



**ELWOOD VILLAGE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES OF
May 3, 2023**

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, Village of Elwood, May 3, 2023, 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, Ron Schmidt, Darryl Lab, Jodie Bertucci, Kendy Elberson, and Michael Varman

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

The Meeting Opened With the Pledge to the Flag

Presentations and Public Hearings

The Consolidated Election was held on April 4, 2023. As a result of the election, Village Clerk Julie Friebele administered the oath of office to the following Elected Officials:

- Tricia L. Maas
- Michael J. Varman
- Darryl P. Lab

Village Clerk Julie Friebele administered the oath of office to the following Police Officers:

- Timothy Alsip
- Drin Bajrami

Public Comments – Pertaining to Agenda Items

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

Consent Agenda

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

Presentation of Minutes – April 5, 2023

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report April 1, 2023 through April 4, 2023 in the amount of \$21,425.22.

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report April 6, 2023 through April 21, 2023 in the amount of \$104,011.31.

Presentation of Bills – Unpaid Invoice Report in the amount of \$201,168.95.

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

Reports & Communications From Village Officials

Administration – Village Administrator Julie Friebele

March 2023 Financial Reports

The 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.

Baxter & Woodman Water/Wastewater Operations Assistance Agreement

Water/Wastewater Operator Scott Starkey resigned effective Friday, April 28, 2023. The Village has begun the process of seeking a new Water/Wastewater Operator. In the interim the Village requested Baxter & Woodman's to provide a licensed water/wastewater operator to assist the Village. The operator will monitor the operations and provide operations reports as required by the Illinois EPA. A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to approve and authorize the Baxter & Woodman Water/Wastewater System Operations Assistance Agreement. Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, and Trustee Varman – yes. The motion carried.

2023-2024 Alliant Mesirow Insurance Renewal Plans

The Village must renew its medical, dental, and life insurance plans for eligible employees 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 with Paul Mizera from Alliant Mesirow to review the proposed options. Staff recommends the 2023-2024 Alliant Mesirow Insurance Renewal Plans BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois, that reflects a 1.27% decrease to the current rates, the employees will continue to contribute 25% of the health insurance premiums, the Principal Financial dental plan maximum coverage of \$2000 per calendar year, and the Principal Financial plan employer-paid life insurance. A motion was made by Trustee Maas to approve and authorize the 2023-2024 Alliant Mesirow Insurance Renewal Plans BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois, that reflects a 1.27% decrease to the current rates, the employees will continue to contribute 25% of the health insurance premiums, the Principal Financial dental plan maximum coverage of \$2000 per calendar year, and the Principal Financial plan employer-paid life insurance. Trustee Bertucci seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, and Trustee Varman – yes. The motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Certain Real Estate

The Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Certain Real Estate consists of approximately 2.01 acres. Ms. Kirincich is offering to sell the 2.01 acres of real estate commonly known as a portion of Douglas Street and surrounding vacant land located east of Illinois Center Gulf Railroad and West of Illinois Route 53 in the amount of \$2000.00. A motion was made by Trustee Lab to adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Certain Real Estate commonly known as a portion of Douglas Street and vacant land located East of the Illinois Center Gulf Railroad and West of Illinois Route 53 containing 2.01 acres more or less. Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, and Trustee Varman – yes. The motion carried.

Police Department – Chief Fred Hayes

During the Month of March 2023

The Elwood Police Department responded to 305 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.) 2
- State Citations 78
- Overweight Violations (4)
- Monthly Total 78
- Year to Date Total 281

Arrest Report Summary:

- Traffic Arrests 11
- Warrant Arrests 0
- Criminal 1
- Monthly Total 12
- Year to Date Total 30

TRAINING REPORT:

OFFICER	CLASS	DATE	HOURS
Ken Jaburek	Child Car Seat Technician	3/2/23	8
Robert Wellen	Illinois Cannabis Law	3/6/23	8
Robert Wellen	Breath Operator Training	3/8/23	8
Anthony Lohmar	Tactical Emergency Casualty Care	3/16/23	8
Anthony Lohmar	First Aid/CPR	3/14/23	4
Nick Adams	First Aid/CPR	3/14/23	4
Anthony Drabik	First Aid/CPR	3/14/23	4
Ken Jaburek	First Aid/CPR	3/14/23	4
Sean Swabowski	First Aid/CPR	3/14/23	4
Sarah Zimmerman	First Aid/CPR	3/14/23	4
Ed Wright	IVC Law Update	3/21/23	8
Anthony Lohmar	IVC Law Update	3/21/23	8
Ken Jaburek	IVC Law Update	3/21/23	8
Nick Adams	IVC Law Update	3/21/23	8

Total Training Hours: 88

Request Authorization to purchase a Public Safety Vehicle

The purchase of one (1) police vehicle with the Safety Accessory Package was budgeted for in the FY 2023-24 Capital Budget. There continues to be a severe disruption in the supply chain for police vehicles. The major manufactures have been unable to supply orders and, in many cases, have outright canceled orders due to their inability to meet them. Recently the police department was contacted by Sutton Ford Commercial & Fleet of Matteson, IL. They indicated receiving a limited shipment of stock 2023 Police Interceptor Utility (SUV), also known as a Ford Explorer. A motion was made by Trustee Elberson to approve the purchase and payment of one (1) 2023 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle from Sutton Ford Commercial & Fleet for \$40,659.00. Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, and Trustee Varman – yes. The motion carried.

Public Works – Director of Public Works Larry Lohmar

Multi Use Building Lloyd Erickson Park/Childrens's Garden

The Village received the building package for the multi use building. Public Works will begin erecting the building soon.

Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant

Our Plant Operator Scott Starkey left employment at the Village to pursue a new job with another municipality. We have started the process for his replacement. In the interim Larry & Matt will be covering the day-to-day operations with the help of a licensed water operator that is able to sign the EPA reports until a full-time replacement is hired.

Water Breaks

Public Works repaired two (2) water main breaks over the last month.

Street Patching

The Public Works crew place 16 ton of hot patch in holes around the Village street.

Mowing

Mowing has started in the Village. Please remind your neighbors not to blow grass into the streets so they do not plug our storm drains.

Surf/RLM

We are in contact with Surf regarding repairing the damage to properties including but not limited to landscape, concrete, and water sprinklers. RLM has been working on the landscape issues. Surf has not contracted sidewalk and driveway repairs yet. If this is not done according to the timeline given, the Village will contract out for the repairs and bill Surf for reimbursement. Surf is aware of and agreed to the timeline.

Request Authorization to Purchase a Brush Chipper

The Village's current brush chipper needs to be replaced due to wear and tear. The Morbark Eger Beaver 1821 is a cost effective option at \$72,441.55. A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to approve and authorize the purchase of a Morbark Eger Beaver 1821 Brush Chipper and trade in the Village's Vermeer chipper for a final cost of \$72,441.55. Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Lab – yes, Trustee Elbersen – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, and Trustee Varman – yes. The motion carried.

Village Administrator – Julie Friebele

FLAP Grant for an Elwood Area Bike Connector

The Village applied for an Elwood Area Bike Connector, Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant. The projected path would lead from Elwood to the Iron Bridge to Midewin and the City of Wilmington to the Kankakee River. The Village received funding in the amount of \$335,000 to fund or partially fund Phase 1 (the engineering phase) of the project. The Village of Elwood, and the City of Wilmington are working with nearby federal land owners and operators to provide a walking/biking path easement for local and regional residents to access and connect federal lands. We met with Ms. Quincy McCall from Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery at the Village Hall to begin discussions of a proposed easement for the path. We are meeting again at the cemetery with Ms. Quincy and her team next week to further discuss and walk-through the proposed walking/biking path that way all can have a "boots on the ground" visual.

Elwood Community Days

Elwood Community Days is a three (3) day event this year scheduled on August 18th, 19th, and 20th. Coordination of the event is in full swing and progress is being made. More information is to come.

Route 66 - Red Carpet Corridor Event

While visiting Elwood on Saturday, May 6, 2023 you may pick up route brochures and handouts at the corner of Mississippi Avenue & Douglas Street. The History Club will be handing out giveaways. Antique tractors will be on display, crafters, and Cub Scouts will provide scouting information.

While visiting on Sunday, May 7, 2023 you may pick up route brochures and handouts at Silver Dollar Restaurant, 422 E. Mississippi Avenue.

Blood Drive

The Village of Elwood and Elwood Fire Protection District are partnering to provide a blood drive. The drive will be held in the Community Room on Friday, June 9th, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Garage Sales

Village garage sales June 2nd & 3rd. If you are having a sale you can get your name/address on the list. A map of the sales will be posted on the Village Facebook page and also on the Village website. Hard copies of the map will be available for pickup outside the Village Hall's main entrance.

Childrens Garden Planting Day

Planting Day at the Childrens Garden is Saturday, May 20th (rain or shine) from 10:00 am - Noon

Upcoming Village Meetings

Planning and Zoning	Tuesday, May 23 rd	7:00 pm
Finance Committee	Tuesday, May 23 rd	4:00 pm
Village Board of Trustees	Wednesday, June 7 th	7:00 pm

Village President – Doug Jenco

- Thank you to our three (3) Trustees Tricia Maas, Michael Varman, and Darryl Lab who ran for reelection in the Consolidated Election held on April 4, 2023 committing to serve the Village for another four (4) years term.
- Appreciate Public Works, Elwood Police, and the Elwood Fire Department working together.
- Thank you to the people that are organizing Elwood Community Days this year, it is not an easy task.
- Congratulations to Mr. Terry D'Arcy, the newly elected Mayor of the City of Joliet.
- This weekend is the Kentucky Derby and Cinco de Mayo. I hope everyone has a fun and safe weekend.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Public Comments

Tickets are on sale for the Will County Beer and Bourbon Fest, raising funds and spirits for a deserving Veteran. The Fest will take place outdoors at Hollywood Casino in Joliet on Saturday, May 20th, 12 pm – 5 pm, rain or shine.

Tyler Park is located at the intersection of Mississippi Avenue and Chicago Street and is in need of maintenance.

The property located at the corner of Mississippi Avenue and Wood Street commonly and formerly known as the old laundromat is in poor condition. The Village sent certified mail concerning the property's disrepair and had our inspector put together a list of code violations. We are finding out if the building is registered as a historical building.

Fencing around the decorative grasses and flowers in the island located at the railroad crossing was requested.

Million Dollar Meatballs play at the Elwood School on Wednesday, May 3rd 9 am – 10 am, and Thursday, May 4th and Friday, May 5th 6 pm – 7 pm.

School Resource Officer (SRO) is working out very well. Officer Sean Swabowski presence is warmly received at Elwood School.

Elwood School DARE Graduation is Wednesday, May 10th at 2 pm.

Closed Session

No closed session meeting was held.

Adjournment

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

Julie Friebele, Village Clerk