

Village of Bellaire

STREETS AND MOTOR POOL COMMITTEE

Dennis Balon, Chairman

Butch Dewey

Brent Nelson

MEETING MINUTES May 19, 2020 2010 - 3:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Balon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Attendance**
 - Present:** Chairman Dennis Balon, Butch Dewey, Brent Nelson
 - Absent:** N/A
 - Staff Present:** Ken Stead (DPW Supervisor), Janet Koch (Clerk/Planner), Police Chief Brad Rowe
 - Also Present:** John Tarrant, Lea Short, Richard Hannan, Jere Clark
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.
Motion by Dewey, seconded by Nelson, to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved.
Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dewey to approve the minutes of April 20, 2010 as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.
6. **Old Business:** None presented.
7. **New Business**
 - a) **Bridge Lane – one way travel (north to south)** – Chairman Balon said John Tarrant had asked the council to consider making Bridge Lane one way from north to south to reduce the traffic, slow speeds, and eliminate blocking of parking. Balon said he thought blockage problems could be solved without changing traffic patterns.

Chief Rowe said traffic has been a problem on the alley for years. Chief Rowe has talked to the regular drivers of the large Sysco trucks and they've agreed to come in from the north, which should eliminate some of the parking blockage problems. Rowe said that in terms of traffic volume, he wasn't sure what could be done.

Leah Short of Short's Brewery asked if a traffic study could be done, saying that it would be a benefit to have a professional recommendation. Dewey said a study could cost thousands of dollars, and asked who is going to pay for it? Richard Hannan of Short's Brewery estimated deliveries can last from ten minutes to half an hour. Leah Short said many of the trucks with longer delivery times will soon be almost eliminated due to that portion of their business moving to the Elk Rapids facility. In light of this, Hannan asked the committee to monitor the situation for a few months before making any decisions. Tarrant said the parking blockage is an issue whether their parking is blocked once a week or once a month.

The other Bridge Lane issues aren't traffic flow, Chief Rowe, but volume and speed. The current speed limit is 15 mph. Rowe said he has clocked traffic at 26 mph. Suggestions

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were made for speed limit and/or “Local Traffic & Deliveries Only” signs. Chief Rowe said he doesn’t consider signage effective, and he wasn’t sure that limiting traffic to local and deliveries on a public street was legal.

He said placing the speed trailer in the alley can be a speed deterrent, but it can’t be there all the time. Speed bumps are high maintenance and can’t be snowplowed. Temporary speed bumps were mentioned. DPW Superintendent Ken Stead mentioned the possibility of speed dips. Dewey suggested rumble strips.

Chairman Balon said the committee would wait to see if the parking situation improved before making any decisions. Balon asked Stead to look into speed dips and get some pricing.

- b) Block of Broad Street between M-88 and Bridge Lane** – Chairman Balon said the idea of vacating that block of Broad Street is just a thought and they wanted to know what the community thought about creating a small park with parking along Bridge Lane.

Jere Clark, owner of Ruthie’s Dairy Twist, said closing off that block would put them out of business. Chief Rowe said this is just an idea and it would be nice for the village to have a sort of community center with public bathrooms and maybe a bandstand for concerts. A lengthy discussion of potential parking changes followed.

Dewey said the village would like to see downtown bathrooms, but the expense is huge, not just for construction but also for maintenance. Leah Short said she’d love to see public restrooms downtown, but also noted that blocking off East Broad would restrict truck traffic due to the tight turning radius near Fischer Insurance.

Balon told Clark the last thing they’re thinking about is putting him out of business, that they’re trying to do something nice for downtown, that if it works, great, if not, it doesn’t. No action was taken.

8. Discussion Items

Nelson said this was a good conversation, that it was nice people were coming together and working through these issues.

9. Communications/Informational

Koch said that she’d given the committee members a copy of the letter sent to Jerry Delling from Village President David Shulz regarding the status of Willow Lane. The Streets and Motor Pool Committee has discussed improving Willow Lane at the April 20, 2010 committee meeting and subsequently recommended to council that no action be taken.

10. Member/Public Comment

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Compiled by Janet Koch, Clerk
Minutes Subject to Approval

Approved: _____

Date: _____

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