

BELLEVUE TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

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

TRUSTEE: Kyle Lang
TRUSTEE: Don Malinowski

DATE: July 15, 2025

Bellevue Township Board Hearing regarding the Campbell Lane Special Assessment District for Campbell Lane road improvements was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Don Chase.

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

Guests: Moreen Jacobs, Steve Hill

Campbell Lane Road Assn. members checked the assessment roll and found no errors.

The Hearing was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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)

Public Comment: None.

County Commissioner: Mott reminded the Board about the meeting on July 22 regarding the proposed Planning and Zoning agreement. The Board of Commissioners voted on Wed. night (7/9) to approve the contract with Delta Twp. to provide Sheriff Dept. coverage. Delta Twp. will pay 115% of the cost of the coverage, with the 15% being for administrative costs. There will be a reconciliation at the end of the year, with Delta paying any balance owed for cost over-runs or Eaton Co. refunding any unused funds. The most recent Parks Director is no longer with the county. Claudine Williams (Community Development) and Chad Powers (Facilities Director) will co-direct the Parks Dept., with Claudine being the primary contact. The boardwalk at Keehne Park and completion of work at Dyer Kiln Park are still on the Parks Dept's list. They're still looking for a stone mason for the kiln work. The old boardwalk may be removed this year, but the replacement boardwalk may not be constructed until next year. A question was asked about the Planning/Zoning contract—there is some wiggle room in the budget timeline if the contract isn't signed by all the parties before the end of this fiscal year. They can extend operation of the department. Projecting out, the Commissioners expect the county to be in the red again by 2030, even with the current cuts. They would have to make \$2-2.5 million more in cuts (even with anticipated wage increases for current staff) to make it to 2035 without going into the red. At this point, only mandated services are being fully maintained. This includes the jail. Unused bed space could be rented to other municipalities to make back some money.

Minutes: A motion was made by Lang, seconded by Chase, to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2025, board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer: A list of Bellevue Twp. bank account balances as of June 30, 2025, was submitted. The credit card agreement has not been finalized yet. Madry is waiting for the bank to send paperwork.

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

Lawitzke reminded the Board that it had approved contracting with Critical Computer Solutions for a number of projects but had forgotten to budget for the work. She requested an increase of \$16,000 to the Computer Services budget to cover this expense. A motion was made by Chase, seconded by Madry, to increase budget line 215-825 Computer Services by \$16,000 for the network upgrade project. A roll call vote was held with the following voting Aye: Malinowski, Lang, Lawitzke, Madry and Chase. None voted Nay. The motion passed unanimously.

Assessor: The transfer list for June 2025 was submitted. There were 2 transfers. Chase reported that there will be a Board of Review meeting on July 22 at 8am. This meeting is only for the purpose of making corrections to prior decisions or receiving PRE or Veteran/Poverty exemption applications.

Library: The Leila Arb program on July 10 was well attended, with 16 children and 8 adults taking part. Library volunteers are discovering that putting more information in the posts on Facebook about the event helps to increase attendance. Lawitzke presented information about Etson's request for renewal of Michigan Library Assn. membership for a year and for the township to pay for her to attend the annual MLA conference in Lansing. Early Bird pricing for conference registration extends through Sept. 5. A motion was made by Lang, seconded by Chase, to pay the MLA annual membership renewal and to table the decision on MLA conference registration until the August meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Etson and other volunteers will have a booth at the Antique Tractor Show.

Fire: No report.

Roads: No report.

Old Business: A motion was made by Chase, seconded by Lawitzke, to adopt Resolution #2025-5, a Resolution Regarding Special Assessment Roll for the Campbell Lane Road Improvement Special Assessment District #2. A roll call vote was taken with the following voting Aye: Madry, Lang, Malinowski, Lawitzke, Chase. None voted Nay. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Chase wondered if the township should take part in some way with other area businesses to restart the Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner fundraiser for the Good Samaritans Food Bank. Madry and Lawitzke pointed out that the township cannot donate money in any way to any fundraising effort. Malinowski asked what the procedure would be to investigate either buying an existing building or building a new one for a township hall. Chase and Lawitzke explained past attempts. Chase pointed out that a building is for sale on Butterfield Hwy. near the I-69 interchange.

It may be too far from town. Malinowski wondered how large a building would have to be to meet our needs. Lawitzke said at least 1000 square feet for the township offices. The current library is between 800 and 900 square feet, so 1000 to 1200 square feet would be a good start. Malinowski asked Etson and the other Board members to bring concrete ideas to the August meeting. Chase gave Malinowski a copy of previous plans that had been drawn up a couple years ago. Malinowski also asked if the new Board members could get with Chase for a brief session on the process we use for creating the new budget each year. Chase reported that Winchell asked about creating a 'false set-up' area at the cemetery, that would allow all full burials to be staged at one spot with a concrete pad, with the actual burial occurring at the grave site later. This would prevent the ground around a burial plot from being torn up repeatedly by heavy equipment and also provide a safer location for visitors attending a funeral. Chase and Winchell will look into the costs involved and the space requirements.

Clerk/Correspondence: Lawitzke reported on the meeting held by Eaton County with officials from county municipalities July 8 regarding budget cuts and the proposed Planning/Zoning Agreement. She also noted that the insurance policies are available if anyone wishes to read them. And the SWAG report is just informational; no action is required.

Supervisor/ Cemetery:

Public comment: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Lawitzke
Bellevue Township Clerk