

Minutes of Belvidere Planning Commission Meeting

April 17, 2025, an in-person and ZOOM hybrid meeting.

Meeting convened at 6:49 PM and adjourned at 8:09 PM.

The meeting was delayed slightly due to lack of a quorum. Deb Baker arrived at 6:47, thereby satisfying the necessary quorum of members. Members present at TCO were Ken Adams Jr., Deb Baker, and Kathy Marchant. There were no ZOOM attendees. Town Clerk Cathy Mander-Adams also attended in person at the TCO. Also attending in person were Belvidere residents Carol Caldwell-Edmonds and Tyler Barber. No changes to the agenda. Agenda item regarding annual reorganization of the BPC tabled until the next meeting.

Motion by Deb to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2025, meeting as written; 2nd by Kathy; motion carried.

Discussion of the status of disposition of the Belvidere Elementary School by LNMUUSD:

- Possible uses of the school building being researched by the BPC, Selectboard, and Belvidere residents include farm-to-table food distribution hub, co-op work-share space for professional / office personnel, shared use of the commercial kitchen facility, installation of a microbrewery / beer garden / restaurant facility, convenience store, per diem rental of space for small group conventions, re-establishing use as an early education facility. An obvious use of the building is for it to remain as the current Emergency Shelter and Community Space for Town Meetings, receptions, etc., and to relocate the Town Clerk's Office to the school.
- Options that could generate revenue to offset operational costs of the building are a focus of the ideas listed above.
- Other possible uses yet to be researched include daycare facilities, fitness center, small business start-up or incubator space, medical outpatient clinic, business or wellness "retreat" used in conjunction with soon-to-be designated Town Forest, an operational hub for Cold Hollow to Canada.
- Growth and development goals and objectives written in Belvidere's current Town Plan should be considered in determining the future use of the school building.
- The group's consensus is that qualified operational cost estimates, along with any additional tax burden implications, should be compiled and offered as information to Belvidere's residents.

Current town development issues and other business: Ken reported that the bidding process is underway for several grant funded road improvement projects.

Nothing was discussed under "other business / public comment" agenda item, but residents Carol and Tyler participated in the discussion regarding the Belvidere Elementary School.

Motion by Deb to adjourn at 8:09 PM; 2nd by Kathy; motion carried.

Next regular meeting scheduled **May 8, 2025, 6:30PM – 8:00PM**, in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office and will include a ZOOM hybrid opportunity as well.