

December 12, 2023

### VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on December 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, James, Lowery, Troth, Daniels and Matthews present. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Solicitor Fansler and Fiscal Officer Ridder were present. Village Administrator Bingham was absent.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session November 14, 2023 was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person Daniels, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for November 2023 was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Mayor Houchin told council that BJAAM, the company working to clean up the old Citgo gas station property, is almost complete. Solicitor Fansler said that the deed will be transferred to the Village during the next 60 days and at that time we can begin the process of selling the property.

Mayor Houchin told council that Star Ohio, where we keep our investments, needs a second authorized signer, currently only Houchin is a signer. A motion to make Anita Legge the second authorized signer on Star Ohio was made by council person Daniels and 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person James, all approved.

Fiscal Officer Ridder presented council with Supplemental Appropriation Resolution 2023-14. Ridder explained that the sales tax money held by the county is to be used to pay the paving invoice for State Street and we need to appropriate \$39,893.97 for the invoice to be paid. Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass this resolution on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Daniels made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person James, a roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin then called for the approval of the resolution, council person Lowery made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person James, a roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Fiscal Officer Ridder presented council with the 2024 Annual Appropriation Resolution 2023-15 with a total of \$966,092.64. Ridder explained that a detailed by line item revenue budget and appropriation (expense) budget is attached to the resolution. After discussion Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass this resolution on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Legge made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person James, a roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin then called for the approval of the resolution, council person James made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Legge, a roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Fiscal Officer Ridder notified council that the Utility rates are scheduled to increase based on the passing resolution 2022-03 which states a yearly 2% increase. Below is a summary of the 2024 increase:

	23 Rate	2% Increase	24 Rate
<u>Resident Inside Village</u>			
Water	\$11.71	\$0.23	\$11.94
Sewer	\$54.62	\$1.09	\$55.71
Sewer w/ Electric Credit	\$42.14	\$0.84	\$42.98
Garbage	\$17.43	\$0.35	\$17.78
Capital Improvement	\$13.53	\$0.27	\$13.80
<u>Resident Outside Village</u>			
Water	\$15.11	\$0.30	\$15.41
Garbage	\$21.30	\$0.43	\$21.73
Bulk Water	\$12.48	\$0.25	\$12.73
Monthly Dumpster in Town	\$74.46	\$1.49	\$75.95
Monthly Dumpster Out Town	\$94.86	\$1.90	\$96.76
Dumpster per dump	\$40.80	\$0.82	\$41.62

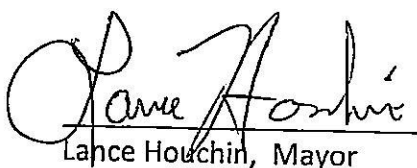
Solicitor Fansler presented council with an Ordinance 2023-16: "to create limited parking spots on Buckeye Street in Belle Center, Ohio." After discussion Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass this resolution on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Daniels made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person James, a roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin then called for the approval of the resolution, council person Daniels made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person James, a roll call vote resulted in all approving.

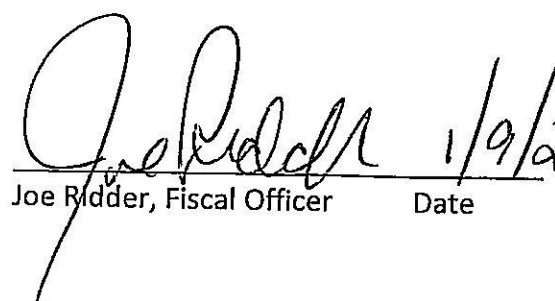
Solicitor Fansler notified council of upcoming changes to the Municipal Income Tax Code for the State of Ohio (attached is a summary sheet explaining the changes.) One of the changes is that minors no longer have to pay Municipal Income Tax beginning in 2024. Fansler said that the Village will need to pass an Ordinance/Resolution next year adopting the changes required by the State of Ohio.

Solicitor Fansler told council that several cities and village across the state are passing ordinances to ban marijuana dispensaries until the Ohio State congress has a chance to sort out the law. The example he gave was of Fairfield, Ohio: Fairfield City Council voted to ban marijuana dispensaries until September 2024, this would give the city nine months to consider dispensaries from a development standpoint. Fansler said that if Belle Center wanted to pass a similar ordinance that he could have it drawn up.

At 7:35 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person James, all approved.

Next council meeting January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 PM

 1-9-24  
Lance Houchin, Mayor Date

 1/9/24  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer Date

**November 14, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on October 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, James, Lowery, Troth and Daniels present with Matthews absent. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham, Solicitor Fansler and Fiscal Officer Ridder were present.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session October 10, 2023 was made by council person Lowery, and 2nd by council person Daniels, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Daniels, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for October 2023 was made by council person Daniels, and 2nd by council person James, all approved.

The Mayor recognized visitor Shannon Penny who won the open village council seat and will begin in January 2024.

Visitor Greg Fitzpatrick told council that Halloween on Saturday went very well and that he and others believe it is an easier and safer option than on Thursday evenings.

Logan County Sherriff's Deputy was in attendance to address the nuisance complains about a male resident of the local group home. He told all that if any situation happens to call the sheriff's office and officially report it, that way they can immediately address the issue.

Dave Rossford of the local storage company presented the council with a copy of their updated lease agreement, which includes the added clause to make renters aware of the parking requirements. The Village Administrator Bingham said that he is waiting on approval from the State. Mayor Houchin said that the council will have the original resolution updated to reflect the parking change on Buckeye near the storage company.

Fiscal Officer Ridder presented council with Resolution 2023-13 "Authorizing Logan County Auditor to add a Lien on Real Estate Taxes for Collection of Services Rendered." We have two delinquent utility accounts and this resolution will put both of those balances on the property owners' taxes. When the taxes are collected by the county the village will be sent the amount paid along with the yearly property tax payments to the Village. Mayor Houchin asked for a motion to approve this resolution, made by Daniels and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Legge and a roll call vote resulted in all council members approving.

Fiscal Officer Ridder presented a copy of resolution 2001-07 "Compensation for the Office of Councilperson for the Village." In response to a question Ridder stated that council members get \$60/month and it was established on August 14, 2001. Solicitor Fansler added that according to the Ohio Revised Code that if council were to adjust the monthly amount paid that it would be effective at the beginning of the term of all new council member and would not affect current council members.

Administrator Bingham notified council that employee Lukas Pope passed his Water License test and he gave him a \$2.00 per hour raise effective 10/29/2023.

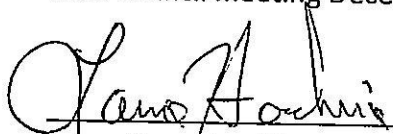
Administrator Bingham reported that the new trash was delivered and will begin using on the next trash run.

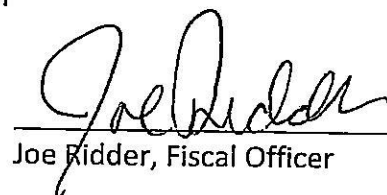
Administrator Bingham told council that Greg Fitzpatrick has been very helpful in two recent village projects: painting of the depot and crack sealing village roads. Fitzpatrick volunteered his time and organized volunteers from the Logan County Jail.

State Street paving has been completed. Administrator Bingham talked about future projects using the chip seal process followed by a fog seal. This can be done by working with the Logan County Roads Department.

At 7:45 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person Legge, all approved.

Next council meeting December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 PM

 12/12/23  
Lance Houchin, Mayor Date

 12/12/23  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer Date



**October 10, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on October 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, Matthews, James, Lowery, Troth and Daniels were present. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham, Solicitor Fansler and Fiscal Officer Ridder were present.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session September 12, 2023 was made by council person Lowery, and 2nd by council person James, all approved.

Motion to approve minutes from special session September 19, 2023 was made by council person Lowery, and 2nd by council person James, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person Matthews, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for September 2023 was made by council person Daniels, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Village resident and business owner, Dave Rossford of Belle Center Storage, asked council to remove the no parking signs along Buckeye Street between State and N Center. Council discussed the reason for the no parking was to avoid parked vehicle's blocking the road while using the storage. Dave asked if he could put 2 parallel parking spots with signs that said "for loading and unloading only." He also said that he would add a clause to his storage lease to make renters aware of the parking requirements. After much discussion as motion was made to remove the no parking signs along Buckeye Street between State and N Center, made by Daniels, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matthews and roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Andrew Roy of the BMRT Ambulance district told council that he is working on a resolution to update the establishment document of the agency. Once it is completed each entity, Belle Center Village, Mac Donald Twp, Richland Twp and Taylor Creek Twp would need to vote the approve the document. Andrew said he should have it available for the November council meeting.

Mayor Houchin said that the Arborist was coming to Belle Center to examine the trees on N. Elizabeth Street.

Fiscal Officer Ridder presented the "Supplemental Appropriation Resolution 2023-11", which would book the purchase of the new trash truck, pay off the loan of the old truck and book the loan for the new truck. Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass this resolution on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Lowery made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Daniels, roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin called for the approval of the resolution, council person James made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Daniels, roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Fiscal Officer Ridder presented "A Resolution Authorizing Vehicle Purchase and Financing 2023-12." The Union Banking Company requires a detail explanation and a motion to be in the minutes:

The council authorizes Village Administrator Brandon Bingham to sign purchase agreement for a new trash truck in the amount of \$185,790.00. Also, he is able to sign on behalf of the Village on a loan in the amount of \$127,000 for six years at a rate of 7%, plus fee of \$315. A cash payment of \$58,475 will also be made for the truck.

Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass this resolution on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Daniels made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Matthews, roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin called for the approval of the resolution, council person James made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Daniels, roll call vote resulted in all approving.

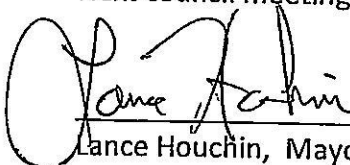
Fiscal Officer Ridder reported that at the one-year anniversary of our credit card usage the rewards balance was \$104.22 on February 1, 2023 and our balance is \$234.45 on October 1, 2023. Our credit card policy requires that the Fiscal Officer annually report to the council the balance of our reward points and usage. Ridder said no points have been used and asked council how he should spend the reward points and it was suggested to let Village Administrator Bingham decide how the reward points would be used.

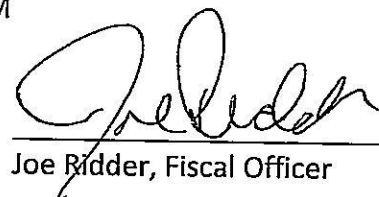
Administrator Bingham notified council that employee Lukas Pope's anniversary was August 22<sup>nd</sup> and he gave him a \$0.75 raise effective that date. He also said that employee Scott Coy's 90 probation ended on August 15<sup>th</sup> and he gave him a \$0.50 raise effective that date.

Solicitor Fansler notified council that he prepared a letter to Beth Haude of The Union Banking Company regarding the trash truck loan that said "The use of the truck will be solely for Village purposes and as a result, the loan proceeds received by the Village will be tax exempt for the tax-exempt purposes."

At 8:00 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person Daniels, all approved.

Next council meeting November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 PM

 11-14-23  
Lance Houchin, Mayor Date

 11/14/23  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer Date

**September 19, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in Special session on September 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding.

The meeting notice was placed in the Bellefontaine Examiner on Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>.

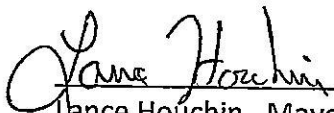
Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, Matthews, James, Troth and Lowery present, Daniels was absent. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham and Fiscal Officer Ridder were present, Solicitor Fansler was absent.


Fiscal Officer Ridder explained the resolution (2023-09), which is the standard budget resolution we do every year for Jack Reser the Logan County Auditor: "Resolution Accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor." Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass this resolution on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Lowery made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Legge, roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin called for a motion to approve the resolution, council person Lowery made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person James, roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Fiscal Officer Ridder explained the resolution (2023-10), the resolution allows for us to adopt a Faithful Performance Policy which would replace the bonding process. Our new insurance company PEP (Public Entities Pool) recommended this to us as an option they offer. Mayor Houchin called for the approval of the resolution, council person Lowery made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Matthews, roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Administrator Bingham notified council that the insurance company has decided the trash truck is totaled and will give us approximately \$170,000 for the value, we owe \$113,000 on the current truck. Bingham said he has quotes for 3 new trucks for a value \$190,000 and user. Bingham said that we would pay the balance off on the existing loan and roll the extra money as a down payment on the new truck. Mayor Houchin called for a motion to authorize Administrator Brandon Bingham to enter into agreements on behalf of the Village to purchase a new trash truck for a maximum of \$190,000 and to sign a loan agreement with The Union Banking Company at the current interest rate. Council person Legge made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person James, roll call vote resulted in all approving.

At 7:10 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person Matthews, all approved.

 10-10-23  
Lance Houchin, Mayor Date

 10/10/23  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer Date

**September 12, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on September 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, Matthews, James and Lowery were present, Troth and Daniels were absent. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham, Solicitor Fansler and Fiscal Officer Ridder were present.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session August 8, 2023 was made by council person Lowery, and 2nd by council person Matthews, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person Matthews, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for August 2023 was made by council person Matthews, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Village residents Vern and MaryAnn Brown were present to discuss the village tree that fell on 307 N Elizabeth street. They asked council to remove 6 trees surrounding the property. The Mayor gave council two quotes to have the trees removed. Also discussed was having the trees topped. After much discussion no decision was made.

Fiscal Officer Ridder had two resolutions that need to be voted on, unfortunately not enough council members were in attendance to have a vote. Council then scheduled a special meeting to be held on Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm to review and vote on these resolutions.

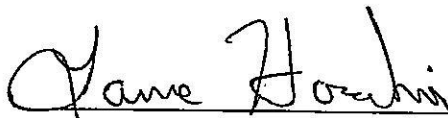
Administrator Bingham notified council at the Trash truck was in an accident on Friday September 8<sup>th</sup> when it veered off road and hit a ditch and rolled over. The driver, employee Scott Coy, hit his head and fractured an ankle and was taken to Lima Memorial Hospital. Bingham said the insurance company would give an estimate on the trash truck but he felt that it would probably be totaled. He then discussed the options of buying a new trash truck. No decision was made.


Administrator Bingham presented council with a draft of an employee pay scale. Starting pay of \$17.00 with \$0.50 after 90 days. Increases for licensing, a merit-based increase annually and a cost of living increase were all discussed. No decisions were made.

Mayor Houchin reminded council that Administrator Bingham's anniversary was August 24<sup>th</sup> and his current salary is \$25.85 and last raise was 2 years ago. Council member Legge made a motion to give Administrator Bingham a \$5 per hour raise effective on his anniversary date, was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matthews and a roll call vote resulted in all members voting yes.

At 7:55 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person Daniels, all approved.

Next council meeting October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 PM

 10-10-23  
Lance Houchin, Mayor Date

 10/10/23  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer Date

**August 8, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on August 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, Matthews, James, Lowery, Troth and Daniels present. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham and Fiscal Officer Ridder were present. Solicitor Fansler was absent.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session July 11, 2023 was made by council person Daniels, and 2nd by council person Lowery, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for July 2023 was made by council person Daniels, and 2nd by council person Matthews, all approved.

Mayor Houchin reported that the painting of the ball field fence is almost completed.

Fiscal Officer Ridder reported that the village is going to offer utility bill auto pay using debit and credit cards and a flyer will go out in the August 31<sup>st</sup> bill.

Entered Executive session at 7:15pm to discuss the Audit and left Executive session at 7:25pm.

Administrator Bingham asked council to amend section 6 of the Ordinance for Delinquency shut-off and re-establishment of Water/Sewer Service, Ordinance 2020-07:

Currently reads: "6. Any costs associated with the terminating and reactivating service will be added to the delinquent charges and must be paid in full before service is re-activated. There will be a fee in the amount of \$35.00 charged for any termination or reactivation service which occurs outside of the then prevailing normal work hours for the Village utility employees."

Suggested with revision: "6. Any costs associated with the terminating and reactivating service will be added to the delinquent charges and must be paid in full before service is re-activated. There will be a fee in the amount of \$35.00 charged for any termination or reactivation service."

Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass the amendment of resolution 2020-07 section 6 on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Daniels made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Lowery, roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin called for the approval of the revised resolution, council person Daniels made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person James, roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Administrator Bingham reported:

- \* that there is an inground pool in the village without a fence and the owner will be contacted and notified that it requires a fence.
- \* that he would like to hire a part time grant writer to help prepare a couple of grants.
- \* that the village has a new insurance company for the 2023/2024 coverage year called PEP: Public Entities Pool of Ohio. This company serves Ohio townships, cities and villages and is a cost savings from our previous insurer.
- \* that in August it is his 6 year anniversary and Lucas Popes 2 year anniversary.

At 7:55 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person Daniels, all approved.

Next council meeting September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Lance Houchin 9-12-23  
Lance Houchin, Mayor Date

Joe Ridder 9/12/23  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer Date



**July 11, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on July 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, Matthews, James, Lowery, Troth and Daniels present. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham, Fiscal Officer Ridder and Solicitor Fansler were present.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session June 13, 2023 was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Daniels, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person Daniels, and 2nd by council person Lowery, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for June 2023 was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Daniels, all approved.

Mayor Houchin reported that volunteers from Mary Rutan Hospital painted the fence at the baseball field.

Mayor Houchin reported that the state has extended the funding for demolition of abandon buildings and he is working to get approval from the owner of one property in town.

Fiscal Officer Ridder reported that the Auditors said a draft should be available for the 2021/2022 audit by the end of July.

Fiscal Officer Ridder reported that the final payment was made on the OWDA Sewer loan.

Administrator Bingham reported:

- \* that 53 RCAP surveys has been completed and reminded council to turn in any completed survey each week to Joe.
- \* he is working to replace a couple sewer pump covers with cement covers.
- \* he is still working with the EPA to see if Belle Center can leave the regionalized sewer district of Logan county.
- \* he is exploring the option to get a traffic light at the intersection of Buckeye and State. The first step is for the State of do a traffic survey and he will file the application.
- \* the new building will be built the week of July 24-29.
- \* he would like to purchase a used tree chipper for around \$5,000. After much discussion council told him to make a deal on the purchase.

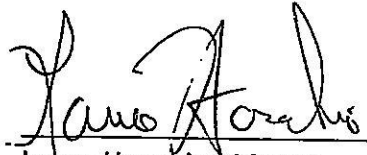
Solicitor Fansler discussed a letter that the Village received from FEMA, he is in contact with a presentative of the programs administration and will report back information he receives.


Staff member Scott Coy asked council if they could increase the employee monthly health insurance stipend that is currently \$150 per month. After much discussion, it was decided to increase the full-time employee health insurance stipend from \$150 per month to \$300 per month. Fiscal Officer Ridder had prepared a resolution (2023-08), Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass this resolution on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Legge made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Lowery, roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin called for the approval of the resolution, council person Legge made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Lowery, roll call vote resulted in all approving.



At 8:01 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person Daniels, all approved.

Next council meeting August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 PM

 8-8-23  
Lance Houchin, Mayor Date

 8-8-23  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer Date

**June 13, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on June 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, Matthews, James, Lowery, Troth and Daniels present. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham, Fiscal Officer Ridder and Solicitor Fansler were present.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session May 9, 2023 was made by council person Legge, and 2nd by council person Daniels, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Daniels, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for May 2023 was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Fiscal Officer Ridder said that the audit for years 2021 and 2022 is still going on, and the auditors asked for the Village to pass a policy on prohibiting the use of public funds for political activities. Solicitor Fansler prepared an Ordinance (2023-06) and explained the reason for the policy and its provision in the Ohio Revised Code. Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass this resolution on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Daniels made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Matthews, roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin called for the approval of the resolution, council person Lowery made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Matthews, roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Fiscal Officer Ridder presented a supplemental appropriation resolution (2023-07) for \$36,184, Administrator Bingham explained that \$35,800 is was to do paving work on Torrence and State Streets. The 384 is for interest on the Sewer Loan. Mayor Houchin asked for a motion to approve the resolution, was made by Daniels and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Legge, all approved.

Dave Rose of the Belle Center Presbyterian Church discussed the Bike Safety Rodeo. He attended one in Walpok and explained how it worked.

Administrator Bingham reported:

- \* that only 26 RCAP surveys has been completed and reminded council to turn in any completed survey each week to Joe.
- \* he is working with the county on a quote to have potholes filled in the alleys.
- \* the Depot will be painted with the help of Logan County Sherriff's Office Trustees during the next two weeks.

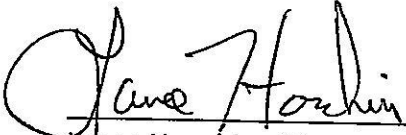
Solicitor Fansler discussed a letter that the Village received from FEMA, stating that the flood hazard map will be published soon. FEMA also recommended joining the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Fansler said he would research and report back to council.


Solicitor Fansler and Administrator Bingham disused the contract with Logan County Sewer District and it's expiring the end of June. David Henry, the Logan County Administrator said that the village would receive a contract for review but it has not yet been received.

Solicitor Fansler said that he would be filing legal paperwork to the owners of the camper in violation of the village's camper ordinance.

At 7:41 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person Daniels, all approved.

Next council meeting July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 PM

 7-11-23  
Lance Houchin, Mayor Date

 7/11/23  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer Date

**May 9, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on May 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, Matthews, James, Lowery, Troth and Daniels present. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham, Fiscal Officer Ridder and Solicitor Fansler were present.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session April 11, 2023 was made by council person Lowery, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person Daniels, and 2nd by council person James, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for April 2023 was made by council person Legge, and 2nd by council person Daniels, all approved.

Fiscal Officer Ridder said that the Audit for years 2021 and 2022 began last week and is going well. The auditors asked that the Monthly Utility Adjustment Reconciling Report be review and signed by council each month.

Dave Rose of the Belle Center Presbyterian Church discussed the Bike Safety Rodeo and presented materials and a safety check list that can be used. Mayor Houchin suggested a preliminary date of Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Bike Safety Rodeo.

Administrator Bingham reported:


- \* Clean up week went well with 20 tons of waste collected.
- \* Staff are working to flush all the fire hydrants.
- \* that he employed Scott Coy for the open full-time position with a salary of \$17/hr to begin 5/15/23.
- \* discussed the process of the door to door household income survey for RCAP (Rural Community Assistance partnership). We have 6 months to complete the survey.
- \* that he and the engineers from Mott and Associates are working on the EPA Plan 208 (a facilities plan commonly referred to as a Section 208 plan by the Ohio EPA, identifies how wastewater treatment needs will be met while protecting existing and future water quality).
- \* two sewer leaks were repaired: one next to the Memorial Building and another near Torrence and Buckeye streets.
- \* Paving of State Street should begin in Fall of 2023.
- \* Paving of Route 273 will begin in 2024.

Andrew Roy Chief of the BMRT ambulance discussed the emergency implications of the April 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 Solar Eclipse.

At 8:15 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person Daniels, all approved.

Next council meeting June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 PM

  
Lance Houchin, Mayor      6/13/23  
Date

  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer      6/13/23  
Date

**April 11, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on April 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, Matthews, James, Lowery, Troth present, absent was Daniels. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham, Fiscal Officer Ridder and Solicitor Fansler were present.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session March 14, 2023 was made by council person Troth, and 2nd by council person Matthews, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Matthews, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for March 2023 was made by council person Legge, and 2nd by council person Matthews, all approved.

Jacob Estes who is running for Logan County Municipal Court was in attendance to introduce himself and talk about his qualifications for the position.

Crystal Welsh who is running for Logan County Municipal Court was in attendance to introduce herself and talk about her qualifications for the position.

The Bike Safety Rodeo, previously scheduled for April 15th has been postponed until further notice.

Fiscal Officer Ridder said he did an assessment of the Villages physical records. The upstairs storage at the Shop has records from 1999-2014 of about 50 boxes, the downstairs storage has records from 2015-2020 of about 20 boxes, and the Depot Office has records from 2021-current of about 5 boxes.

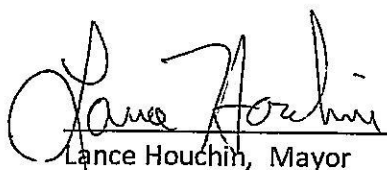
Solicitor Fansler recommended that we have a meeting of the Record Retention Committee at 6:30 PM before the next council meeting, May 9th, all agreed.

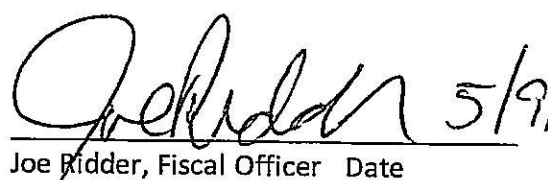
Solicitor Fansler said that legal measures have been taken with the Logan county court regarding the resident which is living in a camper in violation of the Village Ordinance.

Administrator Bingham discussed the process of the door to door household income survey for RCAP (Rural Community Assistance partnership). Council members were trained on how to complete the survey. The next step is for us to receive the address sample and then we can begin. We have six months to complete the survey but Administrator Bingham said that the sooner we complete it the sooner we can begin applying for funding.

At 7:55 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2nd by council person James.

Next council meeting May 9th, 2023 at 7:00 PM

 5-9-23  
Lance Houchin, Mayor Date

 5/9/23  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer Date

**March 14, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on March 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, Matthews, James, Daniels, Lowery, Troth present. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham, Fiscal Officer Ridder and Solicitor Fansler were present.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session February 14, 2023 was made by council person Daniels, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Matthews, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for February 2023 was made by council person Daniels, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Belle Center business owner Brent Boehm was in attendance to discuss a dispute he has with his neighbor Chad Walton about parking in the alley between their properties. Council decided to put up signs in the alley that say "15-minute parking only." Council also said that if this does not resolve the issue that the Village can permanently close to alley to all traffic.

Complaints were registered regarding two properties in town: 102 Walnut and 302 S. Elizabeth. Council said that both will be addressed.

Administrator Bingham brought a quote for the new proposed building on the corner of Keller and Main from Stillwater Metal LLC in Kenton. The cost for the building, which is a pole barn style of 48' X 72' X 14' is \$49,926.83. Mayor Houchin asked council for a motion to approve the purchase of the building and appropriate \$50,000.00 from the General, Street, Water, Sewer and Garbage funds (breakdown on resolution 2023-05), council person Legge made the motion, and Daniels 2<sup>nd</sup>, a roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Administrator Bingham said clean-up week will be May 1st thru 5th. If your normal trash day is Wednesday then clean-up days are May 1st and 2nd. If your normal trash day is Friday then clean-up days are May 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$20 per truck load, a truck load is defined as the amount that fits in the bed of a pickup truck 8' x 4' x 4'. Notices will go out with the March 30th Utility Billing.

Administrator Bingham said that the Village has two mowers that are no longer used and asked permission for these to be sold. Solicitor Fansler noted that any equipment sold over \$1,000 will need to be advertised with a sealed bid process used, and a formal resolution written and voted on. Bingham said that one mower was under and the other over \$1,000, but he will be getting appraisals. Mayor Houchin asked for a motion to allow Administrator Bingham to sell the two mowers, council person Daniels made the motion and Legge 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved. Fiscal Officer Ridder will write up the resolution once Bingham has the details finalized.

Administrator Bingham brought up the issue of the staff health insurance stipend which is currently \$150 per month. Fiscal Officer Ridder noted that BRMT's full time staff get a \$400 per month stipend. Council had no comments or discussion on the issue.

Administrator Bingham asked council, with their direct help, to begin the process of a door to door household income survey administered by the RCAP (Rural Community Assistance partnership). This would define the Village's median income and allow us to apply for more grants. Council member Legge said she would help. Bingham will contact RCAP to schedule a training for the people administering the survey which is required to be Village staff and elected officials.

Solicitor Fansler said that legal measures have been taken with the Logan county court regarding the resident which is living in a camper in violation of the Village Ordinance.

The updated easement and the purchase agreement, for the sale of the Main Street property to the Moran Brothers has been prepared and will be submitted to Logan county for processing.

Glass Blowing exhibiter Craig Downey asked council to use of Murry Griffith park for 3 days - May 27, 28 and 29. Council had several concerns about this event specifically liability insurance, electrical use and sanitary issues with camping in the Village park. Council denied the request to use the park.

At 8:15 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Daniels, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person Matthews.

Next council meeting April 11th, 2023 at 7:00 PM

 4/11/23  
Lance Houchin, Mayor Date

 4/11/23  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer Date



**February 14, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on February 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, Matthews, James, Daniels and Lowery present and Troth absent. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham, Fiscal Officer Ridder and Solicitor Fansler were present.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session January 9, 2023 was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person Legge, and 2nd by council person Daniels, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for January 2023 was made by council person Lowery, and 2nd by council person Matthews, all approved.

Village resident Pamela Jones of 102 Walnut spoke to the council about the reason why she is living in a camper and asked for an exception to the "Ordinance Prohibiting Certain uses of Travel trailers as Dwellings for Habitation." After discussion council decided to enforce to ordinance and Solicitor Fansler would send a letter to the home owner.

Dave Rose of the Belle Center Presbyterian Church asked council if they would be interested in hosting a Bicycle Safety Rodeo. Dave said he has a contact that would be the safety instructor / bicycle inspector. After much discussion, a very enthusiastic council agreed to sponsor the event, free bicycle inspections and repairs will be done at the event on April 15<sup>th</sup> with a rain day of April 29<sup>th</sup> along with food and prizes for the attendees. More details to released soon.

Mayor Houchin commented on that fact that several complaints have been made about the property at 211 E Main. Mayor assured council that Logan county officials are aware of the situation.

Mayor Houchin asked council to think about ways of getting the sidewalks repaired in the Village. Sidewalk repair is the responsibility of the homeowner. After discussion no decision was made.

Administrator Bingham spoke to council about staff pay structure. He said that if a staff member receives their water license / collection license they would receive a \$1 per hour raise and for mosquito / weed spray license and \$0.50 cents per hour raise. He also asked council to consider a yearly cost of living increase for staff as well as to consider raising the monthly health insurance stipend from \$150 to \$300 per month, no decision was made.

Administrator Bingham has received no more information from the Logan County Sewer District about the negotiation of our contract that is up in July.


Administrator Bingham notified council that the roof of the shop continues to be a problem, so he and staff will replace it with a metal roof for a cost of \$2,800 in materials.

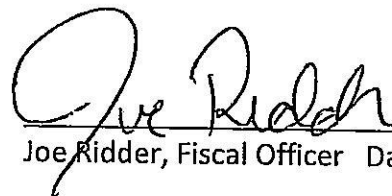
Administrator Bingham talked to council about the possibility of a new building on Keller Ave across from the depot. Several options were discussed but no decision was made.

Administrator Bingham talked about the possibility of the village participating in a household income survey for RCAP (Rural Community Assistance Partnership). What this would do is survey the residents and determine the average mean income and once this is determined we should be able to apply for additional grants. Council agreed and planning will proceed.

At 8:30 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person James.

Next council meeting March 14th, 2023 at 7:00 PM

 3-14-23  
Lance Houchin, Mayor Date

 3-14-23  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer Date

**January 10, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on January 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding. Roll call was taken with council members: Legge, Matthews, James, Daniels and Lowery present and Troth absent. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham, Fiscal Officer Ridder and Solicitor Fansler were present.

Motion to approve minutes from regular session December 13, 2022 was made by council person Legge, and 2nd by council person Matthews, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person Daniels, and 2nd by council person James, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for December 2022 was made by council person Legge, and 2nd by council person James, all approved.

The Moran Brothers were present to discuss the sale of the Villages property at Main and Keller to them. The current title map shows an easement of 25 feet and Moran would like it to be 15 feet. Village Administrator Bingham agreed that 15 feet should work and that he would measure the location of the sewer. Solicitor Fansler would then make the changes to the title map.

Beth Haude, loan officer from the Union Bank was present to say hello and let the Village know that Union Bank was there to help them and would be happy to provide a lending quote when additional funding would be needed.

Fiscal Officer Ridder presented the Annual Appropriation Resolution 2023-01 to council along with detail of the revenue and expense budgets. Mayor Houchin called for the approval of the resolution, council person Lowery made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Legge, roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Fiscal Officer Ridder notified council that the Utility rates are scheduled to increase based on the passing last year's resolution of a yearly 2% increase. Below is a summary of the 2023 increase:

UTILITY RATES	2022	2% Increase	2023
Water	\$11.48	\$0.23	\$11.71
Sewer	\$53.55	\$1.07	\$54.62
Sewer w/ Electric CR	\$41.31	\$0.83	\$42.14
Garbage	\$17.09	\$0.34	\$17.43
Capital Improvement	\$13.26	\$0.27	\$13.53
Total base rate	\$95.38	\$1.91	\$97.29
Bulk Water	\$12.24	\$0.24	\$12.48
Monthly Dumpster			
in Town	\$73.00	\$1.46	\$74.46
Out Town	\$93.00	\$1.86	\$94.86
Dumpster per dump	\$40.00	\$0.80	\$40.80

Mayor Houchin called for council to approve John Lowery as President of the Council. Council person Legge made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Matthews, all approved.

Mayor Houchin presented resolution 2023-02 to council from the State of Ohio's Department of Transportation to resurface State Route 273, projected to be completed in 2024. Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass this resolution on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Legge made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Matthews, roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin called for the approval of the resolution, council person James made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Daniels, roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Mayor Houchin presented resolution 2023-03 to council to hire Steve Fansler as the villages Solicitor for \$735 per month for a contract of 2 years. Mayor Houchin called for the approval of the resolution, council person James made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Matthews, roll call vote resulted in all approving.

Solicitor Fansler presented an update on the home that is in violation on the "Ordinance Prohibiting Certain uses of Travel trailers as Dwellings for Habitation." The owner is ignoring our mailed notices and refused to pick up a certified notice. He will have the Logan County Sherriff's Office deliver a notice to the homeowner in person.

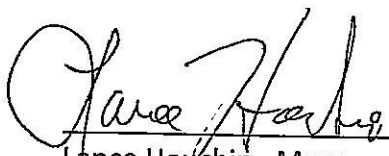
Mayor Houchin asked council to approve Ordinance 2023-04 for no parking on the south side of Buckeye Street from N. State to N. Center. Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass this resolution on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Daniels made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Legge, roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin called for the approval of the resolution, council person Daniels made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Matthews, roll call vote resulted in all approving.

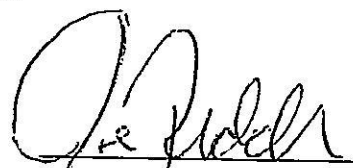
Mayor Houchin appointed Anita Legge as Belle Center's representative to the B.M.R.T. Ambulance District's board of directors.

Administrator Bingham notified council that EPA conducted a site visit of our water plant. The visit went very well and the inspector told Bingham that this was one of the best site visit he has seen in a long time. Two recommendations were made as a result of the visit. The village will need to conduct a test to verify that no lead pipes are used in the system. Also, the clear well sediment should be removed which would cost around \$10,000.

At 8:30 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2<sup>nd</sup> by council person Daniels.

Next council meeting February 14th, 2023 at 7:00 PM

  
Lance Houchin, Mayor      2/14/23  
Date

  
Joe Ridder, Fiscal Officer      2/14/23  
Date