

Village of Elwood regular meeting minutes, August 14, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Elwood, Nebraska was held at the Elwood Village Office, 304 Calvert Avenue on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. Said meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Chair Martin who acknowledged the Open Meetings Act posted on the south wall of the meeting room. Present were Trustees Fong, Townsend, Tilson and Kleine. Clerk Jauken was present to record the minutes. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Valley Voice Newspaper on August 1, 2024, and by posted notices at Security First Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Elwood Post Office and the Village Office on August 1, 2024. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

A motion was made by Tilson, seconded by Fong, to approve the July 10, 2024, regular meeting minutes and the July 16, 2024, special meeting minutes as presented. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Townsend, Fong, Tilson, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

After reviewing claims, a motion was made by Fong, seconded by Kleine, to approve and pay the Village and Library claims as presented paying three claims with sales tax funds as indicated. After discussion including standing water in the new flume north of the school, the roll call vote was: ayes: Townsend, Kleine, Fong, Martin; nays: Tilson; motion carried 4-1. Claims are as follows:

Aflac	256.40	emp. pd. Ins.
ATC Communications	14.90	email, website
Aurora Cooperative	1,380.36	fuel & supplies
Black Hills Energy	408.38	utilities
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE	3,066.06	health insurance
CAMAS Publishing	318.19	publications
Central District Health Department	78.00	water samples
Community Redevelopment Authority	6,250.00	monthly budget
Corder, Kirk	49.00	cell phone
Dawson Pest Control	131.00	office pest control
Dawson Public Power District	5,628.35	utilities
Display Sales	1,470.00	flag poles
*Downey Drilling, Inc.	1,690.91	water leak repair
Eakes - Copier	124.65	copier payment
Elan Financial Services - credit card	277.51	supplies, postage
Elwood Hometown Coop Market	93.90	pool/park supplies
Frazho, Lacie	62.88 UT	Dep refund less invoice
Great Plains Communications	173.77	phones, dump internet
Hart, Huyser & Miller P.C., L.L.O.	270.00	atty fees
Hooper, Alan	35.00	UT Dep refund
Lawn In Order - Shaune LaPrade	2,520.00	cemetery, office, library
League of NE Mun - Utilities	470.00	utilities section dues
League of NE Municipalities	2,210.00	annual dues
Lofquist Welding Inc	7.00 parts	
Miller & Asso. Consulting Engineers	700.00	one & six-year plan
*Moonlight Electric	1,206.04	office lighting

MTL, Inc.	107.00	cleaning
Mutual of Omaha	21.60	life insurance
NE Dept. of Revenue	340.17	sales/use tax
One Call Concepts, Inc.	5.94	811 locate fees
*Paulsen, Inc.	43,660.00	drainage flumes
Pinnacle Bank	765.64	HSA
Remmenga Drilling Co., Inc.	62.50	shop supplies
Schaben Sanitation - Roll-off	658.50	large dumpster fee x2
Schaben Sanitation Inc.	6,953.48	trash fees
Schutz, Shane	20.00	cell phone
Security First Insurance	5.00	mower trade-in
Sunset Spa & Supplies	1,887.31	pool supplies/chemicals
T&T Lawn Care	1,882.20	lawn care
Tilson, Charles. Dpty Zon Admin	50.00	building permit fee
West Central NE Dev. Dist.	5,640.00	half of nuisance
agreement		
TOTAL	90,951.64	
PREAPPROVED/PREPAID CLAIMS:		
EFTPS	4,004.40	July federal payroll taxes
Payroll	15,320.15	July net payroll
Schwab - retirement fund	325.56	July company match
TOTAL PREPAID	19,650.11	
TOTAL CLAIMS	110,601.75	
*Paid with sales tax funds		
LIBRARY CLAIMS:		
Black Hills Energy	103.63	utilities
Dawson Public Power District	144.65	utilities
MTL Inc	267.50	janitor
Village of Elwood	2,134.43	wages, ss/mc, utilities
Pinnacle Bank CC	308.14	supplies
NE Library Commission	500.00	Overdrive online books
TOTAL LIBRARY CLAIMS	3,458.35	

Upon reviewing the Treasurer's report, a motion was made by Tilson, seconded by Fong, to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Discussion included the Clerk noting that the last CD was renewed at a special rate of 4.60% for 7 months. The roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Townsend, Fong, Tilson, Martin nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Tilson, seconded by Kleine, to open the hearing for the street improvement plan at 7:12 p.m. Roll call vote was: ayes: Townsend, Fong, Kleine, Tilson, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0. Tyler Hilmer from Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers, P.C. reviewed the one- and six-year street plan and discussed the dollar amount threshold for bidding and engineering services. Elwood's LMI (Low to Moderate Income) percent was noted to be at 49.2%, just short of the amount required to apply for funding to assist with street and other city projects. Hilmer noted that the Village may want to conduct an income survey for the State of Nebraska which could raise the ratio to the 51% required for some grants. A motion was made by Tilson,

seconded by Kleine to close the One- and Six- Year Street Improvement Hearing at 7:25 p.m. Roll call vote was: ayes: Fong, Townsend, Kleine, Tilson, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0. A motion was made by Tilson, seconded by Kleine, to approve Resolution 2024-03 adopting the One- and Six-Year Street Improvement Plan as presented by Hilmer changing M-270(179), Second Avenue between Rush Street and Rockford Street, from armor coat to concrete. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Fong, Townsend, Kleine, Tilson, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

Minutes from the Community Redevelopment Authority were reviewed. It was noted they are working on a redevelopment plan for the grocery store.

Sheriff Naputi presented a report of service noting over 1,000 calls this last fiscal year including approximately 270 inside the Village. The Sheriff's office sent out letters to dog owners who need to purchase 2024 dog tags. Camera surveillance was also discussed.

Lori Knoerzer gave a presentation on pickle ball courts and discussed the possibility of putting one in at the park. Cost, grants and possible location were discussed.

Utility Superintendent Corder reported Randolph Street has been washing out under the curb/gutter near Oakland Avenue. Speed signs were discussed; the Clerk will work on permits for said signs. Corder commented on the Water Security Grant letter.

Craig Ward was present to ask about getting water service to 809 Calvert Avenue. The history of a past water leak was discussed, and water service may be restored.

The Trustees reviewed Resolution 2024-06 which will declare a nuisance property and allow the Village to proceed with abatement procedures. Phil and Marty Kleppinger were present to report on the nuisance as neighbors, especially concerned about the fire hazard it causes. The Board discussed the legal process which must be followed and how to remedy the issues. A motion was made by Tilson, seconded by Fong, to pass Resolution 2024-06 declaring a nuisance property pursuant to the Village Ordinances regarding weeds, grasses or worthless vegetation and allowing the Village to move forward with abatement procedures if not remedied within 5 days of the notice. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Townsend, Fong, Tilson, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

Ashley Nieman with West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) joined the meeting via Zoom to present findings from the recent nuisance review. After discussion, one property may be abated, but the Village/WCNDD will wait to abate all properties at the same time. Two other properties will be remedied later in the year. After being given extensions, eight properties are recommended to be declared nuisance properties. Nieman noted that none of the eight property owners have contacted her office for questions or comments.

A motion was made by Fong, seconded by Tilson, to pass Resolutions 2024-005, 006, 010, 012, 015, 020, 029, 033 declaring properties with these labels (8 total) as nuisances per Village Ordinance. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Townsend, Fong, Tilson, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Fong, seconded by Martin, to pass Resolution 2024-05 clarifying that dump services are not for large home projects or commercial use. After

discussing use and fees in more detail, Fong rescinded her motion. Attorney Huyser recommended that an ordinance is needed. This was tabled until next month.

Elwood Area Foundation's annual Give Big event was discussed. The Trustees agreed to promote fundraising for a Pickle Ball Court this year.

A motion was made by Tilson, seconded by Townsend, to pass Resolution 2024-04 which allows the Board Chair to sign the Department of Transportation's Certificate of Program Compliance. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Fong, Townsend, Tilson, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by Townsend, to appoint Danita Comfort to fill the unexpired term of Connie Schmeackle on the Library Board. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Tilson, Fong, Townsend, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

Dates for the Budget Hearing were discussed with September 18, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. being the final date/time.

Two approved building permits were discussed as well as one in progress.

A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by Tilson, to go into closed session at 9:19 p.m. for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual to discuss employee evaluations. Roll call vote was: ayes: Tilson, Fong, Townsend, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0. Board Chair Martin stated that the closed session is to discuss employee job evaluation/performance only. The board concluded the closed session at 9:33 p.m. Board Chair Martin stated that the only items discussed during said session were employee job evaluations.

The board discussed that the cost of living has increased and Elwood's Village employees are valuable assets to the Village. A motion was made by Fong, seconded by Townsend, to increase the wages of Jauken, Corder and Schutz by 5% and to raise the wages of Nelson and Weismann to \$13.50 per hour effective at the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1, 2024. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Townsend, Kleine, Fong, Tilson, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

The next meeting for the comprehensive plan review and budget work session is August 21, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

Board Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Laurie Jauken, Clerk/Treasurer