

VILLAGE OF BELLWOOD
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 17, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
2nd Floor - Board Room

Call to Order

The Board meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bellwood was called to order by Mayor Harvey at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Andre Harvey, Village Clerk Janel Moreland, Trustees Ciavattone, Boston, Holman, Robinson, Delgado, and Nightengale.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Village Board and others in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Harvey.

Presentation:

Police Chief Jiminez Allen presented Commander Jack Bridson and award for his years of service at Bellwood. He is retiring after 30 years of service. He began his journey with Bellwood 1/4/1993. Chief Allen presented Police Officer Shawn Clark with an award for his years of service and for performing medical emergency life saving measures on 10/11/2022. Officer Clark has been with Bellwood for 20 years (5/9/2003). Lastly, Chief Allen presented Public Works employee Tom White and animal advocate Elena Lacably with a Chief of Police Citizen Award for maintaining the village kennel, animal welfare, providing supplies and care to the stray animals with no home.

Swearing In of Elected Officials (Trustees):

Fire and Police Commissioner Gay Chase swore in and presented the three recently re-elected trustees with their certification from Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough's Office. Taking the oath on May 17, 2023, was Trustees M.C. Robinson, Gloria Holman and Jophelia Boston.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to approve the May 17, 2023, board meeting agenda. Trustee Robinson moved, seconded by Trustee Delgado to approve the board meeting agenda. Upon a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to approve the minutes of the last Special Board meeting (April 19, 2023). Trustee Boston moved, seconded by Trustee Ciavattone to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last Board meeting and approve the minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. **Public Works Department**

Trustee Ciavattone reported the following:

Public works continues to perform their daily requirements for the month of April 2023. Water main breaks -3, fire hydrant repair -1, Sewer mains jetted -3. Water meter replacement program continues. street light pole replaced-3, street light head replaced-3, streetlights repaired -7, traffic light repaired-2, street signs replaced-7, sidewalk inspections-23, potholes filled throughout the village-714. Tree maintenance- trees removed-6, trees trimmed-64.

We are recommending the following items for approval on the consent agenda:

- Item A – Allows for the Sale of certain public work vehicles.
- Item B – Provides for the purchase of a public works truck.
- Item D – Approves the lowest responsible bidder for the 2023 street resurfacing project.

Always remember our first responders, medical personnel, military personnel, active duty, veterans, and volunteers. Gave the meaning of Memorial Day.

B. **Community Development**

Trustee Boston reported the following:

There are several items to report from the Community Development Committee.

The final group was installed last week on the new seniors building at 524 25th avenue. Framing on the third and fourth floors are expected to be completed soon. The contractor expects to be installing drywall on both floors by the end of this month. Issued permits for the elevator installation.

Quik Trip project located at 1040 25th Avenue. Issued temporary occupancy for the building to be stocked and training of new employees. The grand opening will be held tomorrow, May 18th.

Work is on the way of the remodel of Aldis supermarket located at 400 Mannheim Road. The first inspection is on schedule for this week.

The demolition of the building on the site of the new Dunkin Donuts on 25th Avenue has been completed. Dunkin Donuts will be relocating across the street to 445 25th Avenue.

The building department has approved occupancies for the following businesses: Best Buy Furniture at 625 25th Avenue. Temporary occupancy was issued for the furniture to be brought in. Final inspections and occupancy approval are still required for a business license. 6 other new businesses have also applied for occupancy.

The village is in constant communication with developers about potential projects in Bellwood. We are recommending the following items for approval on the consent agenda:

- Item E – Provides for the purchase of the real estate commonly referred to as 200 30th Avenue.

C. Quality of Life

Trustee Holman reported the following:

From the committee of Quality of Life, Bellwood Community Resource Center monthly activity from April 1 – April 30, 2023, had one hundred eleven patrons.

The Building Department reviewed three hundred and twenty-four applications and issued one hundred seven permits.

We are recommending the following items on the consent agenda:

- Item C – Approves special use permit for property commonly referred to as 2600 Washington Blvd.

D. Administration

Trustee Robinson reported the following:

We are recommending the following items from the consent agenda.

- Item F – Illinois Municipal League asks to adopt a civility pledge.

F. Public Safety

Trustee Delgado reported the following:

We are recommending the following item from the consent agenda.

- Item G – Provides for purchase of a new ambulance.

D. Finance Committee

Trustee Nightengale reported the following:

- I would like a motion to pay bills in the amount of \$2,0118,723.05 when funds become available.

We have no items appearing on the consent agenda.

Trustee Ciavattone moved, seconded by Trustee Holman to pay the bills when funds become available. The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

Ayes:	6	Trustees Ciavattone, Boston, Holman, Robinson, Delgado, and Nightengale
Nays:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	0	

Ad Hoc Committees: Nothing to report.

Ordinance 23-03

- A. An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposition of Personal Property of the Village of Bellwood.

Resolution 23-24

- B. A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Purchase of a Village Vehicle for the Public Works Department.

Ordinance 23-04

- C. An Ordinance Granting a Conditional Use for the property commonly referred to as 2600 Washington Blvd., Unit C, Bellwood, Illinois 60104 (Cordero Transport, Inc.).

Resolution 23-25

- D. A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement by and between the Village of Bellwood and Pave Works, Inc.

Ordinance 23-05

- E. An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of and Approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement for Real Estate commonly referred to as 200 30th Avenue, Bellwood, Illinois, 60104.

Resolution 23-26

- F. A Resolution Adopting a Civility Pledge.

Resolution 23-27

- G. A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Purchase of an Ambulance for the Fire Department.

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to place the items on the Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Holman moved, seconded by Trustee Ciavattone.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

Ayes: 6 Trustees Ciavattone, Boston, Holman, Robinson, Delgado, and Nightengale
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 0

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Boston, seconded by Trustee Nightengale.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

Ayes: 6 Trustees Ciavattone, Boston, Holman, Robinson, Delgado, and Nightengale
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 0

Village Clerk’s Report

The Village Clerk report was removed from the Board Meeting Agenda at the request of Mayor Harvey.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Harvey reported the following:

- i. Tomorrow is the grand opening for the Quik Trip on 25th & Harrison. It starts at 9am. I think Quik Trip is going to be a real gem for the village.
- ii. Last week, the village of Bellwood participated in an Autism Walk to raise money for autism awareness at Proviso West. Thanks, Tonita LeShore, for putting a team together. The village sponsored the event and had the most people. We have an employee, Tyreese that works for the village part time as a custodian, who suffers from autism. He raised the most money.
- iii. Mother’s Day breakfast last Saturday. We had over 200 participants.
- iv. Teen Zone being used. In June we will be sharing the teen zone with district 88. They will be having another STEAM program from June 20-July 30 from 8am-noon. Teen Zone is still open to our residents and our community from 3pm-9pm weekly.
- v. Director of Homeland Security Mike Sabel’s mother passed. Services are as we speak, and tomorrow is the funeral.
- vi. Having a road to 2050 GForce meeting on May 22nd at 6pm Roosevelt Middle School. It’s about how we’re going to cope in the future having a green community and equitable community.
- vii. Speaker of the House Chris Welch is having his annual Juneteenth and Father’s Day festival, Monday, June 19th from 2-6pm at Memorial Park at Eisenhower Park.

- viii. Juneteenth celebration and street naming dedication for Northica Stone of Operation Uplift on June 17, 2023, 1pm at the 5th & St. Charles location.
- ix. Tomorrow, our neighborhood watch meeting at 7pm. The topic is gun safety.

New Business:

The mayor reported the following:

We have been in negotiation with Teamster Local 705 and I believe they have come to an agreement with the contract to rectify and we will be presenting that to the board sometime within the next week or so.

Unfinished Business:

None.

Public Comment:

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to open the floor for Public Comment.

Trustee Ciavattone made a motion and Trustee Boston seconded to open the floor for public comment.

All Trustees were in favor of opening the floor. Upon a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Harvey declared the floor for public comment open.

Roy Canada –

- I'm tired of fighting. Trying to get something done and get answers around here. Water reservoir – I went to the proviso assessor's office trying to get my flood insurance down. They said we need a lmoa (land map of amendment) to tell if we're in the flood zone.
- Grocery store – Are we trying to get a grocery store?
- Perkins Funeral Home – Why isn't he getting license to open on 30th and St. Charles Road? He's been trying for three years and can't get in here.
- Clean up week – When you publish stuff in the newsletter, it's a month old. Can we get that earlier?

Amy Crump Bellwood Library Director –

- The Bellwood Public Library provided services to 2,133 people in April. The library is starting work on our 2024-2026 Strategic Plan, and we have a community survey that is available on our website, in the newsletter that just got mailed and printed copies in the library. Everyone who turns in a survey will get a treat and entered into a drawing for a Target gift card.

Connie Riales Library Board President –

- Roosevelt Middle School Students are coming to the Bellwood Public Library. We're starting our herb garden next to the little food pantry, this Friday, May 19th at 3:30pm.

Mayor Harvey asked for a motion to close the floor for Public Comment. Trustee Delgado made a motion and Trustee Holman seconded to close the floor for public comment.

All Trustees were in favor of closing the floor. Upon a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Harvey declared the floor for public comment closed.

Mayor Harvey addressed the concerns mentioned in public comment:

- Mr. Canada brought up flood insurance and we've went over this for the last two years. Mr. Canada, please let me speak, it's my floor now. The village of Bellwood does not own the detention pond. That's owned by the water reclamation, they are in charge. The village of Bellwood has nothing to do with your flood insurance, that's FEMA. The Army Corp of Engineers will come in on their timeline. We don't get to pick up the phone and tell them when we want them to come out. That could be one day, six months or ten years after it's online. They redraw the flood map. I've talked about this in meetings before.
- Grocery store, I've talked about this before. The Village of Bellwood does not own a grocery store. Our economic development calls everyday any and everybody that will do a grocery store. We do not do community grocery stores. If we did, we would probably have to pay a lot of money and raise your taxes to have a community grocery store. That's not what the village is in the business for. Grocery stores are in the business to make money. They decide where they want to put a grocery store. You need about eight acres of land to open a true grocery store. If you can find eight acres of land in the village of Bellwood, I would have my economic developer to continue to call and tell them we have a bunch of land to open a grocery store. Aldis, definition by retailer

association of America has named Aldi as one of the top five grocery stores in America. I know you can buy black pepper from Aldi and Mama Roses. I know Mama Roses is in financial trouble because people weren't patronizing them, so they closed their doors temporarily. If people don't patronize them, why would I come to any community where I'm not going to make money, that's not going to be patronized. You said why I looked at you strange because you can go to Aldi and buy groceries. There's a lot of things you can't buy in Bellwood, but we're stuck on this grocery store. Four big box stores closed in Chicago last month because they said they're not making enough money. How can we get them here if they're walking away from Chicago where they have a lot of people. Sav A Lot has been here twice, and they keep leaving. Why are they leaving? Let's answer that first.

- You said about the funeral home, you would be better off asking Mr. Perkins why he's not open. The Village Bellwood does not stop people from opening businesses if you have everything you're supposed to have. I think it's an unfair question for you to ask me why Mr. Perkins is not open. If he had everything he's supposed to have and moved at the pace he wanted to move, he could open tomorrow.
- Clean up week, every year we spend a good number of dollars to give you a calendar and clean up week is marked in the calendar. It's in there for twice a year. If you didn't get a calendar, I can get you one. I've made sure we had enough calendars for anyone who wants a calendar.
- **Mr. Canada** – can I come back at you and say something else. **Mayor** – Naaah, the floor is closed, I let you have your time. You can come to my office any day of the week and you can pick up the phone and call my office, the street department, and talk to all these department heads and ask any question you want.

Adjournment:

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Trustee Delgado moved, seconded by Trustee Holman & Boston, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Harvey declared the meeting adjourned, with no further business to come before this Board, this meeting stands adjourned at 6:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janel Moreland
Village Clerk