

## **BELLEVUE TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**

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

TRUSTEE: Kyle Lang  
TRUSTEE: Don Malinowski

DATE: March 17, 2026

Bellevue Township Board Special Meeting for discussion of FY 2026-27 budget was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Don Chase.

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

**Guests:** Curtis Easey, Dan Brunner (Assessor), Tracy Shick (Deputy Treasurer), John Frayer

Proposed FY 2026-27 Budget was discussed, including use of Carroll Fund to keep library open another 12-18 months.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Bellevue Township Board Public Hearing for the FY 2026-27 budget was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Supervisor Don Chase.

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

**Guests:** Curtis Easey, Dan Brunner (Assessor), Tracy Shick (Deputy Treasurer), John Frayer

No comments were made regarding the FY 2026-27 Budget.

The hearing was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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Bellevue Township Board Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Supervisor Don Chase.

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

**Guests:** Curtis Easey, Dan Brunner (Assessor), Tracy Shick (Deputy Treasurer), John Frayer, Lynn Etson (Library Director), Jim Mott (Co. Commissioner)

**Public Comment:** none

**Minutes: A motion was made by Madry, seconded by Lang, to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026, board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer:** The list of bank account balances for Dec. 2025 – Feb. 2026.was reviewed. Feb. 2026 bank and Visa reconciliations were reviewed. **A motion was made by Madry, seconded by Chase, to accept the Treasurer’s Report. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

**County Commissioner:** There will be a vote at tomorrow's County Board of Commissioners meeting on the proposed Road Commission millage request. The millage amount will remain the same as the previous millage that's ending. However, because the language of the proposal is changing to allow broader use of the funds, it can't be called a "renewal" on the November ballot. This means the Road Commission will need to publicize widely that it's an extension of the current millage, not an increase or "new" millage. The August ballot will have renewals of millages for the juvenile detention center and 911. However, the millages for jail expansion and the county nursing home/rehab facility will both be ending before 2027 tax bills go out.

**Assessor:** The Property Transfers report for February 2026 was presented. There was 1 transfer. The Board of Review meetings went smoothly. The notes were very helpful. The possible sale of Riverside Café (mentioned in February) fell through.

**Library:** Etson reported that she'll be working on setting up the summer reading program in conjunction with a reading month program run by the Battle Creek Battle Jacks baseball team.

**Fire:** Chase reported that the township's share of the Fire Board budget for 2026-27 is a bit over \$113,000. He asked the Fire Board to get their budget numbers out sooner next year, since creating an accurate township budget depends on having an accurate estimate from the Fire Board. The Fire Board anticipates annual increases of 5% year over year in the future. However, contract payments from Village of Bellevue and Kalamo Twp. aren't included in the calculations. There was no clear answer about who owns the drain found on the future fire barn property or whether it's an active drain or not. A site plan should be developed soon. The "119" truck, which had been donated to the Fire Dept. by Bellevue Twp. many years ago, is being sold off, with the funds to be used to offset equipment costs. Bellevue Twp. runs are down and Convis Twp. runs are up.

**Roads:** It appears that MDOT is still planning to work on M-78 from Dollar General through town to the west bridge.

**Cemetery:** A big tree came down in last week's bad weather. Our usual "tree guy" cleared enough to make the road passable. He'll be back to finish the cleanup when time permits. When the cemetery CD matures next, funds will be withdrawn before rollover to cover this unexpected expense. The tree missed the big monuments in that section, but it's unclear what damage might be hidden underneath the tree. Foundation orders have started coming in and a few lots have been sold already this year. Fees won't change at this time. According to Chase's research, we're in line with what other area cemeteries charge. One change we might want to consider is an additional fee when cremains are placed on top of an existing full burial, to replace the 'lost' income from a resident not buying a new plot for them. The fees are the same at all three township cemeteries, but we restrict burials at Follett and Spaulding/Day. At Spaulding /Day, there are about 70 infant burials with no markers from the Spanish Flu, making possible placement of new burials difficult.

**New Business:** Unless a way to raise more funds is found to support the library, it may be phased out over the next 18 months, with Carroll Fund funds used to keep it open in the meantime. The budget just can't support the expense of keeping it open with the increased costs for other items with higher priority, like fire and ambulance coverage, and the anticipated costs of the new Joint Planning Commission. There was discussion about the Joint Planning Commission and questions were raised. Lawitzke will try to get answers. In the meantime, no issues were found with the proposed ordinance and agreement.

**Old Business:** The increase in the fire board fees will be made in the proposed FY 2026-27 budget. The budget for the Treasurer's computer software will be increased to \$4000 to accommodate the cost of starting the move to BS&A Cloud for taxes and assessing. **A motion was made by Chase, seconded by Malinowski, to approve the proposed FY 2026-27 budget. A roll call vote was made with Lang, Madry, Lawitzke, Malinowski, and Chase voting "Yes." There were no "No" votes. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Supervisor:** No report.

**Clerk/Correspondence:** No report.

**Treasurer:** No report.

**Public comment:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Lawitzke  
Bellevue Township Clerk