

# Village of Bellaire

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

**Eldon McPherson, Chairman**

**Trish Drollinger**

**Laurie Sexton**

### COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES October 30, 2013

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McPherson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

#### Attendance

**Present:** Chairman Eldon McPherson, Trish Drollinger, Laurie Sexton

**Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** DPW Supervisor Ken Stead, Deputy Clerk Cathy Odom,  
Clerk Janet Koch

**Also Present:** N/A

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Item New Business b) 3230 South M-88 was added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended.

**Motion by Sexton, seconded by Drollinger, to approve the agenda as amended.**

**Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

3. **Approval of the September 23, 2013 Meeting Minutes:** The minutes were approved.

**Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Sexton, to approve the minutes of September 23, 2013 as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

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

5. **Old Business:** None presented.

6. **New Business**

- a) **Proposed amendment to village ordinance Chapter 123 - Water, Article V:**

Stead told the committee that the recent purchaser of a vacant piece of property in the village would like to build a residence and hook up to the village water and sewer systems. However, Stead said that due to the elevation of the property, the village cannot supply adequate water pressure to them. Currently, Chapter 123 does not allow property owners to drill potable water wells. Staff was asking the committee to consider amending the existing ordinance to allow the drilling of private wells in such a circumstance.

Koch said she'd talked to a civil engineer and to Chuck Edwards from the Health Department regarding the issue. Both had mentioned a distance of 200 feet regarding the limit for required hookups. Koch told the committee that she'd researched the state public health act, Act 368 of 1978, and the 200 foot distance refers to the distance at which a public sanitary sewer system is considered to be available. Act 368 does not place any limitations on constructing a well for a single family house.

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McPherson asked if any additional fire protection would be needed for the property on North Street. Stead said there was an existing fire hydrant at the bottom of the hill.

After discussion about adding a distance requirement, language for the following amendments to Chapter 123 of the village code was crafted:

Amend Section 123-2 to state, in its entirety, “Except as hereinafter provided for, specifically in Sections 123-4 and 123-27(E), it shall be unlawful for an owner, occupant, or tenant of property to drill or maintain a private water well within the Village.”

Amend Section 123-27 to include 123-27.E which shall state in its entirety, “If the village’s existing waterworks system is insufficient to supply a property with adequate and state-recommended minimum water pressure, an individual property owner may be allowed to drill a private well. The installation of a water meter will be required.”

**Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Sexton, to recommend to village council that the above amendments to Chapter 123 be made. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

- b) **3230 South M-88:** Stead told the committee that the property owner needed to hook up to the village water system for a dedicated 2” fire suppression line. However, the property is outside of the village limits and council permission to connect to the village water is required.

**Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Sexton, to recommend that the village council approve the connection of the 2” fire suppression line at 3230 South M-88. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

Stead told the committee that the DPW doesn’t perform live 2” fire suppression taps, that the property owner would be paying for this tap-in. Since that is a service usually provided by the village as part of the tap-in fees, the property owner’s cost for this service will be deducted from the tap-in fee.

### 7. Discussion Items

- a) **Sanitary sewer rate restructuring:** Koch summarized the status of the sanitary sewer and water rate recommendations from attorney Jim White of Mika, Meyers, Beckett & Jones PLC from Grand Rapids. Mr. White had been contacted a number of years ago by the previous clerk, Janet Person. At that time, it had been the intent to determine a method of charging the non-taxpaying entities higher water/sewer rates to compensate for the fact that they weren’t contributing

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to the paying of the sewer bonds. Mr. White's analysis did not create such a mechanism. Further, his analysis recommended that the village modify the current charging of double rates to out-of-village water and sewer customers.

It was staff's recommendation that the Michigan Rural Water Association return in the upcoming winter to assess the water/sewer rates and examine the issue at that time.

- 8. Communications/Informational:** None presented.
- 9. Member/Public Comment:** None presented.
- 10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.**

Minutes compiled by Janet Koch, Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eldon McPherson, Chairman

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