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Future Bellaire development hits the road

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More jobs should be on the way to the village of Bellaire after the village council cleared the way for the creation of a new road at Commerce Park during Thursday's regular meeting.

A new road, Commerce Park Way, and the finalized transfer of two acres was made to the Belmont County Port Authority, part of a deal that is expected to help create development in Bellaire.

During the meeting, council passed an amended ordinance that makes the transfer of two-acres to reflect the creation of the new road.

Belmont County Commissioner Mark Thomas offered praise to the village and the port authority for the amount of cooperation shared between the two entities.

"The Belmont County Commissioners recreated the port authority for a couple of reasons," Thomas said. "We recreated it in August 2006 for this very reason we are here tonight - for them to work with local government; to create economic development with local government.

"I cannot thank you enough on behalf of my colleagues for the spirit of cooperation between the village of Bellaire, Belmont County and the port authority. It is the cooperation and collaboration that has provided the net result here in the village of Bellaire that will create in the next 45 days - three announcements of businesses that will locate in the village that will total around 100 jobs. And I stand here tonight with great pride and admiration for the cooperation you've had with the port authority. And I want to thank you on behalf of Commissioner (Chuck) Probst and Commissioner (Gordie) Longshaw."

Thomas went on to say the port authority has been working county wide to attract economic development.

"The bigger picture is what is good for Bellaire is good for Belmont County and we will continue to with you to create these types of opportunities," Thomas said.

Port Authority Director Larry Merry also said the village's assistance has helped to make the work easy.

"The village has been tremendous and let's just continue to work together," Merry said.

It something one village council member said it's been a long time in coming.

"I remember when they were putting Commerce Park in and everybody said nothing was going to happen," Councilman Jerry Olack said. "We had little nibbles here and there, but I want to thank you for coming down here and doing this for us."

Council also has been working on an ordinance to transfer an additional three acres from Commerce Park to the port authority.

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