

BELLEVUE TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

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

TRUSTEE: Kyle Lang
TRUSTEE: Don Malinowski

DATE: February 17, 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: Jim Mott (Co. Commissioner), Dustin May (Fire Dept.), Curtis Easey, Dan Brunner (Assessor), Tracy Shick (Deputy Treasurer)

Public Comment: none

Minutes: A motion was made by Madry, seconded by Malinowski, to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026, board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer: The list of bank account balances for January 2026 was reviewed. November 2025 balances were skewed by late bank transfers, so were left out.

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

County Commissioner: EATRAN is asking the County Commissioners for a 0.25 mil millage renewal to be approved for the November ballot. The Eaton Co. Road Commission is also planning to put a millage renewal on a ballot this year. The current Eaton County Controller Connie Sobie is retiring this Friday, and her deputy, Ben Dawson, will be taking over.

Assessor: The Property Transfers report for January 2026 was presented. There was 1 transfer. The Board of Review will hold its organizational meeting on March 3, with its March meetings on March 9 and 10.

Library: No report.

Fire: May reported that all necessary individuals have signed off on the paperwork to start the new fire barn. There is a septic line of some sort running through the property where the building will go. Once it's determined if the line is "wet" or "dry," work will commence, although the details and timing may change based on the results of testing the septic line. The department will be taking possession soon of the new side-by-side vehicle and there is a new rescue truck ordered and arriving soon to replace the old one. Call numbers were low to start the year but have had a sudden increase.

Roads: No report. This item will be removed from future agendas unless there is new information to report.

New Business: Resolution 2026-1 to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test was offered by Chase, seconded by Lawitzke. A roll call vote was held with Madry, Lang, Malinowski, Lawitzke and Chase voting “Aye.” There were no “Nay” votes. The resolution passed unanimously.

Old Business: The SEMCO Franchise ordinance was taken up after being tabled at the January board meeting. The SEMCO contact could not find a copy of the old agreement from 30 years ago and found no evidence of SEMCO having any customers in Bellevue Twp. However, he provided a map showing that a SEMCO pipeline cuts through a small area at the southern portion of the township, which does require passage of the ordinance. Ordinance 2026-1 Granting a Franchise to SEMCO Energy Gas Co. was offered by Lawitzke, seconded by Chase. A roll call vote was held with Lang, Madry, Malinowski, Lawitzke and Chase voting “Aye.” There were no “Nay” votes. The ordinance passed unanimously.

Cemetery: The question of raising cemetery fees was discussed. A decision will be made before finalizing the 2026-27 budget, based on further budget discussions.

Supervisor: After discussion with May, the board consensus was to hold off sending the Fire Dept. any additional funds for the new fire barn until a firm estimate of the total cost has been determined.

Clerk/Correspondence: Lawitzke presented the MTA “Principles of Governance” to the board and explained that MTA sends this every year. Past boards have chosen not to sign it since it’s not an official binding document. The board consensus was to not sign it again this year.

Treasurer: None

Public comment: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Lawitzke
Bellevue Township Clerk