

BELLEVUE TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

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

TRUSTEE: Kyle Lang
TRUSTEE: Don Malinowski

DATE: November 18, 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, Don Malinowski, Lisa Lawitzke

Guests: Lynn Etson (Library Director), Sky Cheney (Cheney Limestone), Larry (Cheney Limestone), Rob Cook, Sydney Schlee, Alan Szydlik, Jake Jackson (Fire Chief)

Public Comment: Cheney (CU-12-25-10), Cook (CU-12-25-13), and Schlee (CU-12-25-21) each spoke on their respective CUP applications.

County Commissioner: None

Minutes: A motion was made by Malinowski, seconded by Madry, to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2025, board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Assessor: No report.

Library: Discussed the option of switching to BookSystems Atrium system for library management, from the current AutoGraphics VERSO system. After initial setup, the annual cost of Atrium will be about half the cost of VERSO. A motion was made by Malinowski, seconded by Lang, to approve the switch to the Atrium system by BookSystems, for a cost not to exceed \$3460.00. The motion passed unanimously. Szydlik spoke on his investigation into using eminent domain to acquire the property next door to the library, for future library expansion.

Fire: Jackson reported 535 runs to date, exceeding runs at this time last year of 483. The new fire building may start in May 2026. \$100K was spent on a new brush truck to replace an old truck. The township gave a check for \$100K to the fire board to meet the MOU for the ARPA funds contribution for the new building.

Roads: No report.

New Business: The Interlocal Agreement for Designated Assessor was discussed. **A motion was made by Malinowski, seconded by Lawitzke, to approve Chase to sign the agreement. The motion passed unanimously.** CU-12-25-11 and CU-11-15-31 were reviewed. The Board chose to make no comment on any of the CUP applications presented. The creation of a multi-township Joint Planning Commission, due to the impending closure of the county planning and zoning department, was discussed. The general consensus is that being part of the new joint commission will be less expensive than taking on creation of a township planning and zoning department alone. Chase and Lawitzke will attend a meeting being held Monday, Nov. 24, to learn more.

Old Business: 2026-27 Budget planning—cemetery and library expenses were discussed. Two existing maples at the cemetery will need to be cut down due to the trees splitting. A bid is being sought from the tree-trimming service we usually hire. **A motion was made by Chase, seconded by Madry, to move \$17,000 from the Cemetery Fund CD to the general fund account next time the CD matures, to help cover fiscal year 2025-26 cemetery expenses. The motion passed unanimously.** Fall clean-up at the cemetery is complete. Some items to consider when looking at next year's cemetery budget—fixing old foundations is not mandated and costs about \$3000/year; ongoing placement of flags and markers on veteran graves is not mandated and costs about \$1500/year. Other items discussed--repair of the fence along the school property; the permanent “false set-up” already approved by the Board; possible acquisition of school property adjacent to the cemetery; maintenance of the ‘winter storage’ vault; creation of walkways to make the cemetery more ‘walkable;’ cemetery rules need to be codified into ordinances to make them enforceable.

Library budget discussion included the possibility of taking some money from the Carroll Fund CD to cover the cost of the new furnace. We still need to hear from the Historical Society whether they will contribute toward the furnace cost. It costs about \$31K more to run the library than it receives from its various sources of income. It's a valuable asset to the community, but expensive.

Next month, Chase wants to discuss the EMS budget lines.

Clerk/Correspondence: None

Treasurer: Madry reported that the costs for the BS&A tax system may go up because the system she currently uses is 18 years old. She will have to update to the Cloud BS&A system at some point as BS&A is struggling to continue supporting the old system. BS&A will make online viewing of our tax files available.

Supervisor/ Cemetery: Chase advised that we're going to have to ask for a Fire Millage at some point soon. Maybe now's the time to work out an agreement that would have the millage cover fire service for both the township and the village.

Public comment: None.

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

Submitted by Lisa Lawitzke
Bellevue Township Clerk