

## **BELLEVUE TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**

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

TRUSTEE: Kyle Lang  
TRUSTEE: Don Malinowski

DATE: January 20, 2026

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:** Terry Noble, Lynn Etson (Library Director)

**Public Comment:** Mr. Noble requested more flow of information from township board to residents and inquired about blight ordinances.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Malinowski, seconded by Chase, to approve the minutes of the Dec. 16, 2025, board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer:** The list of bank account balances for Dec. was reviewed. A request was made to include data from the previous couple months for comparison each month.

**Expenses:** January Bills to be Paid report was submitted. A motion was made by Lang, seconded by Chase, to approve the expenses for January 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

**County Commissioner:** No report.

**Assessor:** The Property Transfers report for 2025 was presented. There were 91 transfers for the year, although the system duplicated one particular transfer 3 additional times due to 3 parcels being involved in the total. Brunner asked Chase to consult BOR members regarding the March meeting schedule before setting the dates.

**Library:** Etson reported that the new Atrium system is meeting and exceeding expectations. There are still some issues to clean up with old library cards not being accepted by the online services, as well as duplicate records for many books due to issues with conversion from the old VERSO system. Etson is working on fixing these issues. The Valentines for Vets program will be expanded this year. Rather than just one Saturday, the Library will be offering opportunities to work on cards over a 2-week period starting this Saturday, 1/24, and daily during normal library hours for the following 2 weeks.

**Fire:** Malinowski reported that the preliminary Fire Board budget for the next 2 years was reviewed. A rig that includes an ATV, trailer, backboard, and other equipment is being purchased used from another fire dept. for \$40K. Half that cost is being paid by the Fire Board, with the rest being funded by the Firemans' Association. There have been issues with coverage at the far western side of the department's area, primarily in Assyria Twp., where it overlaps with other departments, regarding

which department gets called and in which order of 'preference.' This will be clarified and the Barry Co. dispatch will be informed to make it clear to them what the procedure should be. A question was raised as to who the 'responsible' person will be on a call when a lower-rated EMT/paramedic is the first on scene and a higher-rated EMT/paramedic arrives later. This is being investigated. The current hold-up on the new fire barn is getting paperwork signed by the correct people in the correct order for the land division of the school property to be purchased.

**Roads:** Lawitzke and Chase reported on the annual meeting with Eaton Co. Road Commission staff. A number of subjects were addressed, including the need for work on the portion of Sherwood Hwy. between Hall Rd. and Babcock Rd. The section has several bridges which make it a difficult area to work on. This is the last year of the road millage program. A new millage will be requested on the Nov. 2026 ballot for county road maintenance.

**New Business:** The SEMCO Energy Franchise agreement is tabled until the February meeting while Lawitzke waits for information she requested from SEMCO about the previous agreement that was done 30 years ago. The township has also requested that the term of the new agreement be 10 years instead of 30.

**Supervisor/ Cemetery:** Chase reported there were 28 burials at Riverside for 2025, 12 full and 16 cremations. Chase and Lawitzke reported on the training and meeting held on Jan. 15 for the Joint Planning Commission. The other townships involved are Brookfield, Chester, Kalamo, Roxand, Sunfield, Vermontville, and Walton. There was discussion about the timeline and procedures for creation of the Commission, as well as how it will work after creation. Much of that will be determined by the way the 8 townships write the agreement.

**Old Business:** Budget discussion was tabled until February. A special session will be held at 6:00 pm on Feb. 17, just before the regular meeting.

**Clerk/Correspondence:** Lawitzke mentioned a couple cybercrime warnings she received in weekly updates from CIS. Both are new ways that AI and deepfakes are being used in scams.

**Treasurer:** None

**Public comment:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Lawitzke  
Bellevue Township Clerk