Village of Elmira Heights

Regular Board Meeting

August 1, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance

Regular monthly meeting called to Order at 7:20 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor Smith, Trustee Patelunas, Trustee Amberg, Trustee Aiosa

Others Present: Clerk Witkowski, Police Chief Churches, Fire Chief Cadek, Judge Pelchar, Steve Pickering, Adrienne Strawn, Joseph Atkinson, Kristen Williams, Violet Williams, Gail & Jim Ewanyr.

A motion was made by Trustee Patelunas to resolve to accept the minutes of the regular board meeting on July 11, 2023 with the correction of” $4,550 will be our portion of the cost of the project” to” the cost of the design of the project.” and from “There will be a high – hazard dam installed which will improve the drainage.” to “correct the high hazard dam that is not up to DEC standards at this time and will be classified as a high hazard dam once it is corrected and built.”

Seconded by Trustee Amberg

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Absent

Trustee Aiosa Absent

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

A motion was made by Trustee Patelunas to resolve to accept the minutes of the July 25, 2023 special meeting minutes.

Seconded by Trustee Amberg

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Absent

Trustee Aiosa Absent

Mayor Smith Aye

A motion was made by Trustee Patelunas to approve audit #2 in the amount of $111,570.73

Seconded by Trustee Amberg

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Absent

Trustee Aiosa Absent

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

A motion was made by Trustee Amberg to put the following reports, not to include code enforcement, on file for the month of July 2023.

Police & Summary

Village Justice and Acting Justice Reports

Gas and Diesel Consumption

Seconded by Trustee Patelunas

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Absent

Trustee Aiosa Absent

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Chief Churches read his report, which is on file, he mentioned that the new officer, Officer Fierro has almost completed her FTO. Officer Fierro is doing very well and has worked all shifts and with all of the officers. Caleb Cardinale has transferred to his new department; his last week was the beginning of July. Chief Churches and Robin Witkowski went to a round table discussion with Congressman Langworthy and county law enforcement, the focus was the fentanyl crisis and pushing thru legislation to get a handle on it. Chief just completed a grant for a bulletproof vest. Chief mentioned a prospective candidate from West Elmira for the open officer position. The mayor will be meeting with the candidate of Thursday, upon her approval the chief would like to get him sworn in at the September meeting.

Chief Cadek gave his report, which is on file. Chief Cadek thanked the board for passing the Restricted Firefighter program, they have 2 candidates for the program. All of the truck servicing is almost complete, Jason Mitchell should have it done this week. There will be a fire district meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, August 2 to discuss how a district will affect the ISO rating. The fire department wanted to get a regulator for the air compressor so they could use the compressor for the truck tires also, they received a quote of $2300. They received a check from the Catholic War Vets for $1000, the check was given to the fire company and they were going to see if they could fund the remainder with cans and bottles money. Chief Cadek reached out to the War Vets to thank them for their donation, after conversing about the cost of the equipment they decided to pay for the equipment in its entirety. A very generous contribution from the Catholic War Vets which is much appreciated! On July 12th in the Town of Big Flats, a gentleman rolled his truck and was stuck in the truck, our department was called out to use the ram to get the person out carefully, it all worked out very well with the ram equipment.

Street Superintendent Vanderhoff is on vacation but the mayor did mention that the night of the special meeting on July 25, a very large tree limb came down in Oakridge Park. The police department had it secured quickly and the next morning they had the entire park cleaned of all the branches and debris.

A motion was made by Trustee Amberg to move $3793.08 from A201PR Retirement reserve to A9089.8 police separation for Caleb Cardinale.

Seconded by Trustee Patelunas

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Absent

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Chief Churches explained what the “Livescan Equipment” is, and how it is used for fingerprinting. The equipment that the department has is older and he was told by IT last year that it would become obsolete and to start looking for a more updated piece of equipment. He would like to apply for a grant for the equipment which could pay for the equipment in full up to $16,000.

Motion by Trustee Patelunas authorizing the Elmira Heights Police Department to proceed with applying for the Livescan Equipment Grant.

Seconded by Trustee Amberg

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Absent

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Chief Cadek handed the board a report on the repairs that are needed on Tanker #761 and the cost of the repairs, not including new tires that are needed. Everyone agreed that we have put a lot of money into the truck and question if we should put more into it. The mayor would like to set up a workshop to discuss the options. There is some concern that our ISO rating will go down if we get rid of it. EHFD has not responded to any calls in the West Hill Fire Department this year so far, and that they had zero responses in that district for 2022

The mayor started the discussion on the garbage pickup/ stickers, there had been the start of discussion back in May about garbage bags vs stickers and a suggestion of bidding outside private services. She asked the board if anyone had done anything to bidding it out to other services. Trustee Patelunas mentioned that Trustee Southard and Trustee Amberg were going to look into it. Trustee Amberg said he has not done anything, and that he has not heard anything from Trustee Southard. Trustee Patelunas said the problem is the stickers, people are cutting them in two or three, nobody does anything about it and he is against buying more garbage stickers and he would like to see how much the garbage bags would cost. Trustee Aoisa mentioned zip ties with our logo, which Trustee Patelunas had mentioned in the past but Trustee Amberg said after doing research anyone can get those on amazon for a very small price. The mayor thinks the bag is the best idea and Trustee Amberg thinks it is an improvement but the city of Elmira picks up anything and that someone will have to have a discussion with the city of Elmira to not just pick up anything. The mayor agrees that we will have a conversation with Elmira, again. Trustee Patelunas said the City of Corning has been using the bags for 10 years and has not had a problem with them. The mayor says the distributions vs the revenue of the garbage service in the village is very close and that we are not losing money.

Motion by Trustee Patelunas to add on to the agenda the authorization to seek bids for garbage bags for garbage collection in the village.

Seconded by Trustee Amberg

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Absent

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Motion by Trustee Patelunas to authorize the village to seek sealed bids for garbage bags for collection in the village as per specifications which will be opened on September 8th at 3pm.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Absent

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Motion by Trustee Aiosa to add to the agenda a resolution to authorize the mayor or her designee to submit an application through the New York forward Program for the purpose of obtaining a grant that will provide updates throughout the Village.

Seconded by Trustee Amberg

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Absent

Trustee Aiosa aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Motion by Trustee Patelunas to approve the attached resolution that authorizes the Mayor or her designee to submit an application through the New York Forward Program for the purpose of obtaining a grant that will provide updates throughout the village.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Absent

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Motion moved.

Persons recognizing the Board on non-agenda items;

Joe Atkins from the New York Citizens Audit explained what his group does and gave some electoral statistics. He discussed how the group would like to bring awareness to and solving election inaccuracies and non-provability. He has left some literature for everyone to read. He would like to have the village pass a resolution for an audit of the New York Stat 2022 General Election.

Kristen Williams who owns a home on Grand Central asked about getting a building permit, she knows we do not have a code enforcement officer. The mayor explained we do not have an officer at the time, she is hoping we have someone by next week. She explained that Don Roby came in and did several permits but he is now off for surgery. The mayor said we will contact her as soon as we know more.

Steve Pickering from District 8 said he did not have much to report but that he did go to Chris Moss about helping with the intersection of Gr. Central and 13th street, and that Mr. Moss is willing to front the village our share of funds this year as apposed to waiting until next year. He also mentioned that Andy Avery had more information than he does on the situation.

Judge Pelchar discussed that he has gotten the security assessment back and has forwarded it on to the board and Mayor. He would like to know the steps he needs to take to move forward with getting a more secure hallway between his office and the court room, he would like to turn the cost into JCAP. He would need an estimate to send to JCAP by the beginning of Oct. He was told by the village attorney to go ahead with estimates, that it does not need to be bid out, and to get it sent in then we can move forward with the next step.

The mayor said the 50th anniversary for the Villa went well. Chief Churches was a “hit” at the dunking booth and she appreciates his involvement. The concerts in the park are going very well, they have had good turn outs! There are 3 concerts left and she recommended everyone to come out to the parks to enjoy them.

Trustee Patelunas asked that we include “old business” on the agendas moving forward, which the clerk will do. Trustee Patelunas stated that the meeting minutes be e-mailed to the Board members prior to the next board meeting to give the trustees and opportunity to review and make corrections, Trustee Amberg stated he would like to have the minutes posted on the Village website after their approval.

Motion by Trustee Patelunas to adjourn the August 1, 2023 regular board meeting at 8:16PM.

Seconded by Trustee Amberg

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Absent

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Respectfully submitted by

Robin Witkowski Village Clerk