

VILLAGE OF BELLFLOWER
McLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

President Allen Grussing called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the village office located at the Bellflower Community Center, 104 W Center Street, Bellflower.

The Meeting Notice and Agenda (copy attached) was posted on the Bellflower Community Center exterior bulletin board on February 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

BOARD ATTENDANCE

Present: President Allen Grussing; Trustees Skee Aldrich, Teresa Drinkwater, Andrew Ellis, Bart Lytel, Steve Weiss, and Shane Zimmerman.

Absent: None.

Seven of seven board members were present, which formed a quorum.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS PRESENT – Clerk Herb Youngblood

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE – Guy Jamison, Jay Jewell, Merle Shelton, and Chris Zimmerman.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Village residents Jamison, Jewell, Shelton, and Zimmerman discussed the ongoing “water in basement” issue. As their drainage tile did not have a clean-out pipe, Jay Jewell had Reynolds Excavating install a clean-out pipe. Schoonover Sewer Service flushed the tile and scoped the buried drainage tile fed from their houses and it appeared a blockage existed at the Community Center in the village right-of-way facing S Vine and Hinshaw streets. As a result of Schnoover flushing the tiles from the west and east, the blockage was confirmed to be caused by a broken tile in that right-of-way. Reynolds Excavating provided an estimate to repair the tile.

EMERGENCY MOTION by Trustee Aldrich to accept the Reynolds Excavating \$1,900 estimate (copy attached) to repair the broken tile since the blockage is on village property. Seconded by Trustee Drinkwater. Voice vote: 6 yes; -0- no. Motion passed.

MOTION by Trustee Ellis to establish a policy to reimburse homeowners for one-half of the installation cost for a drainage tile clean-out pipe when drainage issues occur and no clean-out pipe exists, subject to the following limitations:

1. Expenses to be reimbursed shall be limited to costs associated with the excavation, labor, and materials for the clean-out pipe.
2. Reimbursements shall only be processed after a request has been received along with a copy of a paid invoice and documentation (e.g., drawings, maps) regarding the affected tile.
3. Village reimbursements shall be limited within each fiscal year to no more than two reimbursements or \$2,000.

Motion seconded by Trustee Lytel. Voice vote: 6 yes; -0- no. Motion passed.

Jay Jewell will submit a reimbursement request for the clean-out pipe installation.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve minutes of the regular meeting held on January 10, 2024.

- b. Approve expenditures during the period of January 11, 2024 through February 7, 2024. MOTION by Trustee Weiss to approve the foregoing consent agenda items. Seconded by Trustee Aldrich. Voice vote: 6 yes; -0- no. Motion passed.

POLICE ACTIVITIES

- a. Chief Dingler reports January 2024 activity included two issues, one fire assist, 11 citations, and eight verbal warnings.
- b. Police presence – positive comments from Trustee Lytel (McLean County Sheriff), and Trustee Ellis (Village of Downs).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Repairs and Maintenance
 - 1) Buildings
 - a) 9/18/2022 wind/hail storm damage – all repairs COMPLETE.
 - b) Repair estimates – Tim Brandt will call to review/estimate.
 - i. Community Center
 - ii. Depot
 - iii. Don Harden Field repairs – SK Exteriors will estimate ballfield fencing and backstop, and concession stand siding.
 - iv. Library
 - c) Community Center generator – Midwest Equipment reviewed today and will estimate.
 - 2) Streets – Steven Sprau trimmed off jagged tree branches at Paul Luther’s property resulting from a large section that fell out of a tree.
- b. Streets
- c. Water
 - 1) Lead service line inventory status
 - a) Online surveys submitted for 65 of 181 locations. Reminders were inserted into February water bills or mailed for customers who had not completed the survey.
 - b) A \$15,000 state grant was approved to reimburse costs for the inventory project. However, the grant will not cover any expenses incurred prior to accepting the grant, and the village has already spent \$7,900 for 120Water first-year costs. MOTION by Trustee Lytel to decline the grant. Seconded by Trustee Ellis. Voice vote: 6 yes; -0- no. Motion passed.
 - 2) Telemetry box in tower pump house – configuration in progress.
 - 3) Emergency well testing – planning meeting to be scheduled.
 - 4) Cross connection survey – no activity.
 - 5) GIS for water shut-off valves – no activity.
 - 6) Source water protection plan – no activity.
- d. Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant – review the grant terms to verify if projects covered include new construction, renovations, or both.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approvals
 - 1) Cafeteria – MOTION by Trustee Zimmerman to replace the broken Community Center cafeteria mixer with new equipment costing no more than \$1,500 to be paid from Events funds. Seconded by Trustee Drinkwater. Voice vote: 6 yes; -0- no. Motion passed.
 - 2) Technology – MOTION by Trustee Ellis to approve new computers/printers/software as detailed on the attached TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES – February 2024 sheet. Seconded by Trustee Lytel. Voice vote: 6 yes; -0- no. Motion passed.

3) Surplus Property Sale – no bids were submitted to purchase 201 W South St.

b. Discussion

- 1) Christmas decorations – requests received from multiple residents for village Christmas decorations. President Grussing presented a curated sample of available commercial choices (copy attached). Due to the high cost involved, the board declined to pursue.
- 2) BEAD Challenge – The Illinois Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Challenge is an initiative aimed at improving high-speed broadband access across the state of Illinois. President Grussing will post a flyer around town and on the website, and will email residents to encourage them to help the state correct its broadband map by submitting internet speed tests at their location (instructions attached).

BOARD REPORTS

President Grussing

- The former Matthew Bennett house at 110 N Vine St still has debris all over the yard, even though Wells Fargo property maintenance was contacted. Trustee Ellis stated the house was sold at auction.
- Migrants in McLean County – the village attorney advised he did not believe this would be an issue for our community.
- Parking lines – old minutes indicate a parking line striping machine was purchased at one time. No board member remembered seeing the equipment.
- Barb Jenkins chestnut tree grove – at last month’s meeting, the board did not approve providing water service for use on property located outside of the village. Mrs. Jenkins is reevaluating her plans.
- Right-of-Way – the village attorney confirms an ordinance is needed to declare that all village rights-of-way are controlled by the village, even on property not owned by the village, and any work to be performed in a right-of-way must be pre-approved by the village.
- Community Center water fountains are being removed – poor building water quality.

Trustee Zimmerman – should a spring clean-up letter be sent to village residents?

Trustee Lytel – junk, primarily automobiles, is stored all over the Brian Thomas property.

Trustee Aldrich – do any street signs need to be installed once spring is here?

Trustee Drinkwater

- Movie night postponed due to conflict with Blue Ridge school.
- Would like to hold a village Christmas decorating contest with prizes.
- Farmer City Little League has no further plans to use Don Harden Field.
- There may be grants available to assist with replacing Don Harden Field fencing, but you must be able to provide proof of use.

Trustee Weiss – Kevin Rumpel would like to plant two crabapple trees at Shorty Lykins Park along with a marker in memory of his wife Michelle. The board asked that he attend the March board meeting and formally present his proposal.

ADJOURN

President Grussing adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.