

Village of Bellaire

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dan Bennett, Chairman

Butch Dewey

David Schulz

MEETING MINUTES
January 2, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.
2. **Roll Call Attendance**
 - Present:** Chairman Bennett, Butch Dewey & David Schulz
 - Absent:** N/A
 - Staff Present:** Cathy Odom, Treasurer & Brad Rowe, Chief of Police.
 - Also Present:** Colette Stanish.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.
 - Motion by Schulz, seconded by Dewey, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.**
4. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved.
 - Motion by Dewey, seconded by Schulz, to approve the minutes of February 28, 2013 as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.**
5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.
6. **Old Business:** None presented.
7. **New Business:**
 - **Seasonal Police Officer Position:** Chief Rowe informed the committee that Zack Light would not be continuing his employment as a part time seasonal officer this summer. This puts us in the spot of finding another officer for this position and he doesn't see us being able to find someone to replace him in a seasonal capacity. Chief Rowe said our options would be to keep the department at two officers or hire a third. He presented budget numbers for both scenarios. According to the projections presented, dropping down to two officers would be the least inexpensive budget we have had at approximately \$160,370. Budget projections for three officers would increase the budget approximately \$50,000 to \$70,000. Trustee Bennett said he sees the Village getting busier and has concerns about having enough police protection if that happens. Chief Rowe said with the current schedule we are off duty more than we are on in a week's time. With three officers there would be seven days a week coverage. The 2012 and 2013 budgets were reviewed and discussed. Comparisons between two office and three officer budgets were also discussed. Schulz said we would really be looking at a benefit package for the third officer and the difference in wages from the part time officer to the full time position plus the other fringes of withholding, workman's comp, paid leave and unemployment. Increase in wages is approximately \$18,000 and health benefits costs would range from \$5,300 to \$18,000 a year. Brad estimates the difference in wages to be about \$12,000. Dewey expressed concerns about possible cuts to the budget that would have to be made to cover the

expense of an additional officer. Chief Rowe asked if there was any other information the Council would like to see for this discussion. Trustee Bennett said he would like to see the budget numbers during the time we had three officers. Schulz would like to see a list of various matters that the officers have had to deal with for the past several years. Chief Rowe explained that with more eyes there is a lesser amount of incidents. Dewey reminded everyone that the general fund will have to support the increased expense and stated that cuts would have to be made elsewhere. The fund balance of each of the accounts was discussed. Chief Rowe mentioned that Mr. Light said he would work a couple days a week and if another officer could do another two days a week and we could look into that. Bennett stated that if we want quality officers we have to be able to pay them.

Motion by Schulz, seconded by Dewey, to the Public Safety Committee recommend to the Village Council to look at budgeting for a third full time officer for the FY2014-15. Motion carried by voice vote.

- **Budget FY2014-15:** Discussion and review of this budget occurred in the item above.
- **Various Matters As Appropriate:**
 - Chief Rowe stated the current budget is doing fine so far this year.
 - Chief Rowe updated the committee on the status of the 218 Durham complaint. The hearing has been rescheduled for February 2014 and the paperwork has been sent to Mr. Beatty, an attorney in Charlevoix, for review about the possible zoning violation. He said if we win the case in February, Mr. Beatty recommends that we pursue the zoning violation. There was mention of a possible demolition of the property.
 - Chief Rowe informed the committee about parking issues happening downtown and stated that if this is our only problem, then we aren't doing too bad. Dewey said he feels the department is doing a great job.

8. Discussion: None presented.

9. Communication/Informational: None presented.

10. Closing Member/Public Comments: None presented.

11. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Compiled by: Cathy Odom, Deputy Clerk

Approved: _____
Daniel Bennett, Chair

Date: _____