



ELWOOD VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF January 7, 2026

Call to Order

The Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, Village of Elwood, January 7, 2026, at 7:00 pm, was called to order by Village President Doug Jenco.

Role Call

Present: Village Board President Doug Jenco, Village Board Trustees: Tricia Maas, June Eastman, Darryl Lab, Dorothy Eppenstein, and Doug Mytnik

Also Present: Village Administrator/Village Clerk Julie Friebel, Chief Fred Hayes, Public Works Supervisor Matt Murphy, and Village Attorney David Silverman

The Meeting Opened With the Pledge to the Flag

Presentations and Public Hearing

There were no presentations or public hearings.

Public Comments – Pertaining to Agenda Items

Members of the audience did not provide public comments regarding agenda items.

Consent Agenda

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

Presentation of Village Board Meeting Minutes December 3, 2025

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report November 25, 2025 through December 2, 2025 in the amount of \$12,821.36.

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report December 4, 2025 through December 29, 2025 in the amount of \$82,823.36.

Presentation of Bills – Unpaid Invoice Report in the amount of \$266,998.17.

Trustee Mytnik seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

Reports & Communications From Village Officials

Administration – Village Administrator Julie Friebele

November 2025 Financial Reports

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

A Resolution Authorizing a Jurisdictional Boundary Line Agreement Between the City of Joliet and the Village of Elwood

The Resolution authorizing a jurisdictional boundary line agreement between the City of Joliet and the Village of Elwood is the final piece of the puzzle in securing the Village of Elwood's boarders. This is a very exciting accomplishment for the Village as it has been 9 years in the making.

As required, the Public Notice was published in the Joliet Herald Newspaper on December 5, 2025, and was also posted outside the main entrance to the Village Hall. The City of Joliet will consider the proposed Boundary Line Agreement at its City Council meeting on January 6, 2026. We thank Mayor Terry D'Arcy and the City of Joliet team for working with the Village and recognizing the importance of this agreement to the Village of Elwood.

A motion was made by Trustee Maas to adopt a Resolution Authorizing a Jurisdictional Boundary Line Agreement Between the City of Joliet and the Village of Elwood. Trustee Eppenstein seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

An Ordinance Establishing an Elwood Community Days Committee

The Elwood Community Days event has continued to grow in size and participation. The planning responsibilities have also increased requiring coordinated efforts in the setup logistics, vendor management, and community engagement. The Ordinance will formally establish the purpose of the committee to serve as an advisory committee for the Corporate Authorities. The committee shall generate ideas, suggestions and make recommendations, assist in creating, planning and conducting events for Community Days. The committee shall comply with the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made by Trustee Mytnik to adopt an Ordinance Establishing an Elwood Community Days Committee. Trustee Eastman seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

Jackson Township Twilighters Donation Request

Annually the Jackson Township Twilighters submit a letter to the Village Board requesting a monetary donation in support of their organization. The donation funds are used to reduce the individual members' cost for senior programs, annual picnics, celebrations, luncheons, and informational speakers. A motion was made by Trustee Lab to approve the Jackson Township Twilighters donation request in the amount of \$500.00. Trustee Mytnik seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

Police Department – Chief Fred Hayes

During the Month of November 2025

The Elwood Police Department responded to 324 calls for service. For more details concerning the types of calls, residents can visit the Village of Elwood website.

Police officers issued citations:

• Local Citations (O.V.)	9
• State Citations	59
• Overweight Violations	(0)
• Monthly Total	68
• Year to Date Total	1398

Arrest Report Summary:

• Traffic Arrests	8
• Warrant Arrests	0
• Criminal	1
• Monthly Total	9
• Year to Date Total	160

Training Report

Officer	Class	Date	Hours
Sean Swabowski	Interviewing Children	11/05/25	8
Sarah Drabik	Interviewing Children	11/05/25	8
Marc Reid	Officer Involved Shooting Investigations	11/3-4/25	16
Sarah Drabik	Officer Involved Shooting Investigations	11/3-4/25	16
Timothy Alsip	Firearms Instructor Course	11/10-14/25	40
Joseph Walsh	Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement	11/17-18/25	16

Total Training Hours: 104

An Ordinance Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Disposal and/or Sale

There is currently one (1) 2019 Chevy Tahoe vehicle at the police department that was taken out of service. The department has determined the vehicle, accessory electronics, and one (1) Konica Minolta C308i copier/printer are no longer useful to the Elwood Police Department. A motion was made by Trustee Eppenstein to adopt the Ordinance Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Disposal and/or Sale. Trustee Varman seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

Public Works – Supervisor Matt Murphy

For the month of December Public Works Job Summary:

- We had four (4) small snow events, and;
- Completed taking down the Village Christmas lights, and;
- A few breakdowns of snow equipment, and/
- Working on getting the streets cleaned of debris, including the mess that was pushed into the residents yards from the snow events.

Breakdown of Hours Worked:

• Garbage Pickup	100
• Curb/Catch Basins	140
• Sewer Plant/Lift Station	60
• Equipment Maintenance	145
• Locating Utilities	35
• Christmas Lights	160
Total	640

Village Administrator – Julie Friebele

Village President Doug Jenco, members of the Board of Trustees, Village Staff, community partners, residents, friends, and family.

This being my final Village Board meeting as your Village Clerk and Administrator, the moment is deeply meaningful to me, and truth be told I am feeling a little melancholy. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to address all of you as I begin the next chapter in my life.

When I first started my employment with the Village, I could not have imagined how rewarding this journey would be. What I thought would be temporary employment as the receptionist became a 17-year truly meaningful career. Thank you, Mayor Jenco, for your trust and faith in me and for convincing me that I was ready to take on the challenge of being the Village Administrator. Thank you, Fred Hayes, for your support and for being my mentor while I navigated some of the obstacles that came along with the position. Thank you, Robbie Day, for your strong support and friendship throughout my journey here.

To the Village Board of Trustees – past and present – thank you for your trust in me and your willingness to make thoughtful, sometimes difficult decisions for the good of our community. Serving alongside you has been both an honor and my pleasure.

To all our Village staff – there are simply not enough words. You are the heart of this organization. Day after day, you show up with professionalism, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to serving our residents; the successes attributed to me truly belong to our team.

To our residents and community partners thank you for your support and, at times, your patience. A strong Village is built on trust and participation, and I am grateful to have served a community that cares so deeply about where it lives, works, plays, and gathers.

Over the years, we have celebrated together the accomplishments, challenges, and changes. We did not always agree, but we always cared, and that is really what matters.

Before I officially close this chapter, I want to take a moment to thank my family for their patience with late meetings, late dinners, and weekend events. I love and appreciate you more than you know.

Thank you for the memories, the laughter, the lessons, and the privilege of serving the Village of Elwood. It has truly meant more to me than I can say!

Village President – Doug Jenco

- When the previous Administrator left the Village, I had just become the Mayor, which created challenges. I began interviewing applicants for the position. Back then, they requested a salary of up to \$250,000, a car, and a credit card. Julie was the previous Administrator's assistant, and to me it made sense to upgrade from within. Mrs. Friebele was the right choice. Thank you to Administrator Julie Friebele for accepting the Administrator position; she is the face of the Village of Elwood and handles all day-to-day operations. Throughout the years she has been an excellent Village Administrator.
- Public Works Supervisor Matt Murphy and crew does a great job. With only two (2) crew members, you did a fantastic job during the blizzard. The Public Works department is now fully staffed, we appreciate all you do.
- Chief Fred Hayes and the Police Department staff are the best all-around trained. You and your team do a great job.
- Village Board of Trustees, thank you, we could not get things done without you.
- After nine (9) years of meetings, emails, etc., the Village's borders are secure. Fred Hayes, Julie Friebele, and I met with the City of Joliet multiple times. The most recent meetings were with newly elected Joliet Mayor Terry D'Arcy and Manager Beth Beatty, and we reached an agreement on a boundary line. Thank you to Mayor Terry D'Arcy and City Manager Beth Beatty for working with the Village.

Deferred the Following Agenda Items to be Considered After the Closed Session Meeting

- 7.5.2 A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of the Village Clerk of the Village of Elwood – **Consideration**
- 7.5.3 A Resolution to Authorize to Act as a Signatory on all Financial Accounts for the Village of Elwood – **Consideration**
- 7.5.4 A Resolution for the Appointment of the Freedom of Information Act Officer and the Open Meetings Act Officer of the Village of Elwood – **Consideration**

Appointment of Chris Locacius as the Chairperson of the Elwood Community Days Committee

Village President Doug Jenco appointed Chris Locacius as the Chairperson of the Elwood Community Days Committee. A motion was made by Trustee Maas to approve and confirm the appointment of Chris Locacius as the Chairperson of the Elwood Community Days Committee. Trustee Eastman seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

Village Clerk Julie Friebele administered the Oath of Office to Chris Locacius as the Chairperson of the Elwood Community Days Committee.

Other Business

- Fire Chief Chris Locacius thanked all for the support given to Ehrin Villalobos in her time of grieving the loss of her husband.
- Chief Locacius thanked the Village for the work put in to secure the Boundary Line Agreement with the City of Joliet. It is so important to the Village and the Elwood Fire Department.
- Chief Locacius spoke about the significance of the Elwood Fire Department's Firefighter's Shield. Chief Locacius explained that it stands as a symbol of honor and a

visible testament of the Firefighter's dedication to protecting the community. He then presented the Shield to Julie Friebel recognizing her as an Honorary member of the Elwood Fire Department. The shield symbolizes recognition of her outstanding support, dedication, and commitment to both the Elwood Fire Department and the community it serves.

- Michelle Peterson thanked Julie Friebel for her service to the community. She discussed Julie's achievements and positive impacts in the Village; she will be missed.

Public Comments

- Commercial parking issues on the Village streets. The Elwood Police Department is addressing the concerns.
- Retirement Wishes
- Hydrangea House Break-in

Closed Session

A motion was made by Trustee Mytnik to go into a Closed Session meeting to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employee(s), appointment of a Village Official. Trustee Lab seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Mytnik to reconvene the open meeting session. Trustee Lab seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

Village President Doug Jenco appointed Fred Hayes as the Village Clerk of the Village of Elwood, effective February 1, 2026. A motion was made by Trustee Varman to approve and confirm the appointment of Fred Hayes as the Village Clerk of the Village of Elwood. Trustee Eastman seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

Village Clerk Julie Friebel administered the Oath of Office to Fred Hayes as the Village Clerk of the Village of Elwood.

A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of the Village Clerk of the Village of Elwood

A motion was made by Trustee Mytnik to adopt the Resolution Confirming the Appointment of the Village Clerk of the Village of Elwood. Trustee Maas seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

A Resolution to Authorize to Act as a Signatory on all Financial Accounts for the Village of Elwood

A motion was made by Trustee Lab to adopt the Resolution to Authorize to Act as Signatory on All Financial Accounts for the Village of Elwood. Trustee Eastman seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

A Resolution for the Appointment of the Freedom of Information Act Officer and the Open Meetings Act Officer of the Village of Elwood

A motion was made by Trustee Varman to adopt the Resolution for the Appointment of the Freedom of Information Act Officer and the Open Meetings Act Officer of the Village of Elwood. Trustee Lab seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Eppenstein – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Eastman – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, and Trustee Mytnik – yes. The motion carried.

Adjournment

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

Julie Friebele, Village Clerk