

Village of Bellaire

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dan Bennett, Chairman

Patrick Boyd

Eldon McPherson

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES November 20, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.
2. **Roll Call Attendance**
 - Present:** Dan Bennett, Patrick Boyd and Eldon McPherson
 - Absent:** None
 - Staff Present:** Lori Luckett, Clerk, Bill Drollinger, Police Chief, Cathy Odom, Treasurer
 - Also Present:** None
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
Motion by Trustee McPherson, seconded by Trustee Boyd, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the June 27, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.
Motion by Trustee McPherson, seconded by Trustee Boyd, to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.
6. **Old Business:** None presented.
7. **New Business**
 - a) **2020-2021 Budget Items** – Chief Drollinger reported that he had reviewed his budget worksheet noting that the budget looks good. He would still like to have a third officer and would just ask for a budget amendment when an officer is hired. The current budget reflects funds available for a seasonal, part-time officer. Chief Drollinger reported that his telephone was recently upgraded and that the monthly cost will be partially reimbursed by the fire department. The budget was reviewed by line item. Projected expenditures for Office Supplies, Postage, Operating Supplies, and Gas and Oil will stay the same as current. There was brief discussion about Legal Fees and recent question about parking in the right-of-way. Audit Fees and Telephone budgeted amounts are sufficient. Radio Maintenance is down; Transportation and Travel is for training. Education and Training expenses should stay the same. Printing and Publishing covered courtesy tickets. Office supplies covers the paper tickets. Insurance and Bonds and Repairs and Maintenance items should stay the same. The Dues and Subscriptions amount covers the cost of a magazine and should stay the same. Miscellaneous Expenses should stay the same at \$1000 for tires. Funds for the seasonal officer were requested to remain the same. The committee next reviewed the Revenue items. The amount for Liquor Licenses-St Shared Revenue was projected to be \$3200. Chief Drollinger suggested that the actual budget amounts as of October 31, 2019 for PS 302 Funds, Public Report Copies, Fines and Other Revenue, and Refunds and Rebates should be the proposed amounts. After brief discussion about the police car, funds put aside in a CD, and the improvements a motion was made to recommend the proposed budget to village council for approval.
Motion by Trustee McPherson, seconded by Trustee Boyd, to recommend the proposed budget to the village council for approval. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
8. **Discussion:** Chief Drollinger requested permission to begin a search for a third officer. He explained that a Charlevoix candidate accepted a position with Boyne City and stayed for three days. He is now back with the county. Trying to find a third officer will be a challenge. MCOLES has many

communities advertising to find an officer. There are not many people wanting to become police officers. Chairman Bennett said that he did some checking. Kalkaska is looking, Antrim County is looking, communities cannot find officers. Chief Drollinger reported about a community in Alaska and the signing bonus being offered. He has also approached candidates about sponsorship but they are not ready to commit. Chairman Bennett asked if the current pay scale between departments was a problem. Trustee Boyd asked whether the starting wage was a problem. Chief Drollinger said it is. Trustee McPherson asked about the pay scale and why it was not increased. There was discussion about wage scales in relation to others in the area. Chief Drollinger stated that Bellaire has the lowest police officer wage scale in the county. There was discussion about the benefits available with the village. Chairman Bennett suggested that employees give up wages in exchange for benefits. Perhaps the police wage should be the average offered by the county. Chief Drollinger would like to proceed. Treasurer Odom entered the meeting and joined the discussion. Chairman Bennett asked about the current officer's satisfaction with his employment. He asked whether there was a backup plan. Chief Drollinger indicated that Mark Berreth and Bradley Keiser are the reserve officers. Chairman Bennett asked Treasurer Odom for her thoughts on a third patrolman. She stated that they would have to find the money. There is \$10,000 to \$13,000 in the budget for a part-time officer. A full-time officer would require \$60,000 to \$70,000. Trustee McPherson asked whether there were any grants. Chief Drollinger asked about the required amount based on the current figures in the budget. A single person is less expensive because the health insurance cost is less. Chief Drollinger reported that Officer McBee has requested permission to grow facial hair. There is no official policy. Officers have to be clean groomed. Chief Drollinger did not think it was a problem but asked for members' opinions. All agreed it is okay so long as it is trimmed. Next, Chief Drollinger discussed using the funds allocated for a part-time officer but not used, to purchase two speed signs, at \$4800 each, or a speed trailer at \$8000. The signs are solar-powered. The trailer has been requested at various locations within the village and helps to slow traffic. Trustee Boyd suggested that two pole signs plus the current trailer would be a good option. One sign would be located on North Bridge the other on Cayuga in front of the court house. The request to purchase the two signs will be presented to village council at the next meeting. Trustee Boyd asked whether the fuel card had been investigated. Treasurer Odom has already set it up. The final item addressed by Chief Drollinger is the boat parked in the right-of-way. He reported that in previous years the boat has been parked temporarily then moved before snowfall. He did not think the owner was in town. According to Clerk Luckett, the village code will have to be amended to permanently address this issue. Chief Drollinger said he would deal with this matter when he returns from deer season. Chairman Bennett reported on the Community Huddle and questions raised about the sale of the community hall. Trustee Boyd suggested the possibility of a long-term lease versus sale of the building. Chairman Bennett thinks the school may be a good option as a possible location of the village offices. Alternative space for the evidence locker may be needed. There are pros, cons, and many questions to be considered.

- 9. **Communication/Informational:** None presented.
- 10. **Closing Member/Public Comments:** None presented.
- 11. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Compiled by Lori A. Luckett, Clerk
Minutes are subject to approval

Approved: _____
Daniel Bennett, Chairman

Date: _____