Village of Elwood regular meeting minutes, October 14, 2026

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, October 14, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Chair Martin who acknowledged the Open Meetings Act which is available for public inspection in the entryway of the village office meeting room. Present were Trustees Kleine, Townsend, LaPrade and Borden. Clerk Jauken was present to take minutes. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Valley Voice Newspaper on October 8, 2026 and by posted notices at Security First Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Elwood Post Office and the Village Office on October 6, 2026. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by Borden, to approve the September 9, 2026 regular meeting minutes, September 27, 2026 budget and property tax hearings, and the September 27, 2026 special meeting minutes as presented. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: LaPrade, Townsend, Borden, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

After the clerk reviewed the budget payments, a motion was made by LaPrade, seconded by Borden, to approve and pay the Village and Library claims as presented. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, Townsend, Borden, LaPrade, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

Claims were as follows:

Aflac	262.04 emp. pd ins.;
ATC Communications	10.95 website;
Aurora Cooperative	3,935.63 fuel, supplies, repair;
Black Hills Energy	170.06 utilities;
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE	4,179.28 health insurance;
CAMAS Publishing	261.23 publications;
Community Redev. Authority	3,370.00 budget;
Corder, Kirk	49.00 cell phone;
Dahlgren Cattle	65.00 UT deposit refund;
Dawson Public Power District	4,930.66 utilities;
Elan Financial Services - credit card	1,589.33 supplies;
Elwood Library	10,995.00 budget;
Gosper Co. Treasurer (Sheriff Support)	15,933.40 sheriff support;
Great Plains Communications	179.49 phones, internet;
Guardian Life	20.40 emp life ins.;
Hart Law Group	780.00 attorney fees;
Heartland Security	995.00 camera replacement;
LIGHT League Ins Gov't Health Team	36.00 member fees;
MTL, Inc.	119.00 cleaning;
NE Dept of Revenue	355.81 sales tax;
NE Dept of Revenue	1,585.48 withholding;
NE Public Health Env. Lab	614.00 water test;
One Call Concepts, Inc.	32.29 811 locate fees;
Pinnacle Bank	984.38 HSA;

RJ Meyer & Assoc, CPA		2,875.00 budget;
Salisbury Farms, Inc.		3,093.56 RE taxes sewer pond;
Schaben Sanitation - Roll-off		539.16 large dumpster;
Schaben Sanitation Inc.		7,167.24 trash fees;
Schutz, Shane		20.00 cell phone;
Security First Insurance		7,320.00 quarterly insurance;
TOTAL	72,468.39;	
PREAPPROVED/PREPAID CLAIMS:		
EFTPS		3,144.94 Sept federal payroll taxes;
Payroll		9,832.81 Sept net pay;
Schwab - retirement fund		351.68 Sept company match;
TOTAL PREPAID	13,329.43;	
TOTAL CLAIMS	85,797.82;	
LIBRARY CLAIMS:		
Black Hills Energy		119.25 utilities;
Dawson Public Power District		155.17 utilities;
MTL Inc		238.00 janitor;
Village of Elwood		2,366.56 wages, ss/mc, utilities;
Pinnacle Bank credit card		70.04 books, supplies;
Nebraska Library Commission		545.00 Overdrive, mag subscription;
D & R Computing		50.00 computer repair;
TOTAL LIBRARY CLAIMS	3,544.02.	

After reviewing CD rates, a motion was made by Kleine, seconded by LaPrade, to renew the street, water, sales tax, and care center certificates of deposit for a six-month term at 3.95% interest (if possible at both banks) and the pool CD for 12 months at 4.05%. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Townsend, Borden, LaPrade, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by Townsend, to transfer $64,250.00 from the sales tax account to the main account to cover expenses related to the Orange Street repair. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: LaPrade, Borden, Townsend, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

After reviewing the remainder of the treasurer's report, a motion was made by Townsend, seconded by Borden, to approve said report as presented. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Kleine, LaPrade, Borden, Townsend, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

Maggie Street with West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) joined the meeting electronically to review the nuisance properties. An estimate from one towing company was discussed resulting with the Board asking Street to obtain estimates from two other sources and to go with the least expensive option. If any vehicles need towed, they will be taken to the village landfill. There are currently three properties that will need abated. A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by LaPrade, to pass Resolution 2026-006-001 rescinding the previous resolution which declared the property labeled 006 as a nuisance. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Townsend, Borden, LaPrade, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

Latest minutes from the Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA) were reviewed. There was a comment about LB 840 which could provide funds for businesses. This would need handled by an independent committee in the community.

There was no sheriff report.

The new library hours were reviewed.

Status of the welcome sign on the west side of Elwood was discussed as it tends to get knocked down by wind. The consensus was to leave the sign down.

Economic development services of Five Rule Planning, Miller & Associates, and WCNDD were discussed. There was a discussion planned the following day with Miller & Associates and some members of the community interested in discussing the swimming pool.

A motion was made by Kleine, seconded by Borden, to appoint Erika Bennett to finish the unexpired term of Ellen Halmes on the library board. There being no discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: Townsend, LaPrade, Borden, Kleine, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

The Clerk asked about adding a user to the current QuickBooks desktop program. Discussion was held regarding switching to online QuickBooks or using a different software.

Granting a wage increase for the part-time office employee was discussed. A motion was made by Borden, seconded by Kleine, to raise the part-time office person's wage by 5%. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote was: ayes: LaPrade, Townsend, Kleine, Borden, Martin; nays: none; motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was held regarding holding the November meeting on Thursday, November 12th instead of on Veteran's Day, November 11th. It was decided to hold the meeting on the 12th instead of the 11th in November.

There was one building permit reviewed. Trustee Townsend and the Board discussed questions about placement of a duplex on a small corner lot. Consensus was that the lot is too small for a duplex.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Board Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Laurie Jauken, Clerk/Treasurer