

Village of Elwood regular meeting minutes, January 10, 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, January 10, 2024. Said meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Chair Martin, who acknowledged that the Open Meetings Act applied and was posted on the south wall of the meeting room. Present were Trustees Fong, Tilson, Townsend and Kleine. Clerk Jauken was present to take minutes. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Valley Voice Newspaper on December 28, 2023 and by posted notices at Security First Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Elwood Post Office and the Village Office. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by Tilson, to approve the December 13, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Townsend, Fong, Tilson, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

After reviewing claims and bank accounts, it was noted that there was some damage at the north ballfield to a fence and conduit possibly from the sprinkler company. A motion was made by Tilson, seconded by Fong, to pay Mike's Sprinkler Service \$12,000.00, delay the budget payments to the Library and CRA until next month, paying and approving the rest of the claims as presented. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Townsend, Fong, Tilson, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0. Claims are as follows:

Aflac	256.40	emp. pd. ins
American Legal Publishing	419.00	sample ordinances
ATC Communications	14.90	email, website
Aurora Cooperative	655.54	fuel, tire
Black Hills Energy	277.55	utilities
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE	10,938.60	health insurance
Camas Publishing	8.78	publications
Central District Health Dept.	190.00	water testing
Community Redevelopment Authority	6,250.00	monthly budget
Corder, Kirk	49.00	cell phone
Dawson Public Power District	4,096.97	utilities
Dixson, Taylor	70.00	UT Deposit refund
Eakes - Copier	124.65	copier pymt
Elan Financial Services - credit card	192.27	Tracfone service, supplies,
postage		
Elwood Hometown Coop Market	15.64	supplies
Elwood Library	8,625.00	quarterly budget
Gosper Co. Treasurer (Sheriff Support)	11,715.74	quarterly support
Great Plains Communications	173.71	phones, internet at dump
Hart, Huyser & Miller P.C., L.L.O.	50.00	atty fees
Lawn In Order - Shaune LaPrade	135.00	mow, snow (Nov&Dec)
*Mike's Sprinkler Service	15,650.51	ball field sprinklers
Moonlight Electric	305.35	repair conduit
MTL, Inc.	98.00	cleaning
NE Department of Revenue	289.01	sales tax

	NE Department of Revenue	1,527.85	withholding tax
	One Call Concepts, Inc.	14.78	811 locate fees
	Pinnacle Bank	1,383.36	HSA contributions (691.68
each)			
	Plum Creek Promotions	36.00	UTV stickers
	Schaben Sanitation - Roll-off	768.01	large dumpster fee
	Schaben Sanitation Inc.	6,595.48	trash fees
	Schutz, Shane	20.00	cell phone
	Starmark	39.60	life ins
	Tilson, Charles Dpty Zoning Admin.	50.00	deputy zoning admin.
TOTAL	70,986.70		
PREAPPROVED/PREPAID CLAIMS:			
	EFTPS	3,110.48	Dec. federal payroll taxes
	Payroll	8,801.05	Dec. net payroll
	Schwab	344.26	Dec. 401K company match
TOTAL PREPAID	12,255.79		
TOTAL CLAIMS	83,242.49		
*paid with sales tax funds			
LIBRARY CLAIMS:			
	Black Hills Energy	235.00	utilities
	Dawson Public Power District	112.21	utilities
	MTL Inc	147.00	janitor
	Village of Elwood	2,134.22	wages, ss/mc, utilities
	Elwood Hometown Coop Mkt	25.42	supplies
	Pinnacle Bank CC	341.85	books, supplies, postage
TOTAL LIBRARY CLAIMS	2,995.70		

Bank accounts and Certificates of Deposit (CD) were discussed. A motion was made by Fong, seconded by Tilson, to move the pool money market funds into a 7-month CD at Security First Bank for 5.05% interest, to close the inactive nuisance account moving those funds into the main checking account, and to move the ARPA fund account into the same CD term and rate if allowed according to ARPA guidelines. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Townsend, Tilson, Fong, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Fong, seconded by Kleine, to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Tilson, Townsend, Kleine, Fong, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

The Board briefly reviewed last month's discussion with the CRA and noted that the CRA will be responsible for snow removal in front of the Veteran's memorial. Also discussed was the CRA's potential placement of bushes/trees behind the memorial.

Chief Deputy Brian McFarland was present on behalf of the Sheriff's office. The speed sign on east Highway 23 was discussed as well as the Village ordinance on fireworks which allows discharge only during the fourth of July.

Tyler Hilmer with Miller and Associates Engineers of Kearney presented information on funding for water meters and reviewed types of meters with cost estimates. The purchase of new pool ladders will be discussed at the next meeting.

The new Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance plan was reviewed.

A motion was made by Tilson, seconded by Kleine, to correct the appointment to the Elwood Housing Authority from Shari Remmenga to Julie Poggendorf. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Fong, Townsend, Kleine, Tilson, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

It was noted there are a couple lots in town with mounds of dirt which could indicate moles/rodents digging. The clerk was asked to send letters to the residents/owners to notify them of their responsibility to keep their properties free of nuisances or potential nuisance.

The updated 2024 IRS mileage rate was reviewed. A motion was made by Tilson, seconded by Fong, that the mileage reimbursement rate for Village employees be changed to match the IRS issued rate when the IRS rate changes. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Townsend, Fong, Tilson, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was held regarding summer activities and hiring of employees. The Village will advertise for pool employees and summer ball coordinators.

An email was received at the village office regarding mechanical amusement devices and any fees associated with these activities. This issue was discussed in September 2023 with no action taken at that time. The discussion had again was that it is not currently cost effective for the Village to impose a tax or fee for these devices, and that the issue may be revisited upon a change of the state statutes regarding fees for these devices or if Elwood sees a number of devices installed that would make the collection and reporting requirements of such tax or fee worthwhile to the Village. No action was taken.

There were no building permits to review.

The next regular Board meeting scheduled for February 14 was changed to the following evening, February 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Board Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Laurie Jauken, Clerk/Treasurer