

BELLEVUE TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

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

TRUSTEE: Kyle Lang
TRUSTEE: Don Malinowski

DATE: May 20, 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), Jim Mott (County Commissioner), Maureen Jacobs

Public Comment: None. Lang asked about Malinowski's intention to approach the school district about purchasing empty land adjacent to the cemetery for future expansion. Malinowski will bring the subject up at the next community group meeting on June 18. That raised a question about the work on the cemetery fence near the ballfields. The trees and brush along that fence have been cleaned up but repair/replacement of the chain-link fence may come to about \$4000-\$5000.

Minutes: A motion was made by Lang, seconded by Malinowski, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025, board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer: A list of Bellevue Twp. bank account balances as of April 30, 2025, was submitted.

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

Sheriff: April Event Summary report was submitted.

County Commissioner: The Sheriff Dept. is not covering "out county" anymore due to an insufficient number of deputies. Many are leaving for jobs elsewhere. Older deputies closer to retirement are opting to work at the jail. (This is the only service that the department is obligated to continue funding.) There's only one animal control officer left. If they leave, animal control services will no longer be offered. The department is in talks with Delta Twp. regarding continued coverage when their current contract ends. If they want to continue having the Sheriff Dept. assign deputies there, Delta Twp. will have to cover 100% of the cost. But starting their own police department will likely be more expensive. All charter townships are required by state law to offer police services; any other charter townships currently contracting with the county will be in the same position when their current contracts expire. The county doesn't want to be in the 'contract services' business; but given the number of townships that are currently covered by the county for planning and zoning, it's a necessity to offer planning and zoning service contracts to them. The contract language and cost is being worked on now. The Village of Bellevue has been awarded an Eaton County Parks Grant. They didn't get the full amount requested for the Jefferson Park project; but they did get a substantial amount towards it. The grant committee tried to award funding to communities that hadn't received any in previous years. The parks dept. plan for Keehne Natural Area is still to

remove the old boardwalk and reroute the new one as a loop accessible from the east entrance. The west entrance has already been closed and work on removing the old boardwalk is supposed to happen this summer, with installation of the new one planned for next year. The parks dept. also plans to open the new Flanders Rd. entrance to Crandall Park this year, to redirect traffic off M-50. There are plans to stock more fish, perhaps including walleye next year. Fishing is no longer restricted to catch and release, with standard DNR limits on take.

Assessor: No report. Chase reported that this will be Nyle Van Sickle's final year on the BOR. Another BOR member, Gary Paesens, recently passed. With the 2 alternates, we still have enough members to operate. But Chase would like to see some new people added to the team.

Library: The Library's summer talk program was featured in a small article in the County Journal recently. One of the programs available through Woodlands Co-op is GRASP (Grand Rapids Academic Summer Program); the Library doesn't usually take part due to lack of staff to oversee the program. The Library committee will be reviewing the survey results at their next meeting tomorrow evening.

Fire: Minutes of 3/17/25 Fire Board meeting attached.

Roads: No report.

Old Business: Campbell Lane Road Assn. is ready to move forward with the special assessment for chip-sealing the road. They have some funding set aside and will pay a portion of the total cost as a lump sum up front. Lawitzke will get the process restarted after hearing from the lawyer on how to proceed. The quotes for IT work from Critical Computer Solutions were reviewed and discussed. **A motion was made by Chase, seconded by Malinowski, to move forward with the full project at the total quoted price of \$16,711 (for the 6 separate portions of the project), in addition to the monthly IT support cost of \$240/month. A roll call vote was held with Lawitzke, Lang, Madry, Malinowski, and Chase voting Yea. There were no Nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.** Lawitzke will check with CCS regarding when payments are due and when work will start and finish.

New Business: The SPR-6-25-2 site plan review document was briefly reviewed and discussed. Board members did not fully understand what the project involved, but since it's temporary they did not raise any immediate concerns. The proposed fee schedule for Eaton County Planning and Zoning work was reviewed. These are the fees charged to applicants for the permits and applications. The fee schedule will need to be approved by the County Board of Commissioners at an upcoming meeting. The proposed agreement for townships to have planning and zoning done by the county will be forthcoming.

Clerk/Correspondence: Lawitzke asked the Board for the township to pay for her attendance at the upcoming MTA trainings on ESTA and Cemeteries. Lang also expressed interest in attending. **A motion was made by Chase, seconded by Malinowski, to approve Lawitzke and Lang to attend upcoming MTA training on ESTA and Cemeteries at township expense. The motion passed unanimously.**

Supervisor/ Cemetery: About 500 flags were placed in the cemetery. They're generally left out all the time and replaced when they become worn or damaged. They could be taken up and replaced to extend their life, but it's more time-consuming than it's worth. People have been complaining about items going missing from graves. But signage at the cemetery is very clear that items are removed during spring and fall clean-up periods, and that the township has no control over items being moved or stolen by other people. A veteran plaque that was supposed to be installed has never been received. Chase has suggested to the family some other avenues to investigate where it might have gone since it never arrived here. About 200 old foundations have been rebuilt so far over a number of years. There are still about another 200 that could use work.

Public comment: None. Chase reported that the Fire Board's movement towards building a new fire barn on property purchased from the school district is not going well. Malinowski had looked at the township's property on N. Capital Ave. near Fun Services and it probably won't work either due to it being 2 separate parcels, each less than 2 acres and separated by the Vine St. right of way. However, he wondered if it would be possible for the township to put a 'double-wide' on the parcel with Capital Ave. frontage, to be used as the township offices. This discussion will be raised at the June Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Lawitzke
Bellevue Township Clerk