lighting system be installed in the village hall in the event of a power outage. Trustee Bennett thought that the emergency lighting would be a good idea. There was also discussion about updating restrooms to make them ADA compliant. It was noted that the public restrooms are not accessible; the restroom off the main hallway is more accessible. Supervisor Stead informed the committee that according to OSHA the “EXIT” signs do not have to be lighted; they just have to be a certain size. Trustee Bennett that the school has the emergency lighting and it is very helpful. Chairman Hardy requested that a quote for the emergency lighting be solicited.

8. Discussion – The committee continued their discussion of sidewalks. Trustee Bennett thought that the question of whether and where there should be sidewalks is interesting. Do the people want sidewalks or do they not? Chairman Hardy noted that where he lives, with rental houses around, sidewalks are paramount. Sidewalks need to be on one side or the other. Sidewalks are safer for kids. We need to look at traffic on the roads and locations of sidewalks. Trustee Bennett asked about the M-88 corner. Can a sign be installed saying this is not a crosswalk. Chairman Hardy asked whether a different paint could be used. Supervisor

Stead said they could paint monthly. Supervisor Stead recounted when the corner was a crosswalk. The request was made to move it to its current location when streetlights were installed.

- 9. **Communication/Informational:** None presented.
- 10. **Closing Member/Public Comments:** None presented.
- 11. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Compiled by Lori Lockett, Clerk
Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____
Bryan Hardy, Chairman

Date: _____