Village of Elmira Heights

Regular Board Meeting

September 12, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance

The mayor did the swearing in of new police officer David Cook.

Father Czabala from the Ukrainian Church presented the police department with a very nice plaque for the police department thanking them for their contribution of bulletproof vest for the soldiers in the Ukrainian war.

Regular monthly meeting called to Order at 7:18 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor Smith, Deputy Mayor Patelunas, Trustee Amberg, Trustee Southard,

Trustee Aiosa

Others Present: Clerk Witkowski, Chief Churches, Chief Cadek, Street Superintendent Vanderhoff, Randy Hardy, Judge Pelchar, Adrianne Strawn, Joe Atkinson, James Mallette.

A motion was made by Trustee Amberg to resolve to accept the minutes of the regular board meeting on August 1, 2023.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Abstain

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

A motion was made by Trustee Patelunas to resolve to accept the minutes of the special board meeting on August 29, 2023

Seconded by Trustee Amberg.

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Abstain

Trustee Aiosa Abstain

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

A motion was made by Trustee Patelunas to approve audit #4 in the amount of $263,417.98

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

A motion was made by Trustee Patelunas to put the following reports on file for the month of

August 2023.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Department Official Remarks

Superintendent Vanderhoff read his report, which is on file. He discussed how the street department has been borrowing the county’s vac truck and cleaning out the catch basins and how there are many that need to be dug up and reboned in the very near future. He also discussed a problem with the hoses on the College Ave pump at the pumphouse, he would like to put in all solid pipes which he thinks will be around $10,000. Superintendent also talked with Moody’s about the pump that has a broken motor, they mentioned the price being $14,700 just for the motor. If the roof has to come off the pump house to fix the pump it will be a much higher cost to fix it, he is still getting information on that and will keep the board updated.

Chief Cadek read his fire report, which is on file. Chief let everyone know that West hill has a meeting next week and will be discussing the truck we have at our department and what they plan on doing about the repairs that are needed. On August 2, 2023 there was a fire district meeting, there had been a concern of the village resident’s ratings going down for fire coverage if the village became part of a district, they have been told the rating will not go down. Chief also mentioned that Big Flats is interested in becoming a fire district with the village, town of Horseheads and the Village of Horseheads. He will continue on keeping everyone updated on the district. The Strong Kids, Safe Kids was a success, and had a great turn out. The new fire truck is on schedule to be delivered in December. Chief would like to start discussing what should be done with one of the twin trucks not that the department is getting close to receiving the new truck. The fire company is looking into having a wellness & rehab program for fire fighters while battling fires. They have just started looking into this and doing research. There will be no cost to the village residents. Chief will keep everyone posted as they learn more. Randy Hardy did reach out to the county to see if there is any funding available. Trustee Amberg thinks the idea is great and would be a huge benefit to the firefighters.

Chief Churches read his report, which is on file. Officer Cardinale’s last day was August 30th, Officer Cook has started and is doing well. Officer Fiero is also doing very well. Chief Churches is working with our workers comp carrier to set up harassment training classes for all. He will have a date available soon of when they will come for the training, there is also an option online to do the training. In remembrance of 9/11 the Russian Orthodox Church did their annual blessing of the police vehicles and had a nice buffet for the officers, which they appreciate very much.

The mayor read the code enforcement report, which is on file.

Fire inspector Witkowski gave a report, he has done approximately 100 fire inspections as of this date. He would like to have an ordinance for new businesses that includes filing a new business & change of use form. He has been finding many new businesses in the village that he has no information on. Attorney Hourihan will work with the fire inspector to get that done. He feels that R2 apartments should have this.

Motion by Trustee Patelunas to move $12,838.67 from A201PR Retirement to A9089.8 police separation for Jacob Cardinale’s separation, $1,755 from A1990.4 contingency to A3120.44 towing to cover impound towing and $5,000 from A1990.4 contingency to A1620.23 Grant writer.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Amotion was made by Trustee Amberg to surplus the old security cameras used in the village complex.

Seconded by Trustee Southard

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Motion by Trustee Patelunas to approve the purchase of camera expansion equipment from Teldair in the amount of $5,800.

Seconded by Trustee Southard

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Motion by Trustee Aiosa to surplus a 2010 Dodge Caravan impounded by the EHPD and to place on Govedeals.com auction.

Seconded by Trustee Amberg

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Persons recognizing the board on non-agenda items.

Joe Atkinson asked the board for a proposal and resolution calling for an end-to-end audit of the 2022 NYS General Election. He had dropped off information packets at the August meeting and has not received any questions from the board so is hoping to get it on the next agenda. Trustee Patelunas asked how many other municipalities have done it, the answer was 1. The board thanked him for all of the information.

James Mallett thanked the Police chief, Street department for everything they do and their professionalism. Mr Mallett complained about the property of 217 W. 14th street, the property has a porch that is falling off, and a fence in the back that is half down. He also mentioned 215 W. 13th st, the back is full of debris and tree limbs, etc. 217 or 219 W. 13th st has tires all over the yard. He is very frustrated at the condition of these properties. Andrianne Strawn expressed her concern over the telephone pole on the corner of College ave and McCann’s blvd and the worry she has that a tractor trailer will hit it and knock out the power and the comp center. Trustee Patelunas explained that the comp center in not located in the Erway Ambulance building and if the pole gets knocked over the power would be back on quickly. Superintendent Vanderhoff said it is the State who maintains that pole but that he would send out an email to them with her concern.

Trustee Patelunas discussed the back parking lot and getting the repairs done and mentioned that the EPA requires an oil separator, which would need to be put in before the blacktop is done if we do the oil separator. Edger is coming with a camera next week to follow the pipes to see if they come in the building and if they will be able to get to them. Attorney Hourihan explained the process that will need to be done with bids, etc. for the parking lot project.

Superintendent Vanderhoff mentioned that the railroad crossing at Anchor glass has been patched for now.

Mayor Smith mentioned that the Events Committee is having a car show this Saturday from 11-3pm at Oakridge Park, there will be music and food, come and enjoy the event. October 14th is the Octoberfest this year, also on October 9th is the Fire Departments Open House.

The striping is getting done on Gr. Central. Marty talked to Andy from the County about doing all of it and the County says they will take care of it. There was a bit of confusion on what the lines are going to be.

Motion by Trustee Amberg to adjourn the September 12, 2023 regular board meeting at 8:35 PM.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Respectfully submitted by

Robin Witkowski Village Clerk