

**VILLAGE OF BELLWOOD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2023**

The Village of Bellwood conducted a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, March 13, 2023, 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 3:30 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2023.

Roll Call

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

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, removed from agenda.
7. Mayor's Report
8. New Business – Discussion/Agenda Items for upcoming board meeting
9. Unfinished Business
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to approve the agenda for the March 13, 2023, COW meeting. Trustee Delgado made a motion and Trustee Ciavattone seconded to accept the agenda of the regular COW meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2023, regular COW meeting. Trustee Holman made a motion and Trustee Boston seconded to accept the minutes of the last regular COW meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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: no report

Department Head Reports

Economic Development

Peter Tsohis reported the following:

- i. Setting up meetings next week with developers interested in Bellwood. Different type of developers. They get more excited when they come to visit the town and see all the developments going on.
- ii. Waiting for the market study on St. Charles Road. As soon as that comes in he will come and have a sit down with us for St. Charles Downtown Development Project that the state was kind enough to give us twelve million dollars for in a grant.
- iii. The diner on 25th and Madison, we're waiting for the architect engineer to submit the drawings based on his plan reviews.

Finance Director/Comptroller

Willie Norfleet reported the following:

- i. Utility billing for the month of January we billed \$1,562,783.76 which is \$156K less than this same time a year ago. Billing went down for January.
- ii. Collection this month January same time period we actually collected \$522K, which is \$71K less than the same time a year ago. The billing and collection went down but we're still pretty much the same.
- iii. Revenues are doing well. January, we collected approximately \$6.4 million in overall revenue of the ones that we're tracking, which is \$4 million ahead of last year the same time because we got our county money that we didn't get for 4 months, it came in January.
- iv. Investments last year January we collected approximately \$5K in interest. This January we have a composite of \$27K we have a \$21K increase because we have more money invested this year than we did last year this time.
- v. Payment of bills, we paid \$1.7 million no particular expenditures.

Police Department

Chief Allen reported the following:

- i. We have one new officer in the Academy, Jose Gonzalez he's doing pretty well.
- ii. We have one item on the consent agenda, Item C, for the purchase of back up radios.
- iii. First beat meeting of the year is March 16th at 7pm. Cook County Sherrif department to come out and talk about sex trafficking.
- iv. I attended the meeting at PLCCA on March 10th.
- v. One of our new officers in training resigned on March 7th. He wasn't responding to training, Mr. Alfonso Ramirez.

Fire Department

Chief Dombek reported the following:

- i. Joined Triton Advisory Board program that the mayor and I are graduates from.
- ii. This Wednesday we will be at Roosevelt Middle School for career day.
- iii. A resident brought a fruit basket for installing a child safety seat for her granddaughter.

BOEM

Mike Sabel reported the following:

- i. Had the annual siren tested and checked. Repaired a couple of things that were wrong.
- ii. A couple of us participated in the CPD Officer's funeral.

Village Engineer

Chuck Hodges from Hancock Engineering reported the following:

- i. The village will be submitting two grant applications this Friday. The Cook County, one for the CDBG Project with the alley construction project. Reconstruct the alley located between Bellwood Avenue and Bohland Avenue in the 1000 block which is between Jackson and Van Buren Street and between 31st & 32nd Avenue. Those will be targeted for funding and improvement. The 1100 block from 31st & 32nd Avenue from Van Buren Street to Addison Creek. We will be submitting that application this Friday. It's part of the action items on the agenda. The resolution authorizes that application to be submitted.
- ii. An invest in cook application will be submitted on Friday improving Maywood Drive from 25th Avenue to the East Village limits. The village of Maywood is doing a similar improvement to improve Maywood Drive up to 19th Avenue.
- iii. Preconstruction meetings setup for IDOT sponsored street resurfacing project for Eastern Avenue from Harrison Street to Madison Street and Harrison from Bellwood Avenue to 25th Avenue. JA Johnson Paving was the lowest bidder on the later of the two projects.
- iv. In the design phase we have 24th Avenue from Madison Street to Washington Blvd.
- v. Curb and sidewalks from last year, all locations have been submitted to complete. One or two are not finished. We've sent them emails and waiting for response. All the curb programs are done but the sidewalks have a couple to be completed. Mayor - Can we stay on the contractors because there are residents that paid their money to have their sidewalks repaired?

Director of Public Works

Marty Walker reported the following:

- i. Sewer televising crew that were doing work on the west end are wrapping it up and should be done this Friday.
- ii. Friday, April begins yard waste and branch pick up. Again, residents will not have to use yard waste stickers this year just as long as its in a biodegradable bag.
- iii. The meter project is moving forward. Started on the west end and taking appointments on the middle, southside and east of Mannheim sections.

Building Commissioner

Jim Stock reported the following:

- i. The Senior building is moving right along. There's a lot of work going on the inside. They put a temporary roof to keep the water out so they can work on all four floors. 95% of the framing done on the 2nd floor and working upward with framing and plumbing. Still projecting completion in August.
- ii. 1040 25th Quik Trip scheduled to do a final inspection on March 27th on the building itself. This does not include the outside. Still planning to have a grand opening the end of April.
- iii. We've given three occupancies for three new businesses in town and have applications for more.

Director of Human Resources

Tonita LeShore reported the following.

- i. The flyer went out in the newsletter for the student summer work program. Give out the applications on April 14th.
- ii. CEDA weatherization program will be here on April 27th at the village hall from 9am-3pm in the community room HR completed interviews for Meter Reader and Public Service Dept. We are in the process of getting those individuals hired for those positions.

Village Clerk - The Village Clerk Report has been removed from the COW Agenda and the Clerk was not asked to report.

Mayor

Mayor Harvey reported the following:

- i. I did meet with PLCCA with Broadview, Maywood, and various chiefs for R3 initiative. It is a grant program that is going to allow PLCCA into School District 209 schools. We are working

- with them with our police departments. A program to talk to our at-risk kids. Kids that are on the verge of being expelled. We are trying to get in the schools to put together programs to support our young men and women in the schools. Myself, Chief Allen and Commander Goodrum attended.
- ii. The board approved digitizing records resolution. We've had meetings with impact. If there's any department that needs further instructions on how to do the digitizing records please let Aric know. All offices have been trying even the clerk's office. We want to get old files that's taking up space digitize them and get them in the cloud, scanned and on the computer to free up space so we don't run out of space. I know this will take a few years to get all documents digitized. The end goal is to be able to access those documents via website. People will be able to access documents that they can access.
 - iii. We are one of the last villages to update the water meters. The same with our documents.
 - iv. Gather information on our website of email and phone numbers of our residents. We have a great number of information to get out to our people via email, text when there's a crisis or emergency. This is to get us into the 21st century.
 - v. Neighborhood Watch starts March 16th, we have a fantastic topic which is sex trafficking. About 2 months ago a man called me on Sunday about his niece who is 16 years old. She was missing from the family for the last 2-3 days. He found out that she was possibly in a house in Bellwood on 46th street. He wanted the police to go over there and get her because she was being held against her will by a man in his 20s. She ended up being in a house in Maywood for 4-5 days and was prostituted out. When she was turned over, she said that she slept with 16 people. One man out of 17 went to the house and said she was a child he wasn't having sex with a child.
 - vi. Saw Installation of the new pastor of Monroe Baptist Church, DeAndre Hill. He started shepherding for the Lord around the age of 19. I will be going to hear him speak very soon.

New Businesses

Attorney Castaldo reported the following:

Several items to appear on the consent agenda for Wednesday the 15th. As requested on the agenda today as well.

- i. There will be a public hearing at 5:45pm on Wednesday. Items A & B - Appropriations Ordinances and Supplemental Appropriations from last year.
- ii. Items C & D - have been reported on.
- iii. Item E - is the maintenance agreement for the phone system. Purchased over a year ago and we're just renewing the agreement.
- iv. Item F - Update to pending litigations. Three different settlements on the agenda for Wednesday. We're entering into a settlement for the opioid litigation. State reached a settlement with the pharmaceutical companies, so we will be participating in that settlement. We've also reached an agreement with one of our employees filed a workers compensation claim. Those are in dropbox for you to review. Finally, we have reached a settlement regarding pending litigation. Very reasonable settlement. \$5K to resolve the litigation that would've cost us much more to move forward with the adjustment process that counsel feels extremely positive that we will prevail in. It would just be better to make the economic decision to resolve it for \$5K. All those documents are available in dropbox as well.

Unfinished Business

None.

Public Comment

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

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

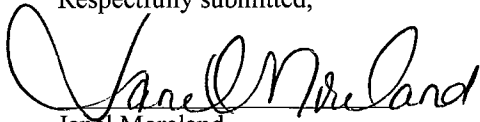
Hearing no Public Comment - Mayor Harvey asked for a motion to close the floor for Public Comment. Trustee Ciavattone made a motion and Trustee Holman seconded to close the floor for public comment. All Trustees were in favor to close the floor. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Harvey declared the floor for public comment closed.

Adjournment

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to adjourn the Committee of The Whole. Motion made by Trustee Nightengale seconded by Trustee Boston to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion 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 that reads "Janel Moreland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Janel Moreland
Village Clerk