

*VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE*  
414 S. Main Street  
Bellevue, IL 61604  
Village Board Meeting  
March 12, 2024

OFFICIAL MINUTES

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Village of Bellevue Mayor 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 Merriman asked for Roll Call Attendance to be taken by the Village Clerk.

Present: Mayor Dean Merriman, Trustee Sandra Cooper, Trustee Judith Wight, Trustee Leroy Wiseman; Trustee Ross Pesch

Absent: Trustee Aaron Lannert

Also in Attendance: Attorney Lane Alster; Matthew Raible, Village Zoning Officer; Susan Pesch, Village Clerk; Theresa Johanson, Village Treasurer; Shane House, White Rose Church Pastor; Tim Menefee, Village Business Owner; Terry Elston, Village Resident

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

- A.** Trustee Wight moved to approve the Regular Session Minutes held on February 27, 2024. Trustee Wight seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Ayes  
Motion Passed

- B.** Trustee Wiseman moved to approve the Bills for March 12, 2024. Trustee Pesch seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Motion Passed

**IV. PRESENTATION FROM THE AUDIENCE**

\*All public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person

Mr. Elston inquired about the property on the corner of Anna Rd. and Closen Rd. Mr. Raible responded that he is working on it. If something happens, contact the Sheriff's Department.

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Mr. Elston inquired about the Governor dropping the food tax and if it will affect Bellevue. Mayor Merriman stated that it will affect the Village some, but we will not know how much for sure until we receive the sales tax information.

Mr. Menefee asked if there is something that can be done about the potato chip bag garbage. Mayor Merriman said that when the County cleans the brush, it will get worse. Mr. Menefee commented that he will call the Health Department.

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

Trustee Cooper informed the Board that she has been on the Board for 3 years and feels that she, Judy, and Paul are excluded from a lot of stuff. Some Board members come to meetings and already know what is going on. Mayor Merriman responded that most of them know what is on the agenda because they read the agenda. If they have questions, they give me a call. Trustee Cooper stated that she knows there are meetings during the week because she sees cars parked at the hall. Mayor Merriman stated that he goes to the hall to check mail and messages. We are not having any formal meetings. All regular board agendas are posted to the website and the front door. Agendas are sent to each Board member. Trustee Wight agreed with Trustee Cooper. Three people were going to do the Business District. Mayor Merriman explained that when they get to that point, it will be discussed to form a committee. Attorney Alster commented that you cannot have more than 2 Board members. If there are more than 2 Board members present, a formal public notice needs to be posted 48 hours in advance.

Trustee Eichhorn stated that the neighbor had someone break into their garage. He inquired about the hours of the Peoria County Deputy and possibly adding nighttime patrol. When the contract was renewed, they were going to sporadically change hours for patrolling. Mayor Merriman responded that he would reach out to the Sheriff. Deputy Winder stated that there are vehicle burglaries. Everyone needs to lock their doors and car doors.

Mrs. Johanson informed the Board members that the audit was finalized. She would need assistance from the accountant to clean up QuickBooks. Trustee Pesch asked if this would be needed each year. Mayor Merriman responded that the Board members would need to approve the cost for the accountant.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Approval to Amend White Rose Fellowship Church Lease as Presented.**

Item removed from agenda.

Pastor House stated that he has not seen the amended lease and did not know they were going to do it tonight. He explained that when he met with Mayor Merriman a month ago, they talked about what would be paid in rent. They came up with a number. Mayor Merriman explained to the Pastor that he was to reach out to him, and it never happened. Mayor Merriman stated that he thought Pastor Shane was ok with the \$350. Pastor House replied that he does not recall that information. Pastor Shane commented that the church is not making money on the Food Pantry. They are there to serve the community. Mayor Merriman said that the Board is to do the best that they can with the

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Village of Bellevue's money. By setting a flat rate, it is the same amount each month for rent. Trustee Wight mentioned the Ameren bill for 414 S. Main St. They have been paying half of the Ameren bill. Mayor Merriman explained that it is not on record to pay half of the Ameren bill. It was a verbal agreement during the construction time until the Village Hall officially moved to 414. Attorney Alster informed Trustee Wight to watch her Trustee vs. the role of the Food Pantry. It is a conflict of interest. It needs clarification regarding comments of we as the Board or we as the Food Pantry. Trustee Wight asked about the amount of the Ameren bill portion that the Food Pantry is responsible for paying. Pastor Shane explained that the utility portion is taken out of the lease. He wanted to make sure that the utility language in the amended lease included gas, water, and sanitation. Attorney Alster informed Pastor House that the language of all utilities is a legal term. Amended language would be that the landlord is responsible for all utilities outside of the rent of \$350. This would be the total obligation if the amendment is adopted. Trustee Eichhorn asked if he could move to table the item to have more discussion about the cost. Trustee Pesch commented that he was confused because back on February 13 during the Board meeting, Pastor House stated that the \$350 would be for everything and it had been previously discussed during the meeting between him and the mayor. Pastor House replied that he had never said that or agreed to it. Trustee Pesch stated that it is in the minutes that Pastor House agreed to the \$350 and the utilities would be completely taken out. Attorney Alster stated that in terms of why this amendment was prepared the way it was is based on the comments at the Board meeting. Attorney Alster responded that he has notes that Pastor House agreed to the \$350. Trustee Wight said that they need all their Board members present. Aaron should have a voice. Trustee Eichhorn made a motion to table the item. Trustee Cooper seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Motion Passed

- B. Trustee Eichhorn moved to approve to Increase Better Banks Office Visa to \$3,000 Credit Limit. Trustee Pesch seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Motion Passed

- C. Trustee Eichhorn moved to approve and authorize the Village Treasurer, Theresa Johanson, to be the primary contact on the Village of Bellevue's QuickBooks account and ability to access, operate, modify, and update QuickBooks to complete the Village of Bellevue's business for the length of her employment with the Village of Bellevue. Trustee Wight seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Motion Passed

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**D. Approval to Change Mayor Pro-Tem.**

Item removed from the agenda.

Trustee Wight asked if there was a cost to change Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor Merriman said that there is no cost to change. Mayor Merriman stated that the item would be tabled until the next meeting.

**VII. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Change Mayor Pro-Tem**

**B. Next Village of Bellevue Meeting - March 26, 2024**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Merriman asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Pesch moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Wight seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Ayes

Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned @ 6:25 p.m.