

Village of Elwood regular meeting minutes, December 10, 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 in Elwood on Wednesday, December 10, 2025. The 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 December 4, 2025 and by posted notices at Security First Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Elwood Post Office and the Village Office on December 4, 2025. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

A motion was made by Townsend, seconded by Borden, to approve the November 12, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, LaPrade, Borden, Townsend, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Townsend, seconded by Kleine, to approve and pay the Village and Library claims as presented removing the claim of Bamrick and adding a claim payable to Hart, Huyser, & Miller, PC, LLC for \$1,791.00 for attorney fees, with LaPrade abstaining from the claim of Lawn 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	886.37	fuel/supplies
Bamrick, Robert/Nancy	75.00	UT dep. refund
Black Hills Energy	195.97	utilities
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE	3,623.76	health ins.
CAMAS Publishing	469.53	Oct. & Nov.
Chartier, Rosanna	7.67	UT dep. refund less
invoice		
Community Redev. Authority	8,333.33	budget
Corder, Kirk	49.00	cell phone
Dawson Public Power District	3,712.28	utilities
Eakes Office Plus	277.24	service agreement
Elan Financial Services - credit card	367.81	supplies, clerk school
Elwood Care Center	2,325.00	budget
Gosper Co. Rural Fire Dept.	200.00	annual ut pymt
Great Plains Communications	179.53	dump internet, phones
Guardian	20.40	life insurance
Lawn In Order	60.00	mowing
MTL, Inc.	107.00	cleaning
Municipal Supply, Inc. of Nebraska	113.94	supplies
National Sign Company, Inc.	136.72	street signs
NE Dept of Revenue	336.36	sales tax

Pinnacle Bank	802.02	HSA
Schaben Sanitation Inc.	7,021.24	trash fees
Schutz, Shane	20.00	cell phone
T&T Lawn Care	66.00	lawn treatment
Tilson, Charles. Dpty Zon Admin	25.00	building permit
TOTAL	29,683.16	
PREAPPROVED/PREPAID CLAIMS:		
EFTPS	3,124.60	Nov. federal payroll taxes
Payroll	10,034.03	Nov. net pay
Schwab - retirement fund	350.06	Nov. company match
TOTAL PREPAID	13,508.69	
TOTAL CLAIMS	43,191.85	
LIBRARY CLAIMS:		
Black Hills Energy	105.91	utilities
Dawson Public Power District	235.42	utilities
MTL Inc	214.00	janitor
Village of Elwood	2,166.00	wages, ss/mc, utilities
Pinnacle Bank credit card	783.84	books, postage
TOTAL LIBRARY CLAIMS	2,798.17	

After reviewing the treasurer's report, a motion was made by Kleine, seconded by LaPrade, to approve said report with the renewal of CD 4894 for the three-month term at a 3.85% interest rate. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: LaPrade, Borden, Townsend, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

The reorganizational session began with a motion by Kleine, seconded by LaPrade, to reappoint Tom Martin as Board Chair and Jim Kleine as Vice-Chair. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Borden, Townsend, LaPrade, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by Townsend, to appoint the following Board members to their respective committees: Townsend to Street and Solid Waste, LaPrade to Water and Sewer, Borden to Community Improvements, Parks & Recreation, Kleine to Elwood Care Center & Assisted Living, Martin to Community Redevelopment Authority, and Borden as the Library Liaison. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: LaPrade, Borden, Townsend, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Townsend, seconded by Borden, to retain the following appointments: Kirk Corder as Utility Superintendent, Laurie Jauken as Clerk/Treasurer, Hart, Huyser & Miller, PC, LLO as legal counsel, and Tom Martin and Sheriff Joshua Richie to the Board of Health. There being no discussion the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, LaPrade, Borden, Townsend, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Borden, seconded by LaPrade, to reappoint the following for the Village: Valley Voice as legal newspaper, Pinnacle Bank and Security First Bank as depositories, Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers, P.C. as the engineering company, and Christopher A. Miller, License No. S-1091, Class A, and Professional Engineering license No. E-8775, as the Street Superintendent for 2026, January 1 through December 31, for the purpose of the 2026 Highway Incentive Payment, to be issued by the Nebraska Department of Transportation. There being no discussion, the

roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Townsend, LaPrade, Borden, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by LaPrade, to reappoint Katy Weissert to the Elwood Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA) for a 5-year term and reappoint Betty Koenig to the Elwood Care Center and Assisted Living Board for a 4-year term. There was no one to appoint to the Housing Authority at this time and the Village does not need to recommend appointments to the county planning or adjustments boards as listed on the agenda. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Townsend, Borden, LaPrade, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

Board Chair Martin stated on behalf of the CRA that the Turkey Creek Seed project is underway.

Sheriff Richie was present reporting that the Local Emergency Operations Plan meeting is tentatively scheduled for February. The Department has new cameras with translation capability. The Sheriff's office will be increasing awareness of security in our area by encouraging residents to lock doors to vehicles and homes in the coming weeks. The Sheriff's office is receiving reports from the cameras at the county lines counting 60 to 90,000 vehicles traveling through Gosper County on a monthly basis not including duplicate plate readings. Sheriff reported he is researching nuisance processes from surrounding communities.

The Utility Superintendent reported that rip rap is being placed at the sewer lagoon and the cost estimate with Evans Construction is the same as first presented. Johnson Service Company offers culvert clean outs as part of their services; Corder will get pricing for a couple of places in town. Thrasher stopped to look at the sidewalks in front of the library and gave an estimate of \$4,500.00 to level them out. The Board agreed the sidewalk needs repaired and leveled out.

Corder stated the paving project at West Rush Street is complete. The Board reviewed documents to finalize payment to Nielson Construction as there was an increase in cost due to extra culvert work and dirt hauling. A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by Townsend, to approve of the change order amounting to \$3,190.00 paying the final balance due of \$16,875.95. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: LaPrade, Borden, Kleine, Townsend, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

Corder discussed dismantling the water hydrants at the park. As the hydrants are breaking and no longer used for watering, it was determined there is no need to keep them in use. Trustee Townsend asked about access to the dump for the fire department. Cards will be issued for 24/7 dump access to the fire department.

Board Chair Martin met with Elwood School Superintendent Daren Hatch to discuss the pickleball court which will be a part of the upcoming playground remodel. The Board discussed forwarding the Village's pickleball court donations to the school as the court will be open to the public and any donated funds must be used for the purpose for which they were given. The possibility of the Village providing lighting for the court was also discussed.

Ordinance 2025-05 was introduced and read by title by Board Chair Martin. A motion was made by Townsend, seconded by LaPrade, to waive the three-readings rule

regarding the passage of ordinances. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Borden, LaPrade, Townsend, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Townsend, seconded by Borden, to pass and adopt Ordinance 2025-05 which updates the nuisance ordinance allowing the Village to appoint more than one nuisance officer. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: LaPrade, Kleine, Borden, Townsend, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0. Ordinance 2025-05 was published on December 18, 2025 in its entirety.

A motion was made by Townsend, seconded by Kleine, to appoint the Gosper County Sheriff's Office as a local nuisance officer in Elwood. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Borden, LaPrade, Kleine, Townsend, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

The Trustees discussed a facility use agreement between the Village and Aurora Cooperative which would allow the Coop to store tires at the dump until removal, and the Coop will dispose of any Village tires with theirs at the time of removal from the dump site. The Village has the option to terminate the agreement at any time. A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by LaPrade, to pass Resolution 2025-16 authorizing the Board Chair to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Village of Elwood for the temporary storage of tires at the dump with Aurora Cooperative. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Borden, Townsend, Kleine, LaPrade, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

One building permit was reviewed.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Board Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Laurie Jauken, Clerk/Treasurer