



VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES MEETING OF AUGUST 11, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, Village of Elwood, August 11, 2021, at 7:00 PM, was called to order by Village President Doug Jenco.

Role Call

Present: Village Board President Doug Jenco, Village Board Trustees: Ron Schmidt, Jodie Bertucci, Michael Varman, Tricia Maas, and Kendy Elbersen

Also, Present: Village Administrator/Village Clerk Julie Friebele, Director of Public Works Larry Lohmar, and Attorney Jordan Kielian

Not Present: Village Board Trustee: Darryl Lab

The Meeting Opened with the Pledge to the Flag

Presentations and Public Hearings

Wade Spang presented the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Silver Anniversary Poster. From bison and bunkers to big bluestem and more, the new poster commemorates 25 years of prairie restoration at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

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 Schmidt to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Presentation of Minutes – July 7, 2021

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report June 26, 2021 through July 6, 2021 in the amount of \$20,519.99.

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report July 8, 2021 through July 26, 2021 in the amount of \$962,847.86.

Presentation of Bills – Unpaid Invoice Report in the amount of \$279,240.80.

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

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Administration – Village Administrator Julie Friebele

June 2021 Financial Report

The June 2021 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.

A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ComEd Green Region Program for the Children’s Garden Expansion and Multi-Use Learning Center Project

For the past 25 years, the Village of Elwood has hosted an award-winning Children's Garden. On March 23, 2021, the Village submitted an application for an Openlands Grant, a Conserving Nature for Life 2021 ComEd Green Region Program. The Village applied for the grant to expand and enhance the experience in the Children’s Garden for residents and visitors. The garden currently consists of 1,000 square feet of plantings, 350 feet of walkway, wayfinding signs, and multiple learning opportunities. The vision for the community is to expand the pollinator garden area by 1,000 square feet, expand the pathway to access the new garden, provide further pollinator learning stations, and a multi-use learning center within the garden. On July 9, 2021, the Village was notified that we were awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000. As a condition of the grant, Openlands requires the Village to "match" the sponsor funding. As part of the acceptance of the grant, the Village must adopt a resolution authorizing participation in the ComEd Green Region Program for the Children’s Garden Expansion and Multi-use Learning Center Project. A motion was made by Trustee Maas to adopt a Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ComEd Green Region Program for the Children’s Garden Expansion and Multi-Use Learning Center Project. Trustee Bertucci seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes. The motion carried.

Police Department – Chief Fred Hayes

During the Month of June 2021

The Elwood Police Department responded to 359 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 95 citations:

- Local Citations (O.V.) 3
- State Citations 92
- Overweight Violations (8)
- Monthly Total 95
- 2021 Year to Date Total 1145

Arrest Report Summary:

- Traffic Arrests 5
- Warrant Arrests 2
- Criminal 1
- Monthly Total 8
- Year to Date Total 101

TRAINING REPORT: ALL ONLINE CLASSES

OFFICER	CLASS	DATE	Hours
Sarah Zimmerman	Breath Alcohol Testing	6/15-16/2021	16
Nick Adams	Explosives Recognition & Requirements	6/22/2021	8
Anthony Lohmar	TASER Instructor Training	6/29-30/2021	16

Total Training Hours: 40

Introduction and Oath of Office, Sergeant Marc Reid

Village Clerk Julie Friebele administered the oath of office to Sergeant Marc Reid.

Public Works – Director of Public Works Larry Lohmar

Street Lights for St. Louis Street

Concrete bases were installed for the St. Louis street lights. The Village received delivery of the poles and lights. The Public Works staff will install the electrical component soon after Elwood Days.

Emergency Generators

The generator for the Village Hall is set in place, the gas is hooked up, and the new transfer switch is installed. The Village is waiting on Caterpillar to schedule the start up.

Village Hall Roof

The materials are ordered to replace the Village Hall roof. We are waiting on delivery.

Lloyd Erickson Restroom

Public Works is rebuilding the roof structure of the restroom at Lloyd Erickson Park. Upon completion, the facility will get a fresh coat of paint.

Light Base and Cameras at Lloyd Erickson Park

Public Works installed a light base at the entrance of Lloyd Erickson Park. The base will accommodate a new light pole and an infrared camera in the park.

Sweeper

The road sweeper is repaired and back in service. We will sweep the streets in preparation for Elwood Days.

Recent Storms

With the recent storms, the Village is fortunate not to have received any major storm damage. The Village only received a small amount of damage to tree branches.

Village Administrator – Julie Friebele

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

As part of ARPA, the Village of Elwood is eligible to receive \$302,611.81 from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Allotment for Non-entitlement units of local government (NEU's). NEU's are local governments typically serving populations of less than 50,000. Allocations to communities are made on a per-capita basis in two payments. After completing the allocation request on the portal, the first payment will be made to the Village at the end of August 2021, with the second to be made approximately one year later. Funds can be used to cover revenue losses and the costs of responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency or to its negative economic impacts on households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest hit by the crisis. These funds can also be used to invest in building, maintaining, or upgrading water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. There are multiple steps that the Village must follow in order to receive these funds. The Village was provided a portal to submit the necessary documents to begin the process to receive funding. The first step of the process was completed and submitted on July 23, 2021. On August 30th Finance Director Robbie Day and I will be attending a webinar to get a better understanding regarding the permitted uses of these funds.

Dollar General

Dollar General has had some ongoing maintenance issues with the property's exterior. Unfinished repairs on the southwest corner of the parking lot; the entrance sign, and mulch or seed added in this area. The parking area had to be brought back to its previous condition. Because of the ongoing unkept conditions the Village fined Dollar General. The parking lot repairs have been made, and lawn maintenance is being addressed. The Village will be receiving \$25,000 to satisfy the liens on the property.

Elwood Community Days

August 20, 21 & 22. Mega passes for all day rides for the 3 days are available for presale purchase \$60.00. Mega passes will be sold at the gate for \$75.00. Please contact Julie Friebele 815-424-1079 to volunteer.

Fall Clean-up Day

Monday, September 27th, Waste Management will pick up White Goods such as refrigerators, water heaters, washer and dryers. They will also haul away up to four (4) tires that are removed from the rims.

Elwood Children's Garden Presents Music in the Garden

Dixie Bandits, New Orleans at its finest.

Thursday, September 7th 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Upcoming Village Meetings

Planning and Zoning	Tuesday, August 24th	7:00 pm	(public hearing)
Finance Committee	Tuesday, August 24th	4:00 pm	
Village Board	Wednesday, September 1st	7:00 pm	

Village President – Doug Jenco

- Thank you to all that came out for National Night Out. The Police Department did a great job. It was great to see that everyone attended the event. Thank you to the Elwood Fire Department, Public Works, the Children's Garden staff, and the residents.
- Thank you to Public Works, Police Dept., Office staff, and the Children's Garden staff; you do a wonderful job.
- Mldewin, the Village cannot ask for a better neighbor!

Appointment of a Park and Recreation Committee Member

Village President Jenco appointed Valerie Darin to fill the vacant seat on the Park and Recreation Committee. A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to approve and confirm the appointment of Valerie Darin to serve as a member of the Park and Recreation Committee. Trustee Maas seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elbersen – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes. The motion carried.

Other Business

La Pasadita Mexican Restaurant is open. They have good food, and the family that is running the restaurant is great.

Public Comments

Members of the audience discussed the following:

- The Ditch behind Laurel Street. Village will clean out but it is the homeowners responsibility to keep it maintained.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Trustee Maas to go into a closed session meeting to discuss the probable or imminent and pending litigation. Trustee Bertucci seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes. The motion carried.

Reconvene Open Session

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to reconvene the open session meeting. Trustee Varman seconded the motion. The Village Board all voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Actions to be Taken Following the Closed Session Meeting

No actions were taken following the closed session meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. The Village Board all voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Julie Friebele, Village Clerk