

VILLAGE OF BELLWOOD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2024

The Village of Bellwood conducted a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, October 14, 2024, 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 3:31p.m. on Monday, October 14, 2024.

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, the clerk will no longer give a report and Attorney Castaldo removed it from the agenda.
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 October 14, 2024, COW meeting. Trustee Robinson made a motion and Trustee Delgado seconded to accept the agenda of the regular COW meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously to approve the October 14, 2024, COW Meeting Agenda.

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024, COW meeting. Trustee Boston made a motion and Trustee Holman seconded to accept the minutes of the last regular

COW meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously to approve the September 9, 2024, 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: no report

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. We received \$2.5 million dollars from the State of Illinois for one of the grants we applied for. We have two outstanding grants that will be coming in. The major one is the \$12 million dollar grant for the downtown Bellwood. That'll be about \$20 million dollars in grant money that we've received within the last couple of years.
- ii. Bellwood Gateway Project is on the way. Between 28th and 27th, you'll see both apartment buildings going up. Multiple conversations with other developers that are still in the preliminary stages for 25th Avenue and Mannheim Road.
- iii. We did complete the bond deal; financing pre-existing debt that was prior to your administration. This goes back to 2005-2008 and we have a much better interest rate. This will save the village about \$525K in interest charges.

Finance Director/Comptroller

Willie Norfleet reported the following:

- i. Utility billing for August 2024 was billed \$688,180 and collected \$718,730. Year to date billing for all utilities was at \$4,711,157.00 (refuge, water and sewer).
- ii. Receivable for refuge - \$505,278. The combined outstanding amount for August.
- iii. Water & sewer the receivable is \$994,864.00 people current, and delinquent owes that revenue.
- iv. As of August 31, 2024, we've had 185 turn-on fees and 226 new owner fees.
- v. In August 2024, the cash receipts were \$8.5 million. The year-to-date total is \$41.7 million money that has come into the village.
- vi. In September 2024, the village of Bellwood processed invoices of \$3.2 million and we have the cash flow to pay it.
- vii. Year to date revenue for the General fund we bought in \$26,369,297 for 77% of the budget and we spent \$23,586,371, which represents 70%. This gives us a revenue overage of \$2.7 million at this time.
- viii. The water and sewer fund we have a combined total of \$4,978,000 for 58% of the budget and we spent \$4,248,390 for 51% of the budget, which gives us revenue overage of \$730,291.
- ix. Interest for the month of August, we have collected \$107,209. The year-to-date total is \$729,513. The month of September we collected \$103,000 in interest for a year-to-date total of \$833,294, recognizing that the interest rate is going down.

Police Department

Chief Allen reported the following:

- i. We participated in the Tour de Proviso on October 5th. It was a complete success.
- ii. 4 Officers in the academy and 1 in the FTO Program all are doing well.
- iii. Currently doing 10 background checks 6 of them sent to the fire and police commissioners.
- iv. We have a new CSO that has started, Pamela Johnson, she is currently in training.
- v. Master Sergeant Alberto Villarreal started today. He's in training. He has past experiences from across the street and has been here for 17 years.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Reitz reported the following:

- i. On the 21st of September, Bellwood Fire Department hosted a child safety seat check. We had 13 vehicles come through, we inspected 16 seats, 7 Bellwood families received new car seats from that check. The car seats were donated by the State of Illinois Safe Kid Worldwide Org.
- ii. On Saturday, we held the first ever fire safety event in collaboration with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. We did fire extinguisher training, hands on. We lit a fire, and people had the opportunity to put it out. We also did a class on smoke alarms and mild CPR training. We gave away at home CPR kits, extinguishers and smoke alarms. Everyone who attended received something.
- iii. With the smoke alarm program, we installed over 40 smoke alarms for Bellwood residents.
- iv. We're currently accepting applications online. We're required by law to have a current eligibility list every 2 years. The applications are available until the 23rd of this month. The orientation will be on the 9th of November. Call the station with any questions.

BOEM/Homeland Security –

Mike Sabel reported the following:

- i. We did traffic control for the water department; they had 2 water main breaks on Mannheim.
- ii. We participated in the Tour of Proviso, no issues moving from location to location.

Director of Public Works

Superintendent Marty Walker was absent. Asst. Superintendent Arnie Brown reported the following:

- i. The water department is repair sewers, water services and we're repairing and restoring parkways.
- ii. We are running 2 sweepers, one the night shift and the other at 7am-afternoon.
- iii. We're doing stump removals and filling it in with dirt and seeds. We let the residents know that they need to water them.
- iv. We had a successful clean up week. No calls the following week.
- v. We sent out 4 RFPs, request for proposals for the removal of spoils and dirt. We sent it out to GA Paving, Rodriguez Express, DNP Construction, and G2 Trucking, we received 2 back from GA Paving, Rodriguez Express. Rodriuez came in with the lowest bid and we ask to award the contract to them.

Building Commissioner

Jim Stock reported the following:

- i. We received the certification for the asbestos removal for 520 24th, once we receive that the demolition will start.
- ii. The 2 buildings with the Gateway Project are currently under construction. We have all the footings on the southside done, columns going up and the elevator is being walls are being constructed. They are working to get the footings and walls done on the north side. It's going very fast.
- iii. We have 3 items on the agenda for the board. 2 tax amendments for the planning commission and a conditional use for variance for 407 S. 25th Avenue The old daycare. The lady that purchased it is asking to convert it from multi use multi-family and commercial to full multi-family with 4 units.

Director of Human Resources

Tonita LeShore reported the following:

- i. Starting to receive ads for the 2025 calendar.

Village Engineer

Chuck Hodges from Hancock Engineering reported the following:

- i. We are not requesting any items to appear on the Village Board Meeting Agenda.
- ii. The 2024 sidewalk replacement project is now in 2 & 3 phases. There are now 3 phases.
- iii. The 2024 pavement patching project is about 90% complete. We should be wrapping that up tomorrow.
- iv. Work has started on the Maywood Drive Street resurfacing project. Completion day is around April.
- v. There is a lead time for the traffic signal post. They'll be installed in the spring.

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. Thank you for your assistance on everything that happened over the last few months.
- ii. Tour de Proviso had over 500 participants and at least 400 riders. Mayor explained again how it all started during covid. Previously, we had a few problems with the Oak Park Police Department because they didn't want to participate in blocking streets. Next year it will be held in River Forest and Oak Park. They will be partnering, now their police department has the whole shebang.
- iii. Hispanic Heritage Fest thanks to everyone for all their hard work. We used to do a partnership with some other people but they didn't want to partner with us this time so we took the reins, and we do our own event, and we will continue to do our own event, we don't need nobody to partner with the village of Bellwood to do successful events. We had a full house. This event is not for the Hispanics, it's for the other cultures to come out and learn the other cultures. Just like the black history events. We already know our heritage; we want other people to learn our cultures.
- iv. Chief, thank you for the event with the Deltas. It was a fantastic event.
- v. We will be doing a career day at proviso west next week. The village of Broadview and Bellwood will be sponsoring the college career fair for our young people.
- vi. Neighborhood Watch Meeting this Thursday. We have Tara Stamps and Age Options to talk about options for our seniors.
- vii. There's a secret going around between Bellwood and Broadview. We are partnering with Neighborhood Heroes. It's an organization out of Chicago that chose Bellwood and Broadview to come and partner with us to do some mentoring and mentoring events for our kids. Be looking out for that and within the next week there will be a press conference and it's going to be huge. It's about environmental sustainability and what we're needing for the future.

New Businesses

Attorney Castaldo reported the following:

Most items have been reported on.

- i. Items A, B, and E – Have already been discussed.
- ii. Item C – We're going to update our conflict-of-interest policy that will be before you for the upcoming board meeting.
- iii. Item F – A real estate tax incentive for Proviso Drive Class 6b.
- iv. Finalizing the insurance renewal for November.

Unfinished Business

None.

Public Comment

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to open the floor for Public Comment. Trustee Ciavattone made a motion and Trustee Holman 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.

Resident Claudia M. Duncan – I just need to understand what's going on in the community in which I live. We definitely need this emergency mentoring with our children. These children are bored, idle, filled with negativities and have nothing to do and when you have nothing to do, your mind is underdeveloped. This is why we run into trouble with our children. Right now, I'm dealing with one situation that I have to go back to court for because children are off the chain. We need something for these kids to do, so I'm glad to hear about the mentoring program that's coming.

Mayor – I will get you that information about us partnering with Neighborhood Heroes and it is an excellent, excellent program for our youth.

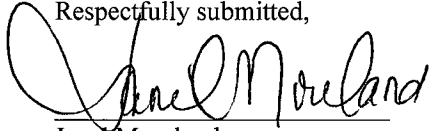
Mayor Harvey requested a motion to close the floor for Public Comment. Trustee Delgado made a motion and Trustee Ciavattone seconded to close the floor for public comment.

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 3:59pm. Motion made by Trustee Holman seconded by Trustee 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 3:59p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Moreland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jane Moreland
Village Clerk