



VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, Village of Elwood, September 2, 2020, at 7:00 PM, was called to order by Village President Doug Jenco.

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

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

The Meeting Opened with the Pledge to the Flag

Presentations and Public Hearings

Presentation of the Honorary Street Sign – Lawrence M. Walsh Sr. Way

Village President Jenco praised Larry Walsh Sr. for his devotion to the Village and how much he will be missed. The Village was honored to be joined by Mrs. Irene Walsh, wife of Larry M. Walsh Sr. to accept an honorary street sign dedicated to her in her late husband's name "Lawrence M. Walsh Sr. Way". The Village adopted a Resolution establishing the honorary street sign "Lawrence M. Walsh Sr. Way" for Chicago Avenue in the Village of Elwood. The honorary street name signs are placed above the official street name signs at the following three (3) intersections: Chicago/Mississippi, Chicago/Bush, and Chicago/Diagonal. We thank the entire Walsh family and remind them our thoughts continue to be with them in their grief.

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 – August 5, 2020.

Presentation of Closed Session Minutes – August 5, 2020 (Not For Release).

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report July 7, 2020 through August 4, 2020, in the amount of \$95,271.93.

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report August 6, 2020 through August 24, 2020, in the amount of \$19,014.68.

Presentation of Bills – Unpaid Invoice Report in the amount of \$185,143.44.

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

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Administration – Village Administrator Julie Friebele

July 2020 Financial Report

The July 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. The July 2020 Financial Report was also reviewed during the Finance Committee meeting held on August 25, 2020.

An Ordinance Levying and Extending a Special Tax in the Village of Elwood Special Service Area 1 for Tax Year 2020

In 2003 the Village adopted Ordinance No. 738 establishing Special Service Area Number 1 (SSA) and the tax rate of method set forth in Ordinance No. 735. Due to the development the Village incurs additional expenses. The annual SSA ordinance contains a special tax roll and report which provides for the special tax to be levied and extended within the area on a basis that provides a rational relationship between the amount of the tax levied against each lot, block, tract, and parcel of land in the SSA. The special services generally consist of law enforcement, street and streetscape maintenance, storm water management, and administration expenses. Law enforcement services are necessary to meet the increased demand resulting from the development. The public streets are maintained, and the retention and or detention areas are integral to the storm water management system within the SSA.

Taxes for tax year 2020 shall be levied and extended in the SSA and shall become a lien upon the property as provided by law within the SSA in the amount of \$1,031,683 as set forth in the 2020 tax year special tax roll. Such taxes shall be in addition to all other taxes levied upon the property, shall be billed directly by the Village, shall be due thirty (30) days after mailing and, if not paid, shall be foreclosed as provided by law. A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to forego the final reading and adopt an Ordinance Levying and Extending a Special Tax in the Village of Elwood Special Service Area 1 for Tax Year 2020. Trustee Maas seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

Water and Sewer Rates for Residential and Commercial Users

The water and sewer rate increases were scheduled to commence on May 1, 2020, in accordance with the terms of Ordinance No. 1089 for all customers. In order to reduce the economic burden upon residents and businesses triggered by the COVID-19 Pandemic, on May 6, 2020, the Village adopted Ordinance 1127, temporarily suspending the water and sewer rate increases for residential and commercial customers. Although this is a difficult decision, the Village must still maintain adequate revenues to offset the costs of operating expenses of the water/wastewater treatment plant. Each month we defer the rate increase reflects a revenue loss of approximately \$3000.00. A motion was made by Trustee Elberson to approve the water and sewer rate increase for residential and commercial customers in accordance with the terms of Ordinance No. 1089, Effective October 1, 2020. Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

Police Department – Chief Fred Hayes

During the month of July 2020

The Elwood Police Department responded to 622 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 273 citations: (The reason for the low year to date number is due to COVID19 Pandemic)

- Local Citations (O.V.) 12
- State Citations 237
- Overweight Violations (25)
- Monthly Total 249
- Year to Date Total 1155

Arrest Report Summary:

- Traffic Arrests 44
- Warrant Arrests 7
- Criminal 2
- Monthly Total 53
- Year to Date Total 191

TRAINING REPORT:

OFFICER	CLASS	DATE	Hours
Ken Jaburek	Managing Property and Evidence	7/16-17/20	16
Nick Adams	Managing Property and Evidence	7/16-17/20	16

Total Training Hours: 32

Request Authorization to Purchase Public Safety Vehicles

The purchase of two (2) police vehicles with the Safety Accessory Package was budgeted for in the 2020-21 Capital Budget. There currently exists a joint purchasing bid for Public Safety Vehicles through the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) Program sponsored by the Northwest Municipal Conference, DuPage Mayors & Managers Conference, South Suburban Mayors & Managers Conference and Will County Governmental League. The SPC Program satisfies the purchasing requirements for the Village of Elwood. The cost of the two (2) 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Patrol Package vehicles from Currie Motors in Frankfort is \$80,247.72, (2) Panasonic Toughbooks from CDS Office Technologies in Addison, IL is \$13,503, (2) In-car Video Cameras and Evidence Storage System from WatchGuard in Allen, TX is \$10,690, and (2) Public Safety Vehicle Accessory packages from Fleet Safety in Naperville, IL is \$19,446. Discussion ensued regarding extended warranty coverage on the vehicles. Chief Hayes will explore the options when placing the purchase order. A motion was made by Trustee Schmidt to approve the purchase and payment of two (2) 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Patrol Package vehicles from Currie Motors in Frankfort for \$80,247.72, (2) Panasonic Toughbooks from CDS Office Technologies in Addison, IL for \$13,503, (2) In-car Video Cameras and Evidence Storage System from WatchGuard in Allen, TX for \$10,690, and (2) Public Safety Vehicle Accessory packages from Fleet Safety in Naperville, IL for \$19,446 for a total cost of \$123,886.72. Trustee Elberson seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

Introduction and Oath of Office of Officer Sarah Zimmerman

Chief Hayes introduced Officer Sarah Zimmerman to the Village Board and Village Clerk Julie Friebele administered the Oath of Office to Officer Sarah Zimmerman. Following the Oath of Office the Village Board, staff, Officer Zimmerman’s family, and members of the audience applauded.

Public Works – Director of Public Works Larry Lohmar

Saint Louis Street Project:

Construction on St Louis Street is ahead of schedule. With the dry weeks we had, a lot was accomplished, and on a good note, it looks like we will be coming in under budget, baring no problems.

WWTP Vessels:

The vessel has been up-righted, and work is coming along on the hooking up.

Archer Park:

Public works installed a drainage swale just south of Chicago Ave., and the South St. alley to help with water runoff from the Archer Park hills.

Winter Tree Trimming:

Winter tree trimming has been going on since we had a break from grass cutting. The regular trimming of trees benefits the Village during strong storms and during heavy snows it helps eliminate broken branches in the roads from high winds and heavy snow.

School:

Just a reminder that school is back in session and to slow down in school zones. Do to the COVID-19 Pandemic the children are being dismissed earlier.

Village Administrator – Julie Friebele

Alliance Pipeline

Alliance Pipeline plans an Addition of a new meter station to facilitate a new interconnection request from the Alliance Pipeline system to Jackson Generation to support their natural gas needs. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,833,976. The building permit fee for the project is 1% of the total valuation of the project or \$18,339.76 plus review and inspection fees for a total cost of \$19,134.76. The building permit was approved and construction should begin soon.

Elwood Energy Interconnect Meter Station Pipeline

Elwood Energy submitted an application for a building permit to construct an over pressure protection station with pipping, valve foundations, and three buildings for an estimated cost of the project of \$1,135,700.00. The Interconnect Meter Station is to connect the natural gas pipeline from JPower to Elwood Energy. The permit fee was \$10,924.25, which includes reviews and inspection fees. The building permit was approved and construction should begin soon.

Will County Habitat for Humanity

We are very excited to be working with Will County Habitat for Humanity. They submitted the application and building plans for the four bedroom, 2 ½ bath home that will be built on the property located at 119 Gardner Street. The plans are now in the review process. We are committed to get the building permit issued in a timely manner so that construction may begin soon.

Single Family New Construction

On August 28th the Village approved construction to begin on a single-family detached home build on a lot located at 21147 S. Wooded Cove Drive. The approval is subject to payment of the permit, inspection, and impact fees in the amount of \$17,970.72.

Potential Bridge Over State Highway IL-53 on Walter Strawn Drive

On August 27th the Village received a letter from Glenn D. Madderom Chief, Cemetery Development & Improvement Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, to formally express concerns about a potential new bridge project that is being considered on Walter Strawn Drive crossing over State Highway IL-53 in support of a new trucking depot project “Compass Business Park” in the vicinity of both Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and the Village of Elwood. The National Cemetery Administration is highly concerned that this potential bridge project will have substantial adverse impacts to the national cemetery and its customers.

- VA is concerned that truck drivers will view the cemetery gates at Walter Strawn Drive and Diagonal Road intersection as a shortcut back to IL 53.
- Increase the daily risk of trucks that try to illegally come through the ALNC property on Hoff and Diagonal Road. This situation already occurs on a weekly basis. During business hours alone, four to five trucks per week are flagged down by ALNC employees and turned around.
- Substantially increased traffic safety risks for the many elderly visitors
- VA has strong concerns about any traffic features that would encourage trucks to turn Westbound from IL 53 onto Hoff Road and does not intend to authorize a turnaround on VA property due to these concerns.
- VA does not support increased noise levels within ALNC because it will detract from the visitor experience.

Early Voting General Election

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Early Voting will be conducted at the Village Hall in the Community Room. Voters will only be able to access the building through the outside entrance of the Community Room. Voters will be required to wear masks and maintain social distancing requirements.

Starting Date: October 19, 2020 through October 30, 2020

Hours: Monday through Friday Hours Only: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Village Website

On Tuesday, August 25, 2020, the new design of the Village of Elwood's website, at no additional cost to the Village was implemented. During this process, Pat Winters went through every page and subpage to be sure all links were accurate and that the new design carried over properly. The site is updated with the most current information and continues to be ADA compliant. We are anxious for everyone to check out the newly designed website, which we feel is not only more eye-catching but more user friendly.

Fall Cleanup Day

Monday, September 28th is Fall Cleanup Day. In addition to household items Waste Management will pick up: White Goods (refrigerators, water heaters, washers, dryers, etc.) and up to four automobile tires without rims.

Although this is our semi-annual cleanup day, they will not pick up most ordinary household chemicals and many electronics. Those items are only eligible for At Your Door collection. Elwood residents can call At Your Door 800-449-7857 to schedule a pick up of those unwanted items.

Upcoming September Meetings

Planning and Zoning	September 22 nd 7:00 pm
Park Committee	September 23 rd 6:00 pm
Finance Committee	September 29 th 4:00 pm

Village President – Doug Jenco

President Jenco offers his appreciation of our entire Village staff for the fantastic jobs they do. Thank you all.

The Village continues to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic and guidelines put in place by the Governor’s orders. Our local businesses are suffering. Please when you are able to patronize our local businesses.

Appointment of a Planning and Zoning Commissioner

Village President Jenco requested the Board to approve and confirm his appointment of Michelle Peterson to serve as a Commissioner of the Village of Elwood, filling the vacancy seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission. A motion was made by Trustee Varman to approve and confirm Village President Jenco’s appointment of Michelle Peterson to serve as a Commissioner of the Village of Elwood, filling the vacancy seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission for a three (3) year term. Trustee Bertucci seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

Oath of Office

Village Clerk Julie Friebele administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Michelle Peterson. Mrs. Peterson’s husband, the Village Board, and members of the audience applauded.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Public Comments

Members of the audience did not have public comments.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Trustee Maas to go into Closed Session to consider the setting of a price for sale or lease of a specific property owned by the public body. Trustee Elberson seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

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

Actions To Be Taken Following The Closed Session Meeting

No actions were taken.

Adjournment

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

Julie Friebele, Village Clerk