

Village of Elwood regular meeting minutes, August 13, 2025

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 13, 2025. Said meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Chair Martin, who acknowledged the Open Meetings Act which is posted and available for public inspection on the south wall of the meeting room. Present were Trustees Kleine, Townsend, Borden and LaPrade. Clerk Jauken was present to take minutes. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Valley Voice Newspaper on July 31, 2025 and by posted notices at Security First Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Elwood Post Office and the Village Office on August 11, 2025. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

A motion was made by Borden, seconded by LaPrade, to approve the July 9, 2025 regular meeting minutes and July 30, 2025 special meeting minutes as presented. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Townsend, LaPrade, Borden, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

The claims were reviewed with a motion by Townsend, seconded by Kleine, to approve and pay the Village and Library claims as presented with LaPrade abstaining from the claim from Law In Order. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote (with specified abstention due to disclosure) was: ayes: LaPrade, Borden, Kleine, Townsend, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0. Claims are as follows:

Aflac	262.04	emp. pd. ins.
ATC Communications	9.95	website
Aurora Cooperative	1,239.68	fuel/supplies
Bader Highway & Street	17,362.00	street repair/crack filling
Black Hills Energy	213.92	utilities
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE	3,623.76	emp. health ins.
CAMAS Publishing	291.02	publications
Central District Health Dept.	78.00	water testing
Century Link	6.43	final bill estimate
CJ Imprints LLC	12.00	office supplies
Colonial Research Chemical Corp.	883.22	mosquito chemicals
Community Redev. Authority	3,267.46	TIF pymt
Community Redev. Authority	8,333.33	budget pymt
Corder, Kirk	49.00	cell phone
Corder, Makenzie	240.18	pool supplies
Dawson Public Power District	5,281.23	utilities
Elan Financial Services - credit card	596.89	supplies, pool
Elwood Care Center	2,325.00	budget pymt
Great Plains Communications	179.53	phone, dump internet
Hart, Huyser & Miller PC LLO	540.00	Atty fees
Jauken, Laurie	249.20	mileage
John Deere Financial	170.68	parts
Lawn In Order	420.00	mowing, cemetery
League of Municipalities	2,364.00	league membership fees
League of Municipalities	486.00	league membership fees, utility

section

Miller & Asso. Consulting Engineers	700.00	1- & 6-year street budget
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MTL, Inc.	107.00	cleaning
NE Dept. of Revenue	372.34	sales/use tax
One Call concepts	8.59	811 locate fees
Pinnacle Bank	802.02	HSA contributions
Remmenga Drilling Co., Inc.	15.30	parts
Schaben Sanitation - Roll-off	711.92	large dumpster fees
Schaben Sanitation	7,037.38	trash fees
Schutz, Shane	20.00	cell phone
Security First Insurance	110.00	event insurance BRAN
Sunset Spa & Supplies	1,416.30	pool chemicals, supplies
T&T Lawn Care	1,944.80	lawn care
Tilson, Charles. Dpty Zon Admin	75.00	3 building permits
Wilder, Terri	60.00	UT Dep Refund
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61,805.17</b>	
<b>PREAPPROVED/PREPAID CLAIMS:</b>		
EFTPS	5,026.74	July federal payroll taxes
Payroll	20,240.75	July net pay
Schwab - retirement fund	337.16	July company match
<b>TOTAL PREPAID</b>	<b>25,604.65</b>	
<b>TOTAL VILLAGE CLAIMS</b>	<b>87,409.82</b>	
<b>LIBRARY CLAIMS:</b>		
Black Hills Energy	108.83	utilities
Dawson Public Power District	161.83	utilities
MTL Inc	214.00	janitor
Village of Elwood	2,536.82	wages, ss/mc, utilities
Pinnacle Bank credit card	30.47	books, postage
Capital One/Walmart	101.87	supplies
D&N Lammel's LLC	118.00	plumbing issues
<b>TOTAL LIBRARY CLAIMS</b>	<b>3,271.61</b>	

After reviewing the treasurer's report, noting three matured Certificates of Deposit, a motion was made by Townsend, seconded by Borden, to approve said report renewing the CDs at the 7-month special rate. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, LaPrade, Borden, Townsend, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-1.

Marsha Banzhaf and Alyssa Clemson Roberts were present representing Dawson Public Power District. They presented a renewed contract for services with the Village noting economic development grants/loans available through the Nebraska Enterprise Fund for businesses.

Edward Dunn, Nuisance Officer from West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD), joined the meeting by Zoom with an update on nuisance properties. A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by LaPrade, to pass Resolutions 2025-002-01 and 2025-004-01 rescinding previous nuisance declarations on properties labeled 002 and 004 and to abate and expend funds if necessary for property labeled 005. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Borden, LaPrade, Kleine, Martin; nays: Townsend; motion carried 4-1.

The Board reviewed minutes from the last Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA) meeting. It was noted that a property owner is building on a lot within the

blighted/substandard area and the process has begun for the owner to implement Tax Increment Financing (TIF) on the property for redevelopment. Some land near town was also discussed as it could be a redevelopment opportunity.

There was no report from the Sheriff.

The ongoing project report and grant opportunities were reviewed. The Village is waiting on estimates from lighting companies for the ball fields. Updated cost estimates were given by Miller & Associates for the West Rush Street paving project, Orange Avenue street improvement and for a pickleball court at the park. An updated price quote was reviewed for telemetry systems for the wells. Trustee LaPrade asked about a caretaker for the cemetery; the Clerk will research this.

Projects to submit to Give BIG Elwood were discussed with the consensus being to request donations for a pickleball court.

A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by LaPrade, to pass Resolution 2025-08 approving the Board Chair to sign the Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance for the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Townsend, Borden, LaPrade, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

The budget worksheets were reviewed along with information regarding street bonds and Nebraska Game & Parks grants.

There have been several complaints brought in to the Village office regarding properties that have an overgrowth of weeds or noxious weeds. The Trustees asked the Clerk to draft a notice to all residents with weed nuisance information and any other informational items.

There were three building permits to review.

Board Chair Martin asked for a motion to go into closed session at 8:37 p.m. for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual to discuss employee evaluations. A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by Borden, to enter into closed session. Roll call vote was: ayes: Borden, Townsend, Kleine, LaPrade, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0. Martin stated the only discussion in closed session is the employees' job performances. Everyone left the meeting except for the Trustees and Attorney Huyser.

Board Chair Martin concluded the closed session at 9:02 p.m. stating that employee job evaluations were the only things discussed.

The Board discussed raises for employees with a motion by Townsend, seconded by Borden to increase full-time employees' wages by 4% effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, part-time wages increase to \$15.00 (minimum wage) effective January 1, 2026, and pool employees increase by \$1.50 for the 2026 summer pool season. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: LaPrade, Borden, Townsend, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

The budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2025 immediately following the budget hearing.

Board Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Laurie Jauken, Clerk/Treasurer