



Village of Bellevue January 2010 E-mail Newsletter

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Village of Bellevue Governmental Meetings:

Village Council: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 7:00 p.m.
Bellevue Village Hall
Tuesday, January 26, 2010 7:00 p.m.
Bellevue Village Hall



Bellevue Joint Planning Commission: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 7:00 p.m.
Bellevue Township Hall

Holidays:

The Village of Bellevue offices will be closed on the following days in January

New Year's Day Friday, January 1, 2010
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday, January 18, 2010



Council Meeting Synopsis:

December 8, 2009: The 2010 council meeting schedule was set. The council will continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesday's of each month. The council also briefly reviewed the 2010 Village of Bellevue Budget in preparation for the public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, December 22, 2009.



The 2010 Water and Sewer Utility Rates were the big topic of discussion. A public hearing was held where a few community members voiced their opinions regarding the proposed rate increase. Following the public hearing the council discussed the increase and the reasons behind it. After the discussion a motion to raise the utility rates as proposed was made, supported and passed. This increase is approximately 20%.

December 22, 2009: The Village of Bellevue 2010 Budget was the main agenda item for this meeting. It was approved following a scheduled public hearing. There were no comments by the public received during the public hearing and no comments had been received by Village Hall to share. The

council did spend time reviewing the budget and going over various budgeted expenditures.

Recycling Program:

Bellevue is working with the staff and students of Bellevue High School to provide pick up service in cooperation with the new recycling program recently created. Our students will be offering this community service to elderly and housebound residents who would like to recycle but are unable to get their recyclable material to the site.

The recycling site is open on Wednesdays. Pick up will be set for this day due to no available storage space. The students will only be permitted to pick up recyclable material that is clean and has been sorted. It must be sorted as follows:

Container 1- This container will have compartments designated for the placement of plastics, glass, and tin. Items Accepted: Clear, Green & Brown Glass Jars and Bottles, Food Cans, Foil, Pie Tins, Lids from Jars, Milk Jugs, Laundry & Hair Care Bottles, Plastics #1,2,3,4,5, & 7 Items Not Accepted: Plastic Grocery Bags or Wrap, Styrofoam, Microwave Containers, Materials Not Rinsed or Cleaned, Scrap Metal, Window Glass, Wire Hangers, Batteries, Motor Oil, Aerosol Cans, Drinking Glasses, Light Bulbs, Plastic Knives, Forks, & Spoons

Container 2- This container will be for cardboard and paper. Items Accepted: Newspaper, including inserts & comics, Fliers, Magazines & Catalogs, Telephone Books, Cereal Boxes, Office Paper, Junk Mail, Maps, Post-It Notes, Cardboard, Brown Paper Bags. Items Not Accepted: Pizza Boxes, Facial Tissues, Waxed or Laminated, Food Wrappers.

In order to participate you must contact Bellevue Village Hall at 269-763-9571 or Lisa Redmer, Bellevue High School Teacher, 269-763-9413 ext. 3048, to arrange a pick up time.

2010 Village of Bellevue Council Meeting Schedule:

The Village Council will meet on the second and the fourth Tuesday of each month in 2010. Village council meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Bellevue Village Hall, 201 N. Main St. Below is a list of the regular council meeting dates.

2010 Bellevue Village Council Meeting Schedule

Tuesday	January 12, 2010	Tuesday	July 13, 2010
Tuesday	January 26, 2010	Tuesday	July 27, 2010
Tuesday	February 9, 2010	Tuesday	August 10, 2010
Tuesday	February 23, 2010	Tuesday	August 24, 2010

Tuesday	March 9, 2010	Tuesday	September 14, 2010
Tuesday	March 23, 2010	Tuesday	September 28, 2010
Tuesday	April 13, 2010	Tuesday	October 12, 2010
Tuesday	April 27, 2010	Tuesday	October 26, 2010
Tuesday	May 11, 2010	Tuesday	November 9, 2010
Tuesday	May 25, 2010	Tuesday	November 23, 2010
Tuesday	June 8, 2010	Tuesday	December 14, 2010
Tuesday	June 22, 2010	Tuesday	December 28, 2010

2010 Bellevue Joint Planning Commission Meeting Schedule:

The Bellevue Joint Planning Commission will meet on the third Tuesday of each month in 2010. Commission meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Bellevue Township Hall, 115 N. Main St. Below is a list of the regular commission meeting dates.

2010 Bellevue Joint Planning Commission Meeting Schedule

Tuesday	January 19, 2010	Tuesday	July 20, 2010
Tuesday	February 16, 2010	Tuesday	August 17, 2010
Tuesday	March 16, 2010	Tuesday	September 21, 2010
Tuesday	April 20, 2010	Tuesday	October 19, 2010
Tuesday	May 18, 2010	Tuesday	November 16, 2010
Tuesday	June 15, 2010	Tuesday	December 21, 2010

Council Members:

Here is a list of the Bellevue Village Council Members.

- Denise Poyer, Village President (November 2010)
- Don Bolthouse, Village Trustee (November 2010)
- Thomas Moon, Village Trustee (November 2010)
- Eric Johnson, Village Trustee (November 2010)
- Lisa Redmer, Village Trustee (November 2010)
- Bernard Holcomb, Village Trustee (November 2012)
- Stephen Racine, Village Trustee (November 2012)



Christmas Season Recognition:

The Village would like to thank all those individuals and groups that worked to help make this holiday season so wonderful.

Thank you to the Lioness Club for the beautiful decorations adorning our downtown and Bellevue Volunteer Firefighters for hanging them. Both groups do a great job of dressing up the community for the holidays.

Thank you to the Village employees and First Choice Tree Service for your help in setting up decorations and keeping the lights working throughout December.

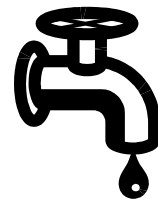


Thank you to Deb Black for organizing the annual Christmas Parade. It may have been cold but it was a fun parade.

Thank you to Mark and Julie Jordan and the Bellevue Hardware for hosting Santa Night. The children in our community always enjoy the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus in Bellevue.

2010 Village of Bellevue Utility Rates:

At the December 8, 2009 Bellevue Village Council Meeting the council voted to increase the Village's water and sewer utility rates. This rate increase was based on a rate study, financial information, and the necessity for the two utilities to be self reliant.



Just like our community members, the Village has not remained immune to the economic downturn this decade, experiencing reduced revenues and rising expenses. We have seen expenses in certain areas continue to grow and have done our best to offset these increases. Our methods of operation have been and are consistently being reviewed for cost savings. Changes are being made where possible. We have replaced equipment to improve efficiency and effectiveness, changed chemical usage, and put off capital improvement projects. Personnel costs have also underwent changes that have allowed the Village to realize significant cost savings.

The council and employees of the Village are very aware of the difficult economic times. While our efforts to control costs have had successes we have still unfortunately reached a point where it is necessary for us to increase our utility rates.

We are required to meet certain requirements as set forth by the State of Michigan and Federal Government. These requirements impact our ability to cut costs. At the same time that usage has fallen and expenses have increased, the requirements the Village must meet have become more stringent. An example of the impact these regulations have had is the project in 2006 where the wastewater treatment plant underwent a \$1,000,000 infrastructure improvement project. We will be paying off the bonds required to fund the project for several more years.

We take our responsibility seriously. The council and employees will continue to search for areas where savings can be found and implement new ideas that help us control costs. We are also pursuing community growth. Both our water and wastewater systems are currently operating at approximately half capacity so with increased usage we could spread our costs over a greater number of households with little impact to our expenses.

The rate changes are:

Water:

Minimum Bill- An Increase from \$20.00 to \$24.00

Rate per thousand gallons of usage- Increase \$0.80 per thousand gallons from \$3.90 to \$4.70

Sewer:

Minimum Bill- An Increase from \$40.00 to \$48.00

Rate per thousand gallons of usage- Increase \$1.75 per thousand gallons from \$7.90 to \$9.65

Capital Improvement:

\$36.00 charge per benefit unit per quarter- No Change

These charges create a minimum quarterly billing of \$108.00 for a household.

The chart shows how the proposed utility rates compare to the current utility rates at different usages. The average household uses 15,000 gallons a quarter so this line has been highlighted. Usage can vary greatly from household to household so you are encouraged to look at past bills for your usage amounts.

Usage (in 1000's)	Current Total Bill	Proposed Total Bill	Quarterly Increase	Annual Increase
1	\$ 96.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 48.00
2	\$ 96.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 48.00
3	\$ 96.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 48.00
4	\$ 96.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 48.00
5	\$ 96.00	\$ 108.25	\$ 12.25	\$ 49.00
6	\$ 106.80	\$ 122.10	\$ 15.30	\$ 61.20
7	\$ 118.60	\$ 136.45	\$ 17.85	\$ 71.40
8	\$ 130.40	\$ 150.80	\$ 20.40	\$ 81.60
9	\$ 142.20	\$ 165.15	\$ 22.95	\$ 91.80
10	\$ 154.00	\$ 179.50	\$ 25.50	\$102.00
11	\$ 165.80	\$ 193.85	\$ 28.05	\$112.20
12	\$ 177.60	\$ 208.20	\$ 30.60	\$122.40
13	\$ 189.40	\$ 222.55	\$ 33.15	\$132.60
14	\$ 201.20	\$ 236.90	\$ 35.70	\$142.80
15	\$ 213.00	\$ 251.25	\$ 38.25	\$153.00
16	\$ 224.80	\$ 265.60	\$ 40.80	\$163.20
17	\$ 236.60	\$ 279.95	\$ 43.35	\$173.40
18	\$ 248.40	\$ 294.30	\$ 45.90	\$183.60
19	\$ 260.20	\$ 308.65	\$ 48.45	\$193.80
20	\$ 272.00	\$ 323.00	\$ 51.00	\$204.00
21	\$ 283.80	\$ 337.35	\$ 53.55	\$214.20
22	\$ 295.60	\$ 351.70	\$ 56.10	\$224.40
23	\$ 307.40	\$ 366.05	\$ 58.65	\$234.60
24	\$ 319.20	\$ 380.40	\$ 61.20	\$244.80
25	\$ 331.00	\$ 394.75	\$ 63.75	\$255.00
26	\$ 342.80	\$ 409.10	\$ 66.30	\$265.20
27	\$ 354.60	\$ 423.45	\$ 68.85	\$275.40
28	\$ 366.40	\$ 437.80	\$ 71.40	\$285.60
29	\$ 378.20	\$ 452.15	\$ 73.95	\$295.80
30	\$ 390.00	\$ 466.50	\$ 76.50	\$306.00

Sincerely,

Village of Bellevue