Village of Elmira Heights

Regular Board Meeting

October 3, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening of public hearing for proposed local law amending the parking ticket fine schedule at 7:19 PM

Attorney Hourihan explained why the public hearing was taking place and that the court will now handle the parking tickets, which will put us in compliance of the traffic law, and explained the fine schedule that would be followed by the court.

Closing of public hearing at 7:21 PM

Regular monthly meeting called to Order at 7:21 P.M.

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

Others Present: Clerk Witkowski, Police Chief Churches, Judge Pelchar, Superintendent Vanderhoff, Randy Hardy, Brad Nicholson, Jason Mitchell, Jeremy Lux, Sam Jochem, Adrienne Strawn, Joseph Atkinson, Jocelyn Matthew, Gail and Jim Ewanyk.

A motion was made by Trustee Aiosa to resolve to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2023 monthly meeting.

Seconded by Trustee Patelunas

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 Aiosa to resolve to accept the minutes of the September 26, 2023 special board meeting.

Seconded by Trustee Amberg

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Abstain

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Abstain

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

A motion was made by Trustee Amberg to approve audit #5 in the amount of $140,336.96

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 Southard to put the following reports, not to include code enforcement, on file for the month of September 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 Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Chief Churches read his report, which is on file. Chief said that they were awarded the Traffic Safety Grant, and that the new one for this year has started, it will focus on aggressive driving.

They have also been awarded the Live Scan Grant which is $16,000. Chief is in the process of ordering the new equipment with those funds that will be reimbursed in about 2-3 weeks. The police department had their “Use of Force” training that all of the officers did. The police department is transitioning with the court and clerks’ office to not handle cash anymore, that transition is going well with the help of everyone involved.

The Russian Orthodox put on a nice luncheon for the police department in honor of 9/1, they are kind enough to do that every year for the department. The department will be part of the “Blue Build” for Habitat for Humanity this month. They will be helping to build a house on Pratt Street in Elmira, many of the departments in the county will be helping.

Chief Churches will be speaking at an event put on with Dr. Coleman that will be centered around police officers, that will be on Saturday. Red Robin will be doing a fund raiser in October, a % of funds received will be contributed to the Child Advocacy Program.

Chief Churches would like to start the process of upgrading weapon, he is not sure how the weapons need to be deemed as excess property and if they can be sold to prior officers or what process that takes, Attorney Hourihan will get with him to start that process.

Superintendent Vanderhoff read his report, which is on file. On Monday the 18th he had everyone from the town and village attend a Tier 2 Logging School, which he said has been a great help to everyone on how to down the trees and use the equipment safely. Superintendent also mentioned that the street department is back on 8-hour days as of September 21st.

Jason Mitchell read the Fire department report, which is on file. They are having someone check the repairs on the frame of the twin to make sure that the repair is holding up. Jason mentioned the letter that was sent to the board about the West Hill FD and the tanker that is at the EHFD and the cost of repairs and upkeep, West Hill said they can give us $500 toward this cost. Jason has fixed the issues with the tanker. The Fire Department would like to know if the village does want ownership of the tanker?

A motion was made by Trustee Aiosa to move $5,800 from A688 Covid Relief Funds to A1620.4 Buildings contractual for more camera’s, move $48,300 from A232VR Building Reserve to A1620.4 Buildings contractual to repair the back parking lot of the village complex and move $16,209.70 from A1990.4 Contingency to A3120.2 Police equipment for payment of live equipment until reimbursed from grant.

Seconded by Trustee Patelunas

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 deem the following property from the clerk’s office and police department surplus property:

Clerks office Police department

2 broken keyboards w/cords freezer

2 broken adding machines w/cords 6 body cameras w/chargers

1 old computer tower w/cords 1 backseat of a 2021 Dodge Charger

1 cage from a 2012 Tahoe

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Motion by Trustee Southard to approve the disposition of clerk records which consist of 2013-2016 tax receipts, 2012 cash receipt journals, 2012 cash disbursement journals, 2011-2015 NYSEG bills.

Seconded by Trustee Patelunas

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Motion by Trustee Amberg to resolve to authorize the Village Court to apply for the JCAP grant.

WHEREAS, the Village of Elmira Heights has expressed a desire to make application for grant monies through said Justice Court Assistance Program for the purpose of shredding and scanning of court records, courtroom enhancements, furniture for the court, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Elmira Heights authorizes the Elmira heights Village Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2023-2024 grant cycle up to $30,000.00.

BE IT RESOVED, that the Mayor of the Village of Elmira Heights or her designee is hereby authorized to apply for the JCAP Grant.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Motion by Trustee Amberg to approve the membership of Max Goodman into the Elmira Heights Fire Department.

Seconded by Trustee Patelunas

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 Local Law #5 of 2023 which amends portions of the parking fine schedule under Village Code 209-68 in order to obtain compliance with New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law 1805.

Seconded by Trustee Amberg

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye

Trustee Amberg Aye

Trustee Southard Aye

Trustee Aiosa Aye

Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

Discussion of Rehab project: Jason Mitchell the committee chair president for the rehab project discussed how he has reached out to the county for financial help for the project, they are working toward no cost to village residents for the start up of the project and to carry until the end of the budget year. They are asking the board for their approval to store the vehicle on village property, add it to the insurance policy, annually the only cost for the village would be the insurance, DOT inspections and regular maintenance. For supplies for the vehicle the fire company would use their bottle and can funds for the cost of supplies needed. Dr Lux spoke of the benefits of the program and how he has seen a need for it, he is very supportive of the program. There is a state class coming up that will make the staff manning the vehicle state certified rehabilitation specialist. The vehicle will be made available to everyone in the county, it can also be used by the police department. The mayor asked about the cost of the project, Jason believes it will be around $85,000. They are hoping to get the financial aid from the county, using the ARP funds that are still available. The mayor also stated that it sounds great and commended the committee for getting all of the information together. The mayor also thinks its great that using the bottle and can drive funds is a great way to give back to the community. The mayor said the committee can expect the villages support with the county funds and the project.

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 is asking again for the village’s support and a resolution for the audit. He also mentioned he has been here 3 times asking for the resolution. There has only been 1 municipality in the county that has done a resolution.

Remarks: Mayor, Trustees

The mayor reminded everyone to put on your calendars that the Oktoberfest will be October 14th, 2023 from 10-4pm. She also mentioned that tonight was the Kiwanis Firefighter of the year award and dinner at Tinino’s and would like to congratulate Adam Kamas for receiving the award. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend due to the board meeting but Chief Cadek went in her place and read the proclamation for the award. Trustee Amberg mentioned the fire stations open house that will be on Monday October 9th, 2023 from 5:30 -7:00 pm. Randy Hardy also mentioned that there will be an ice cream truck for the entire week from 4-9, in front of the station for a fund raiser.

Motion by Trustee Southard to adjourn the October 3, 2023 regular board meeting at 8:09PM.

Seconded by Trustee Patelunas

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