

VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE
320 Main Street
Bellevue, IL 61604
Meeting of Village Board
December 12, 2023

OFFICIAL MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Village Mayor Pro-Tem called the Village of Bellevue meeting to order at the Village Hall. He indicated that an audio tape recording was made of all discussions during the Regular Session.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro-Tem asked for Roll Call Attendance to be taken by the Village Clerk.

Present: Trustee Aaron Lannert, Trustee Sandra Cooper, Trustee Paul Eichhorn, Trustee Judith Wight, Trustee Leroy Wiseman, Trustee Ross Pesch

Absent: Mayor Dean Merriman

Also in Attendance: Attorney Lane Alster; Steve Wilson, Village Maintenance; Matthew Raible, Village Zoning Officer; Susan Pesch, Village Clerk; Theresa Johanson

III. ACTION ITEMS

- A.** Trustee Eichhorn moved to approve the Regular Session Minutes and Executive Session Minutes held on November 28, 2023. Trustee Lannert seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Ayes
Motion Passed

- B.** Trustee Wiseman moved to approve the bills for December 12, 2023. Trustee Eichhorn seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion Passed

IV. PRESENTATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

*All public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person

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V. NON-AGENDA BUSINESS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Johanson informed Board members that she has been processing tax payments. She reached out to Theresa Noel for direction with some of the information. IL Funds is requiring information from the Village to change the contact information. She asked for a show of hands for her to be the primary contact for the Village with IL Funds. Board members agreed for Theresa Johanson to be the primary contact for IL Funds. Attorney Alster commented that Theresa Johanson is the acting Village Treasurer.

Mr. Wilson inquired about his social security that was not reported in 2020. The Social Security office does not have reported wages for him from 2020. The previous Village Treasurers did not resolve the issue. Mrs. Johanson stated that she would check into the errors with social security. Attorney Alster said that we need to figure out if the Village even paid during 2020 or if it is an error. Records need to be reviewed. The portal should have historical payments.

Mr. Wilson stated that the first meeting in January will be at the new location. Susan is working with the IT contact. We will make sure things are working before computers are moved.

Mr. Wilson informed Board members that shipping containers are becoming popular with businesses. People will start approaching him once they see the commercial containers.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Board needs to discuss changing permit fees at the next meeting. Solar permits need to be increased to \$200 to cover the electrical inspections. The Village is losing money.

Mr. Wilson asked Board members for suggestions for the flag pole. A new flag pole would cost around \$5,000.

Mr. Wilson informed the Board members that used office furniture was purchased for the new location.

Board members discussed the fees that are related to someone asking for a variance. It costs the Village an average \$500 in fees. Mr. Raible explained that he is having issues approaching people with zoning violations. He has been told that Board members are telling people that they do not have to follow ordinances. Mr. Raible explained that he cannot do his job as Zoning Officer if this continues. Attorney Alster stated that Mr. Raible is the one that has the authority as the Zoning Officer to issue tickets and tell residents that they need to follow ordinances, not the Board Trustees. Board member need to make sure that they do not discuss zoning issues with residents. They need to be told to call the Zoning Officer or Mayor, or attend a Board meeting. Trustee Wight stated that a particular individual was dishonest. She did not tell anyone not to follow an ordinance. Attorney Alster explained that Matt can issue tickets when situations come up. Mr. Wilson stated that Matt has not treated people badly. It is always the other way when he approaches people to enforce the Village ordinances. It makes the job hard to do if Board members are speaking with homeowners.

Trustee Cooper wanted to thank the residents that had taken items for the Limestone Fire Department Christmas party.

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Trustee Cooper asked if someone could check into I-3 Broadband for the new hall. Mr. Wilson said that Susan had already talked with individuals from I-3 Broadband and Comcast. Comcast was cheaper than I-3 Broadband. Attorney Alster explained that the Village is already locked in with a contract through Comcast.

Trustee Cooper commented that the new hall looks amazing.

Trustee Cooper asked about the winner of the Christmas decorations. Attorney Alster responded that the homeowner at 123 Bellevue Ave. was the winner.

Mr. Wilson informed Board members that the Village has been looking to fill the maintenance position for over 2 years. Each time it is discussed, the Board does not know what to pay the individual. If the Board cannot decide how much to pay someone and stick with it, it is a bad Board. Mr. Wilson continued to say that his ragtag team has saved the Village over \$200,000 this year. They will save another \$300,000-\$400,000 by repairing the waterways in 2024. Mr. Wilson explained that if they are not worth it, the work needs to be put out for bids. Trustee Pesch responded to Mr. Wilson that this Board increased their salaries. Mr. Wilson said that if you have someone new, explain to the individual that he is not worth what the other guy is worth. The new guy can bring more to the table, maybe not the years, but the talent. Mr. Wilson explained that he is not saying this because of the relation to Michael. Attorney Alster stated that the Board will discuss with Dean what was decided in Executive Session. The Board cannot talk about it in Open Session. Subject to whatever is discussed, the Board will have the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. ACTION ITEMS

- A.** Trustee Eichhorn moved to approve to cancel the December 26, 2023 Meeting. Trustee Wight seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion Passed

- B.** Trustee Lannert moved to pre-approve the bills for December 26, 2023. Trustee Pesch seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion Passed

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- C.** Trustee Lannert moved to adopt the regular meeting schedule for 2024. Trustee Wight seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion Passed

- D.** Trustee Pesch moved to approve the MFT Budget for 2024. Trustee Lannert seconded the motion. Mr. Wilson informed Board members that each year IDOT tells the Village how much can be spent. Mr. Wilson gave Board members a form with information. Trustee Eichhorn thanked Mr. Wilson for the data.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion Passed

- E.** Trustee Lannert moved to approve the Attorney to proceed with the demolition order and zoning issues for 220 Bellevue Ave. Trustee Pesch seconded the motion. Attorney Alster explained that the new Village Inspector has the list of properties and will submit information to the Board.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion Passed

VIII. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A.** Discussion of Michael Mosher Employment Matters
- B.** Next Village of Bellevue Meeting – January 09, 2024

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Lannert moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Wight seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Ayes
Motion Passed
Meeting Adjourned @ 7:30 p.m.