

BELLEVUE TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

SUPERVISOR: Don Chase
CLERK: Lisa Lawitzke
TREASURER: Vickie Madry

TRUSTEE: Kyle Lang
TRUSTEE: Don Malinowski

DATE: April 15, 2025

Bellevue Township Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Don Chase.

Present: Don Chase, Vickie Madry, Kyle Lang, Lisa Lawitzke, Don Malinowski

Guests: Lynn Etson (Library Director), Dan Brunner (Assessor)

Public Comment: None

Minutes: A motion was made by Chase, seconded by Malinowski, to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2025, board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer: A list of Bellevue Twp. bank account balances as of March 31, 2025, was submitted.

Expenses: April Bills to be Paid report was submitted. A motion was made by Chase, seconded by Lang, to approve the expenses for April 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff: Mar. Event Summary report was submitted.

County Commissioner: No report.

Assessor: Property Transfer report for Mar. 2025 was submitted. There were 7 transfers. Response letters regarding March BOR assessment judgements were resent after some were lost in the mail.

Library: Fifty white pine seedlings, acquired from the Eaton Co. Conservation District, were handed out to celebrate Earth Day. All were distributed within the first hour. About 50 surveys have been returned to the library. The committee will be tallying responses at the meeting tomorrow.

Fire: The quarterly payments to the Fire Board were much higher than anticipated. Based on a suggestion from MTA, Chase, as Township Supervisor, will be taking one of the township's seats on the Fire Board, with Malinowski and Lang filling the other seat on a rotating basis for the time being, until all the Fire Board contracts are finalized. There was some confusion regarding what would be allowed, based on Village and county zoning restrictions, regarding the proposed fire barn location on West St. More investigation is necessary, and the Fire Board may need to purchase a larger portion of the school property, redesign the building, or apply for variances.

Roads: Burton and Sand roads are slated for work this season. River Rd. is scheduled for 2026. Next year is the last covered by the current road maintenance millage. MDOT will be doing cut and repair

work on M-78 this summer. There will be road work on several side streets in preparation for work that will close parts of the road in town.

New Business: Based on last month's report that the cemetery has enough space to last at least 30 years, Malinowski wondered if the township should look into purchasing property from the school district that abuts the current cemetery boundary, near the football field, to expand the cemetery for future use. **A motion was made by Malinowski, seconded by Chase, to approach Bellevue Community Schools for the purpose of discussing possible purchase of school property adjacent to Riverside Cemetery, particularly in the area of the football field and adjacent ball fields. The motion passed unanimously.**

Supervisor/ Cemetery: There have been 10 burials at Riverside already this year, 5 in the last week. Spring clean-up of the cemetery begins tomorrow. There are no plans for additional projects this year beyond what's necessary for general upkeep and maintenance. There will be weed spraying along the fence line adjacent to the school property, continuing the project started last year. The fence may need to be replaced if it's not in good enough shape to be repaired. People have been transporting yard waste to the cemetery to dump since the Village closed the compost site. Chase attended the first county budget meeting. If things seem bad now, they'll get worse, especially if the Public Safety Millage doesn't pass in May. There were complaints about the Drain Commission hiring out work rather than the work being done by the commissioner and staff. There was an 11.6% increase in the assessed value of farmland in the county, but only a 3.5% increase in taxable value. All the departments at the county are using their funds as wisely as possible already. New flags will be going up in the cemeteries next month.

Old Business: The Consumers Energy Company Electric Franchise Ordinance was taken up after being tabled at the March meeting. Consumers agreed to shortening the term of the agreement to 10 years from the 30 years initially proposed. **A motion was made by Lawitzke, seconded by Malinowski, to approve Ordinance 2025-4, the Consumers Energy Company Electric Franchise Ordinance. A roll call vote was held with Chase, Madry, Lang, Malinowski, and Lawitzke voting Aye. There were no Nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.** Contracts for the Library Director and the Assessor, approved at past meetings, were signed.

Clerk/Correspondence: Lawitzke asked the board to review the letter of support written for the Village's application for the 2025 County Parks grant. The Board had no objections to the letter as written. The Q2 recycling grant report was reviewed and current activity at the recycling site was discussed. The DCA 5-25-1 Text Amendment had been sent to board members when it was received from the county. The board had no comments to make regarding the amendments. The annual SLRFR (ie. ARPA) Compliance Report was reviewed. All ARPA funds had been expended or obligated by Dec. 31, 2024, as required by the terms of the grant. The only "project" not completed and locked is the funding to the Fire Board for the Fire Barn. That money must be used by the Fire Board by Dec. 31, 2026. Annual reporting must be done until all funds are expended.

Public comment: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Lawitzke

Bellevue Township Clerk