



VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES MEETING OF MAY 6, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, Village of Elwood, May 6, 2020, at 7:00 PM, was called to order by Village President Doug Jenco.

Executive Order 2020-07 Open Meetings Act:

Sections 6, as amended below, of Executive Order 2020-07 are re-issued and extended through May 29, 2020.

Section 6. During the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation and through May 29, 2020, the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, requiring or relating to in-person attendance by members of a public body are suspended. Specifically, (1) the requirement in 5 ILCS 120/2.01 that "members of a public body must be physically present" is suspended, and (2) the conditions in 5 ILCS 120/7 limiting when remote participation is permitted are suspended. The provision of the Illinois Finance Authority Act that "[a]ll meetings shall be conducted at a single location within the State with a quorum of members physically present at this location," 20 ILCS 3501/801-25, is suspended through May 29, 2020.

Physically Present: Village Board President Doug Jenco, Village Board Trustee: Ron Schmidt

Remote Participation: Village Board Trustees: Tricia Maas, Joe Berscheid, Jodie Bertucci, Michael Varman, Darryl Lab

Also, Physically Present: Village Administrator/Village Clerk Julie Friebele

Also, Remote Participation: Police Chief Fred Hayes, Director of Public Works Larry Lohmar, and Attorney Jordan Kielian

The Meeting Opened with the Pledge to the Flag

Presentations and Public Hearings

Remote Presentation: Group Benefits Renewal July 1, 2020, Alliant/Mesirow, Paul Mizera

- Medical Health Insurance Plan: Results are in an overall increase of 2.53% over the current premiums and amount to approximately \$6,205 annually.
- Dental: On the group dental plan, the Village is receiving a rate pass. Due to the COVID-19 situation, there will be no increase in rates.
- Life/AD&D: The Village is also receiving a rate-pass, no change in rates.

Remote Presentation: Refunding Bonds Discussion, Piper Sandler & Co., Eric Anderson

- Mr. Anderson discussed a plan for a multi-phase restructuring of the Village's bond debt.

Public Comments – Pertaining to Agenda Items

Members of the audience did not have public comments pertaining to agenda items.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Presentation of Minutes – March 4, 2020

Presentation of Minutes – April 1, 2020

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report February 22, 2020 through April 30, 2020 in the amount of \$1,618,281.94.

Presentation of Bills – Unpaid Invoice Report in the amount of \$123,831.92.

Trustee Lab seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Administration – Village Administrator Julie Friebele

March 2020 Financial Report

The March 2020 Financial Report prepared by Finance Director Robbie Day was presented to the Village Board for review. The report represents the Village of Elwood's year to date revenues, expenses, and end of the month fund cash balances.

2020-2021 Alliant Mesirow Insurance Renewal Plans

The Village must renew its medical, dental, and life insurance plans annually by or before the first day of July. The insurance committee made up of village employee representatives from administration, public works and police departments met remotely with Paul Mizera from Alliant Mesirow to review the proposed options. The proposed plans are essentially the same as those that are currently being offered to all full time employees. The premiums are currently a split cost between the Village and the employees. The Village contributes 75%, and the employees contribute 25% of the medical and dental insurance plan premiums. A motion was made by Trustee Lab to approve the 2020-2021 Alliant Mesirow Insurance Renewal Plans, and also that the employees continue to pay 25% of the medical and dental insurance plan premiums. Trustee Bertucci seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

An Ordinance Amending Section 91.05 of the Village of Elwood's Code of Ordinances to Allow Chickens on Certain Residential Properties

The Village established guidelines for the control of animals within the community prohibiting any farm animal or livestock to be kept upon certain residential properties. Many residents contacted the Village requesting an amendment to our current Village code to allow for chickens to be kept on certain residential properties. Raising your own chickens is a great way to improve the health of your family by providing organic eggs with no added hormones, and chickens are a natural source of pest control. The proposed ordinance amending Section 91.05 of the Village code would provide that residential chickens are permitted in Single Family Residential Districts subject to regulations. Some of the regulations as described in Exhibit "A" of the proposed ordinance include the placement and upkeep of enclosures and coops, number of chickens, and the storage of feed. An Ordinance amending sections 91.05 of the Village of Elwood's code of ordinances to allow chickens on certain residential properties in the Village was

presented as a first read on February 5, 2020. The ordinance was amended to include construction standards for the coop. A motion was made by Trustee Berscheid to adopt an Ordinance Amending Section 91.05 of the Village of Elwood’s Code of Ordinances to Allow Chickens on Certain Residential Properties. Trustee Lab seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – abstain, Trustee Bertucci – no, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

An Ordinance Suspending Water and Sewer Rate Increases for Residential and Commercial Users

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is in the best interest of the Village to suspend the water and sewer rate increases for residential and commercial customers scheduled to commence on May 1, 2020, in accordance with the terms of Ordinance No. 1089. The water and sewer rate increase for residential and commercial users will be suspended until further action is taken by the President and Board of Trustees. The scheduled rate increase for industrial users will take effect on May 1, 2020 in accordance with the terms of Ordinance No. 1089. A motion was made by Trustee Lab to forego the final read and adopt An Ordinance Suspending Water and Sewer Rate Increases for Residential and Commercial Users. Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

Baxter & Woodman Professional Agreement for Village Engineering Services

Since September 2016, Baxter & Woodman has been providing part-time Village Engineering services to the Village, to provide general engineering services, development review, attendance at Village Board and staff meetings as requested, participation in the weekly Public Works meeting, and assistance to Village staff as needed. This is an annual contract, matching the Village’s fiscal year. The current contract terminated on April 30, 2020. A motion was made by Trustee Schmidt to approve the Baxter & Woodman Professional Agreement for Village Engineering Services. Trustee Lab seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

Police Department – Chief Fred Hayes

During the month of February 2020

The Elwood Police Department responded to 551 calls for service.

For more details concerning the types of calls, residents can visit the Village of Elwood website.

Police officers issued a total of 155 citations:

- Local Citations (O.V.) 2
- State Citations 153
- Overweight Violations (15)
- Year to Date Total 486

Arrest Report Summary:

- Traffic Arrests 30
- Warrant Arrests 2
- Criminal 1

TRAINING REPORT:

OFFICER	CLASS	DATE	Hours
Ethan Anderson	Enforcing Illinois Cannabis Law	2/18/20	8
James Hartley	Use of Force	2/18/20	8
Ethan Anderson	Criminal Investigation for New Detectives	2/24-25/2020	16
Total Training Hours:			25

During the month of March 2020

The Elwood Police Department responded to 393 calls for service.

For more details concerning the types of calls, residents can visit the Village of Elwood website.

Police officers issued a total of 114 citations:

- Local Citations (O.V.) 2
- State Citations 153
- Overweight Violations (15)
- Year to Date Total 600

Arrest Report Summary:

- Traffic Arrests 17
- Warrant Arrests 1
- Criminal 1

TRAINING REPORT:

OFFICER	CLASS	DATE	Hours
Sean Swabowski	Officer Wellnew/The Resilient Life	3/10/20	8
James Hartley	Officer Wellnew/The Resilient Life	3/10/20	8
James Hartley	Fundamentals of Investigation	3/19/20	7
James Hartley	Crime Scene Identification	3/23/20	8
James Hartley	Vehicle Stops and Occupant Control	3/24/20	7
Total Training Hours:			38

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the police department implemented additional procedures for the safety of personnel and the public. Officers have all PPE required and plenty in inventory right now.

- Traffic stops are limited to severe offenses not minor offenses. Citation counts were lower in March than in February and will be even lower in April.
- Trucks driving on Mississippi Avenue are not being ticketed but are made to turn back to IL Rt. 53 and enter the intermodal on designated truck routes.

There were reports of car burglaries, remember to lock your cars when parked outside.

Smash and grab incident at BP. Theft of \$16,000 dollars' worth of cigarettes.

Public Works – Director of Public Works Larry Lohmar

Well 8 Improvements

The well pump is in the process of being installed and if the install is successful, we will test the pump next week.

Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Vessels (Water Softener)

The WWTP vessel (water softener) is approved and on schedule. Working on the Scada communications.

Well 10 Leak

We are working on a major leak from Well 10 pump to the pump house building. The pipe is approximately 10 feet deep.

COVID-19

Due to the pandemic, the public works department is maintaining social distancing while performing their daily functions. They are given the options to take their breaks and/or lunches out in the field or even going home.

Village Clerk – Julie Friebele

\$1.5 Billion Dollar Grant Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) was authorized to implement a \$1.5 billion dollar grant program using proceeds from general obligation (transportation, series A) bonds authorized in the REBUILD Illinois capital programs to provide Local Public Agencies with the funds for capital projects. IDOT intends to award and disburse REBUILD Illinois grants twice each year over a period of 3 years. The Local REBUILD Illinois Bond Funds Municipality Allotment for the Village of Elwood is \$25,032.51 twice per year which equals a three (3) year total of \$150,195.06. To qualify a project, it will need to be a bondable capital improvement. In general, transportation improvement projects with an average useful life of greater than or equal to 13 years are considered bondable capital improvements. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of an overhead height restrictive barrier to be located on Mississippi Avenue at the intersection of IL Route 53.

Village President – Doug Jenco

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village had to cancel multiple scheduled events. We are holding off on making a decision about Elwood Community Day festival. We have already invested quite a bit of money into the planning of the event and much of it we believe is nonrefundable. We will keep everyone posted.

Please remember to:

- Wash your hands often.
- Take everyday precautions to keep space between yourself and others (stay 6 feet away, which is about two arm lengths).
- Keep away from people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched services.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Public Comments

A member of the audience discussed concerns regarding survey marks at Chicago Road 300 yards south of Mississippi. There are approximately 600 yards of markings and all the markings have arrows that point back to Elwood.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Trustee Lab to move to closed session to consider the probable or imminent and pending litigation. Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Schmidt to reconvene open session. Trustee Maas seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

Actions To Be Taken Following The Closed Session Meeting

No actions to be considered.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Schmidt to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Maas seconded the motion. All the Village Board Trustees present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Julie Friebele, Village Clerk