

Village of Elwood special meeting minutes, August 25, 2026

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Elwood, Nebraska was held at the Elwood Village Office, 304 Calvert Avenue, on August 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice-Chair Kleine who acknowledged the Open Meetings Act posted on the south wall of the meeting room. Present were Trustees Borden, LaPrade, and Townsend. Board Chair Martin was absent. Clerk Jauken was present to record the minutes. Notice of the special meeting was given in advance by publication in the Valley Voice newspaper on July 30, 2026 and by posted notices at Security First Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Elwood Post Office, and the Village Office on August 3, 2026. The purposes of the special meeting were to consider a motion to abate nuisance properties, conduct a personnel discussion, consider wage increases for employees, and to discuss budget items for the next fiscal year including budget requests from the Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA), Elwood Public Library and Elwood Care Center and Assisted Living. 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 Townsend, to appoint Vice-Chair Kleine as Board Chair Pro Tempore. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: LaPrade, Townsend, Borden, Kleine; nays: none; absent: Martin; motion carried 4-0-1.

Maggie Street with West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) reviewed nuisance properties with the Trustees. Discussion was held regarding where items will be taken and the placement of potentially towed vehicles and other details of impoundment. Street stated that the property owners will get 30 days to clear the nuisances and if not completed, will receive a 5-day notice. After the 5 days, if properties are still not cleared, the properties will be abated and cleared with the costs of abatement passing along to the property owners. A motion was made by Townsend, seconded by LaPrade, to abate the properties with labels 001, 002, 006, and 013. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Borden, LaPrade, Townsend, Kleine; nays: none; motion carried 4-0-1.

The trustees discussed that there would possibly be a 3% increase in wages due to the 2.8% cost of living increase. The clerk stated placing a 5% increase in the budget to cover any additional unforeseen wage costs. Final personnel discussion and wage increase decisions will be held at the next regular meeting.

The Board reviewed the budget worksheets and discussed changes to the CRA, library, and care center budgets. Strategic planning for the future of the care center is a consideration. Budget allocations to these entities will be finalized at the next regular meeting, September 9, 2026.

Vice-Chair Kleine adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Laurie Jauken, Village Clerk/Treasurer