

**VILLAGE OF BELLWOOD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2025**

The Village of Bellwood conducted a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 3:30p.m. in the Village Board Room at 3200 Washington Boulevard, Bellwood, IL. 60104-1984.

Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bellwood was called to order by Mayor Harvey at 3:34p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2025. The meeting started late due to the late arrival of Attorney Michael Castaldo III.

Roll Call

Those in attendance were Mayor Harvey, Clerk Janel Moreland, Trustees Ciavattone, Boston, Holman, Robinson, Delgado, Nightengale, Willie Norfleet (Finance), Attorney Michael Castaldo III.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approve Minutes of last Committee of a Whole Meeting
3. Approve Agenda for Committee of a Whole Meeting
4. Trustee Committee Reports
 - a. Public Works – Trustee Ciavattone, Chairman; Trustee Delgado, Member
 - b. Community Development – Trustee Boston, Chairman; Trustee Robinson, Member
 - c. Quality of Life - Trustee Holman, Chairman; Trustee Boston, Member
 - d. Administration – Trustee Robinson, Chairman; Trustee Ciavattone
 - e. Public Safety – Trustee Delgado, Chairman; Trustee Nightengale, Member
 - f. Finance – Trustee Nightengale, Chairman; Trustee Holman, Member
 - g. Ad Hoc Committees – Traffic Safety
5. Department Head Reports
 - a. Economic Development
 - i. Capital Project
 - ii. Developmental Projects
 - b. Finance Director/Comptroller
 - i. Utility Collection Billing and collection Status
 - ii. Payments of Bills
 - iii. Review of Revenue and Investments
 - iv. Inventory
 - v. Bidding
 - c. Police Department – Police Chief
 - d. Fire Department – Fire Chief
 - e. Director of Public Works
 - i. Street Department
 - ii. Water Department
 - f. Village Engineer
 - g. Building Commissioner
 - h. Director of Human Resources
 - i. Village Attorney/Corporation Counsel
 - i. Litigation (item to be reported on in executive session if required)
 - ii. Contract negotiations (item to be reported on in executive session if required), and
 - iii. Pending legal matters.
6. Clerk's Report – Per Mayor Harvey & Attorney Castaldo, the clerk will no longer give a report and Attorney Castaldo removed it from the agenda effective April 2021.
7. Mayor's Report
8. New Business – Discussion/Agenda Items for upcoming board meeting
9. Unfinished Business
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to approve the agenda for the March 10, 2025, COW meeting. Trustee Delgado made a motion and Trustee Robinson seconded to accept the agenda of the regular COW meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously to approve March 10, 2025, COW Meeting Agenda. Mayor Harvey requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, COW meeting. Trustee Holman made a motion and Trustee Ciavattone seconded to accept the minutes of the last regular COW

meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously to approve February 10, 2025, COW meeting minutes.

Committee Reports

Trustee Ciavattone: regular report

Trustee Boston: regular report

Trustee Holman: regular report

Trustee Robinson: regular report

Trustee Delgado: regular report

Trustee Nightengale: regular report

Ad Hoc:

Department Head Reports

Economic Development

Peter Tsiolis reported the following:

A few items under new business and presenting for approval at the board meeting:

- i. Next week Item D on the agenda will be an amendment to the Enterprise Zone required by state law.
- ii. Progress on the two single family homes on 24th Avenue. They will be the largest homes in the single-family initiative, all brick.
- iii. Development moving along 25th Avenue. Will start to see the demolition of the old Sure Built building. It will be demolished this month and will be replaced by a brand-new state-of-the-art building 200,000 square feet as Bellwood becomes hot for manufacturing.
- iv. Other developments are taking place on Mannheim. They're still in the early stages. Properties are being bought on Mannheim to bring in some national chains and a host of other opportunities on 25th Avenue we'll be bringing to your attention closer to fruition.
- v. There will be a public hearing next week at 5:45pm for the appropriation of the budget.

Finance Director/Comptroller

Willie Norfleet reported the following:

- i. Utility billing for January 2025 was billed \$658,000 and collection for the same time was \$917,000.
- ii. Receivables for refuge, water & sewer is \$1,300,000, which represents 2 billings behind in terms of paying the current bill and what is owed delinquent.
- iii. Year to date total for turn-on for water fees 10 and 19 new owner fees.
- iv. January 2025, the cash receipts we collected were \$2,800,000 for a year-to-date total is the same because it's the first month of the fiscal year.
- v. In February 2025, Bellwood processed invoices in the amount of \$3,400,000 and we have the cashflow to make those payments.
- vi. Revenue for the General fund we bought in \$1,800,000 and we spent \$3,600,000, which means our revenue is \$1.8 million behind. We haven't posted the real estate payments received at the end of February as well as March which will put us a few million dollars ahead.
- vii. January General Fund we have interest of \$96,000 and February \$81,000 for year-to-date total of \$187,540.

Police Department

Chief Allen reported the following:

- i. 3 officers in the Field Training Officer program and doing very well and 2 in the academy. We have 2 spots for the next academy and I'm doing backgrounds on those now.
- ii. Doing interviews for Commander position, Special Response Team and School Resource Officer.
- iii. We had a couple of officers that retired; Mst Sergeant Buckner on February 26th, Officer Hopkins on February 11th. April 1st Commander Goodrum will be retiring after 26 years.
- iv. The first Neighborhood Watch Meeting is coming up on March 20th. The mayor will be doing the presentation.
- v. We're getting ready for our summer program which will entail foot patrol.
- vi. On May 16th we will be doing our Cop on Top with both Dunkin Donuts locations.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Reitz reported the following:

- i. On February 10th the fire department assisted Westchester with the apartment fire on Mannheim Road.
- ii. On the 20th of February we had a fatality of the gentleman on the I290 expressway.
- iii. This past Saturday the fire department participated in an annual chili cookoff hosted by Topflight Defense NFP run by veteran women who promote health and wellness in the communities. Last year we took 1st place and this year we repeated it and took 1st place again.

Director of Public Works

Superintendent Marty Walker reported the following:

- i. Yard waste and branch pick up will begin March 31st. No stickers and yard waste must be placed in biodegradable bags.
- ii. Street sweeping has begun. We will have 2 sweepers out, one at night and one during the day.
- iii. Tree trimming and removal block by block. Currently on the south side of town.
- iv. Leak detection will begin in April. They take a look at our whole system and see if there are any leaks.

Village Engineer

Chuck Hodges from Hancock Engineering reported the following:

- i. We have 3 items looking for action on during the upcoming board meeting.
- ii. Contract to the lowest bidder on the traffic signal installation project. That's the installation of traffic signals on 25th Avenue and Washington Blvd. for a total of 5.
- iii. Low bidder on the Hydro Excavation Project. Helping with the identification of lead service in town. There are approximately 200 locations and Calumet City Plumbing was the lowest bidder.
- iv. Resolution that will have to accompany the village's application for funds from the Cook County Development Block Grant Program. \$500K cap for funding and we've identified and will be applying. The dollar amount applying for is estimated at \$440,000.

Building Commissioner

Jim Stock reported the following:

- i. The buildings in the Gateway project are moving along quickly. Over the next two weeks they will be working on the roof for both buildings and windows will be going in.
- ii. Demolition at 840 25th Avenue, waiting on one more contractor to register.

BOEM/Homeland Security –

Mike Sabel reported the following:

- i. On the 17th of last month our department was called out for a couple of traffic accidents. The first one was on 25th and Harrison for a light that was hit and falling over. Right after we got called out by the police department on 25th and Madison for a car accident that hit the bus shelter.
- ii. On the 19th we got called by the Illinois State Police to assist with the accident the fire chief was talking about. We assisted on Mannheim and 25th.

Director of Human Resources

Tonita LeShore was absent, and Deborah Jenkins reported the following:

- i. Starting the Summer Youth Program. Application pick up is on April 11th from 3-5pm.
- iii. Encouraging everyone to sign up for our e-newsletter.

Village Clerk – At Mayor Harvey's request the clerk will no longer give a report and Attorney Castaldo removed it from the agenda. The Clerk is no longer given the opportunity to give a report.

Mayor

Mayor Harvey reported the following:

- i. The mayor asked Chief Reitz to expound on the accident on the expressway. A man was on 290 expressway and a man got hit by vehicles. We handle 17th Avenue to Mannheim Road north bound portion.
- ii. Over the last so many years crime is down 52%.
- iii. Bellwood, Maywood, Broadview mayors have been in Washington DC for the last 3 days. We've taken youth from our community. This is the 3rd time that we've done this to learn how businesses

are run and to interact with others. What it's like to run villages. I had to come back because I had to run the COW meeting.

- iv. Thanks to Peter and everyone involved in the Gateway project.
- v. Valentine's Dance was phenomenal. We had over 300 participants. Everyone had a good time. Thanks to the volunteers.
- vi. The Mother's Day event is coming up soon.

New Businesses

Attorney Castaldo III had no report.

Presentation: The auditor from Sikich gave a brief overview about the Village of Bellwood 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Audit Report. This report can be found with the Village Clerk or Finance Director.

Unfinished Business

None.

Public Comment

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to open the floor for Public Comment. Trustee Delgado made a motion and Trustee Ciavattone seconded to open the floor for public comment.

All Trustees were in favor of opening the floor for public comment. Upon a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Harvey declared the floor for public comment open.

There was no public comment and no public comment

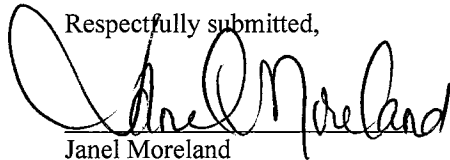
Mayor Harvey requested a motion to close the floor for Public Comment. Trustee Delgado made a motion and Trustee Holman seconded to close the floor for public comment.

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.

Adjournment

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to adjourn the Committee of The Whole meeting at 3:95pm. Motion made by Trustee Nightengale seconded by Trustee Holman 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 3:59p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janel Moreland", written over a horizontal line.

Janel Moreland
Village Clerk