



VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, Village of Elwood, October 7, 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 Elbersen, and Darryl Lab

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

The Meeting Opened with the Pledge to the Flag

Presentations and Public Hearings

Audit Presentation – Lauterbach & Amen, Tim Gavin

Mr. Gavin discussed the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and audit process. Tim discussed operations, trends, and Village debt. Mr. Gavin thanked Finance Director Robbie Day for her assistance during the audit process.

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 – September 2, 2020

Presentation of Closed Session Minutes – September 2, 2020 (Not For Release)

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report August 25, 2020 through September 1, 2020, in the amount of \$124,547.81.

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report September 3, 2020 through September 28, 2020, in the amount of \$6,445,809.55.

Presentation of Bills – Unpaid Invoice Report in the amount of \$173,067.53.

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

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Administration – Village Administrator Julie Friebele

August 2020 Financial Report

The August 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 August 2020 Financial Report was also reviewed during the Finance Committee meeting held on September 29, 2020.

Announce the Property Tax Levy Amount

The Village of Elwood, as a corporate authority in the State of Illinois has the authority to levy for taxes. This is an ordinance levying taxes for all corporate purposes of the Village of Elwood, for the tax year 2020. The taxes are levied for such purposes as:

- General Corporate
- Streets and Bridge
- General Obligation
- Bond and Interest
- Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund
- Social Security
- Municipal Audit
- General Insurance

The proposed increase to the tax levy for 2020 is 4.99% which equals \$315,395.

An Ordinance Approving the 2020 Property Tax Levy

A motion was made by Trustee Lab to forego the final reading and adopt an Ordinance Approving the 2020 Property Tax Levy to increase the tax levy for 2020 4.99%, which equals \$315,395. Trustee Schmidt 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.

An Ordinance Abating the Tax Hereto Levied for the Year 2020 To Pay the Principal of and Interest on \$3,805,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2010A

The taxes levied for the year 2020 on the \$3,805,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2010A is in the amount of \$329,085.00 and would be added to the property tax bills if the ordinance abating the tax is not adopted. If the ordinance abating the tax is adopted, payments for this bond issue will not be placed on property tax bills. A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to forego the final reading and adopt an Ordinance Abating The Tax Hereto Levied For The Year 2020 To Pay The Principal And Interest On \$3,805,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2010A. 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.

An Ordinance Abating the Tax Hereto Levied for the Year 2020 To Pay the Principal of and Interest on \$6,470,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015

The taxes levied for the year 2020 on the \$6,470,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015 is in the amount of \$963,325.00 and would be added to the property tax bills if the ordinance abating the tax is not adopted. If the ordinance abating the tax is adopted, payments for this bond issue will not be placed on property tax bills. A motion was made by Trustee Lab to forego the final reading and adopt an Ordinance Abating The Tax Hereto Levied For The Year 2020 To Pay The Principal And Interest On \$6,470,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015. Trustee Elbersen seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elbersen – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

Halloween Trick or Treat Hours

Annually the Village Board sets the Halloween Trick or Treat Hours. Typically, the hours are set from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Halloween falls on Saturday this year, and it seems appropriate to extend the Trick or Treat hours an additional hour and set them from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Those who would like to participate in handing out tricks or treats is requested to turn your porch lights on so that the trick or treaters know you are taking part in the festivity. We are still in a pandemic; anyone participating in trick-or-treating, including those passing out candy, should maintain 6-feet of social distance and wear proper face coverings. A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to set the Halloween Trick or Treat hours on Saturday, October 31st, between 3:00 – 7:00 pm within the Village of Elwood. Trustee Lab seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elbersen – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

Police Department – Chief Fred Hayes

During the month of August 2020

The Elwood Police Department responded to 570 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 225 citations: (The reason for the low year to date number is due to COVID19 Pandemic)

- Local Citations (O.V.) 1
- State Citations 224
- Overweight Violations (17)
- Monthly Total 225
- Year to Date Total 1380

Arrest Report Summary:

- Traffic Arrests 28
- Warrant Arrests 4
- Criminal 1
- Monthly Total 33
- Year to Date Total 224

TRAINING REPORT:

OFFICER	CLASS	DATE	Hours
Nick Vandal	Glock Armorers Course	8/13/20	8
Nick Adams	Managing Property and Evidence	8/3-7/20	40
Total Training Hours:			48

Public Works – Director of Public Works Larry Lohmar

Saint Louis Street Project:

Construction on St. Louis Street is complete except for a few punch lists items.

WWTP Vessels:

The vessel is installed and the piping is being hooked up along with control wiring.

J-Power:

J-Power moved in multiple 100,000 LB. loads from the river dock to the new plant, these moves were made at night not to disrupt traffic.

Water Break:

The Village had a water leak at 918 Redwood Drive. The leak is repaired and the boil order is lifted.

Equipment Service for Snow:

We have two (2) of the Village dump trucks that have had a lot of fabrication work done to them in preparation for winter. We are not sure how long the fabrication will last, but we are hoping to get through the winter snow season.

Well 10 Failure:

Well 10's windings in the motor failed. We are in the process of getting quotes for pulling and inspecting the motor and also to see if the failure is repairable or if it has to be replaced.

Village Administrator – Julie Friebele

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 project is moving forward as they broke ground last week.

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: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Election Day November 3, 2020

November 3, 2020 General Election will be held in the Community Room.

Hours: 6:00 am – 7:00 pm

Candidates for the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election

The Consolidated Election will be held on April 6, 2021.

The Village of Elwood will have the following positions available:

(1) Village President, four-year term

(3) Trustee Positions, four-year term

Petition packets for Village of Elwood Village President and Trustee positions are available for pick up at the Village Clerk's Office in the Elwood Village Hall, 401 E. Mississippi Avenue. Hours are – Monday through Friday 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. The petition packet information is provided as a public service. The Village of Elwood and its Clerk make no representations regarding the accuracy or validity of these forms. Be sure to consult with an attorney before taking action based upon these forms. Anyone who uses them does so at his/her own risk.

The first day to begin circulating the petitions was September 22, 2020.

The first day to file petitions is December 14, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

The last day to file is December 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Halloween Happenings

1. Trick or Treat Hours: 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
2. Scarecrows in the Courtyard Contest – Entry date to submit your scarecrow is extended until October 20, 2020. Prizes are sponsored by Sunshine Food Mart, Subway, Dollar General, Silver Dollar Restaurant, Raceway Pizza and Hair Code.
3. October 29th Pick a Pumpkin – Village Hall from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm to pick your pumpkin for carving.
4. October 31st – Village Hall Hot Dogs, Chips and a Treat Bag pick up from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Waste Management at Your Door Special Collection

September 2020 report of collection:

Total pounds collected 555.96

Total pounds sent for recycling 502.12

90.32% of the total pounds collected qualified to be sent for recycling.

Upcoming October Meetings

Planning and Zoning	October 27 th	7:00 pm
Finance Committee	October 27 th	4:00 pm

Village President – Doug Jenco

On June 16, 2020, the Village of Elwood filed a Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Injunctive Relief against City of Joliet and NorthPoint. On October 5, 2020 the Village was granted their motion for preliminary injunction regarding the special use improper notice. Which means we won the battle but not yet the war. The Village delayed the City of Joliet NorthPoint annexation vote. I am proud of our staff and our legal team. Special thank you to Attorney Jordan Kielian. Mayor Jenco is proud of Admin Staff, Public Works and our Police Department, they do a great job. The trustees do a great job; their heads should be held high!

Appointment of a Planning and Zoning Commissioner

Ordinance 906 reconstituted the Plan Commission for the Village of Elwood. Ordinance 906, Section 3.2 the commission shall consist of seven (7) members unless otherwise modified. Terms for the members are established as follows:

(2) members shall serve a (2) year term.

(2) members shall serve a (3) year term. Michelle Peterson is currently serving a three (3) year term.

(2) members shall serve a (4) year term.

(1) member shall serve as the Chairperson a five (5) year term. Greg Hickey is currently serving as the Chairperson of the Plan Commission.

With the approval and consent of the Village Trustees, I am making the appointment of Jake Fanning to serve as a Commissioner on the Village of Elwood's Plan Commission for a period of four (4) years.

A motion was made by Trustee Maas to approve and confirm Village President Jenco's appointment of Jake Fanning to serve as a Commissioner of the Village of Elwood, filling the vacancy seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission for a four (4) year term. Trustee Varman seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elbersen – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

With the approval and consent of the Village Trustees, I am making the appointment of John Brach to serve as a Commissioner on the Village of Elwood's Plan Commission for a period of four (4) years.

A motion was made by Trustee Lab to approve and confirm Village President Jenco's appointment of John Brach to serve as a Commissioner of the Village of Elwood, filling the vacancy seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission for a four (4) year term. Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elbersen – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

With the approval and consent of the Village Trustees, I am making the appointment of Doug Vaughn to serve as a Commissioner on the Village of Elwood's Plan Commission for a period of three (3) years.

A motion was made by Trustee Elbersen to approve and confirm Village President Jenco's appointment of Doug Vaughn 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 Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elbersen – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

With the approval and consent of the Village Trustees, I am making the appointment of Joe Meyers to serve as a Commissioner on the Village of Elwood's Plan Commission for a period of two (2) years.

A motion was made by Trustee Maas to approve and confirm Village President Jenco's appointment of Joe Meyers to serve as a Commissioner of the Village of Elwood, filling the vacancy seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission for a two (2) year term. Trustee Bertucci seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elbersen – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

With the approval and consent of the Village Trustees, I am making the appointment of Ray Galuszka to serve as a Commissioner on the Village of Elwood's Plan Commission for a period of two (2) years.

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to approve and confirm Village President Jenco's appointment of Ray Galuszka to serve as a Commissioner of the Village of Elwood, filling the vacancy seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission for a two (2) year term. Trustee Elbersen seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elbersen – 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 Commissioners Jake Fanning, Ray Galuszka, and Doug Vaughn. The Oath of Office will be administered to John Brach and Joe Meyers at a later date.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Public Comments

Members of the audience provided comments regarding the following:

- Thank you regarding Village of Elwood vs City of Joliet and EastGate litigation.
- Thank you to staff and trustees for their efforts in this trying time.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci 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 and 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 Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to reconvene open session. 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.

Actions To Be Taken Following The Closed Session Meeting

No actions were taken.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Elberson 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