

Village of Elmira Heights
Regular Board Meeting
November 14, 2023

6:30 PM Swearing in of Bradley Morrell as Police Sergeant.

Pledge of Allegiance

Regular monthly meeting called to Order at 7:07 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor Smith, Trustee Amberg, Trustee Southard, Trustee Aiosa. Trustee Patelunas via phone.

Others Present: Clerk Witkowski, Police Chief Churches, Street Superintendent Vanderhoff, Judge Pelchar.

1. A motion was made by Trustee Aiosa to resolve to accept the minutes of the October 3, 2023 regular meeting.

Seconded by Trustee Southard

Roll call vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye
	Trustee Amberg	Aye
	Trustee Southard	Aye
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye
	Mayor Smith	Aye

Motion moved.

Trustee Patelunas expressed how he was not happy that it has taken 6 weeks to get the minutes from October. It is the boards wishes that they get them 3 – 4 days after the meeting so they have time to review them before the next meeting. He stated that we have rules we need to start following. He did vote in favor of the minutes but was not happy.

2. A motion was made by Trustee Amberg to approve audit #6 in the amount of \$216,531.78.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Abstain
	Trustee Amberg	Aye
	Trustee Southard	Aye
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye
	Mayor Smith	Aye

Motion moved.

3. Motion by Trustee Patelunas to put the following reports on file for the month of October

2023.
Police & Summary
Code Enforcement
Village Justice and Acting Justice Reports
Gas and Diesel Consumption

Second by Trustee Southard
Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye
Trustee Amberg Aye
Trustee Southard Aye
Trustee Aiosa Aye
Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

4. Department official remarks:

Superintendent Vanderhoff read his report, which is on file. The Superintendent also mentioned the street department will be picking up brush piles until the end of November then they may ease up on it. Trustee Southard asked the Superintendent if he thought we should think about purchasing a blacktop curb machine in the near future, the Superintendent said if he found a concrete one for a good price, he would like to buy it. He also mentioned that Verona is now 3 foot wider, they are almost done with it, they are backfilling areas now.

The Superintendent also asked if paperwork was sent in for CHIPS with the County, the Mayor stated yes, it has been turned in. Trustee Aiosa asked if there are any precautions, we should take about leaf piles in the road and parking vehicles on them which could start a fire. Trustee Aiosa stated he had read about a vehicle catching on fire that had parked on a leaf pile, or was it just a freak accident. The Superintendent said he believes it was just a freak accident, although residents are supposed to put leaves between the sidewalk and the curb. Trustee Aiosa also mentioned that if we do sell the parking lot owned by the Village behind the Pierce building will it be taken into consideration that it will be saving the Village funds not having to maintain it, will it change the selling price? He also asked if the Village owns the grassy area between that parking lot and the apartments? The Mayor stated she will have to look at the map.

Chief Churches read his report, which is on file. Chief Churches mentioned that they had two burglaries that were solved. In October, a resident had hired a service to be done in the residents, the service person came back and had taken items from the residents. Officer David Cook solved that burglary. The other burglary was also solved but unfortunately the perpetrator has passed away before charges were filed. Chief Churches has reached out to Senator Omara's office to see about getting another grant to update the police fleet with a new vehicle, he has not heard back at this time. He has also reached out to Rural Development for the same reason and will keep everyone updated as he gets information.

Trustee Amberg read the Fire Department report, which is on file. Trustee Amberg also mentioned that Fire Chief Cadek is working with the Village attorney to see if it is possible that

the West Hill Fire Department gift their fire tanker #761, that we have at our station, to the EHFD.

Fulton Springs will be coming down next week to check #732 and #734's frames and do any necessary touch ups. Chief Cadek submitted for a DEC grant for wildland helmets, hoods and more structural firefighting helmets. It is a 50/50 grant, and he has the necessary funds in his budget. Trustee Amberg mentioned that there is still no update on when we will see pictures of the new truck build. Chief Cadek also asked in his notes when the board will be meeting to discuss selling one of the engines? Trustee Amberg mentioned that the October 9th open house was phenomenal, there was a great turn-out. On October 21st the Fire Department had a benefit raffle at the Elmira Heights Legion, which went very well also.

The Mayor stated that we will have to add to the agenda the approval for the Fire Chief to apply for the DEC grant, it was agreed upon to add it to the agenda further into the meeting. Trustee Patelunas said he thought Chief Cadek had mentioned at last month's meeting that he was going to apply for the DEC grant.

Trustee Patelunas asked that we go back to motion number 2, approving the audit amount and that he wanted to change to abstain rather than aye, due to Trustee Patelunas not having access to the audits and the amounts of each invoice.

5. A motion was made by Trustee Amberg to approve the membership of Justin Lee into the Elmira Heights Fire Department.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye
	Trustee Amberg	Aye
	Trustee Southard	Aye
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye
	Mayor Smith	Aye

Motion moved.

Trustee Aiosa asked Chief Churches if the way the board would deem the firearms in #6 was, ok? Chief Churches responded that he wasn't 100% sure but that deeming them excess property didn't involve what to do with them after. He stated that he was waiting for the attorney's response, and that the attorney was still researching as to what to do after they are deemed excess property. It was decided amongst the Mayor and Board members to table the firearms until the next meeting, and just deem the vehicle in #6 as surplus property.

6. Motion by Trustee Aiosa to deem a 2004 Lincoln Continental impounded by the police department as excess property and to be put on the Govdeals.com auction site.

Seconded by Trustee Southard

Roll call vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye
	Trustee Amberg	Aye
	Trustee Southard	Aye
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye
	Mayor Smith	Aye

Motion moved.

There was a discussion on putting “old Business” on the agenda for next month and whether or not it can be on the agenda as it was asked a few months ago to be put on and was then taken off. The village clerk will discuss again with the attorney on how to move forward with this for the next meeting.

7. Motion by Trustee Patelunas to approve Chief Churches to move forward with the process of applying for the Technology Grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye
	Trustee Amberg	Aye
	Trustee Southard	Aye
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye
	Mayor Smith	Aye

Motion moved.

Chief Churches explained the grant he would like to move forward with, saying that the state has recognized that technology enhances law enforcement but that it can be costly. There is 50 million dollars to distribute statewide above NYC, by the State, to law enforcement agencies. He is going for everything that he could with the grant to replace old, aging equipment and to enhance the department. Chief Churches is hoping it will be the same process as the bodycam grant, with no matching funds from the village.

8. Motion by Trustee Aiosa to approve the Clerk to move \$500 from A3120.48 police education and training to A3120.5 police equipment and testing.

Second by Trustee Amberg

Roll call vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye
	Trustee Amberg	Aye
	Trustee Southard	Aye
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye
	Mayor Smith	Aye

Motion moved.

9. Chief Churches explained that with Officer Jacob Cardinale and Officer Caleb Cardinale leaving he is still down one officer which can be burdensome on the department with the high cost of overtime and morale of the officers. He would like to start the process of hiring a new officer as the list is small, the process is long and the academy starts in January.
10. Motion by Trustee Amberg to approve Chief Churches to move forward with the process of hiring a police officer.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa.

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye
Trustee Amberg Aye
Trustee Southard Aye
Trustee Aiosa Aye
Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

12. Superintendent Vanderhoff explained what is needed to fix the pump on McCann's Blvd. He has been in contact with Mr. Mooney about taking the roof of the pumphouse off if needed to fix the pump. He is still waiting for a response from Mr. Mooney on some things. It was decided by the Mayor and Trustees that not only would the repairs be taken care of for the McCann's Blvd pump, but it would include a shaft for the pump and cleaning for both McCanns pump and the 13th street pump.

13. Motion by Trustee Southard to approve the Street Superintendent to purchase a water pump and shaft and to have cleaned the McCanns Blvd pump and the 13th Street pump for a cost not to exceed \$25,000.

Seconded by Trustee Patelunas

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye
Trustee Amberg Aye
Trustee Southard Aye
Trustee Aiosa Aye
Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

14. Motion by Trustee Patelunas to add to the agenda the approval of the Elmira Heights Fire Department to move forward applying for the DEC grant for structural firefighting helmets and hoods.

Seconded by Trustee Southard

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye
Trustee Amberg Aye
Trustee Southard Aye
Trustee Aiosa Aye
Mayor Smith Aye

Motion moved.

15. Motion by Trustee Amberg to approve the Elmira Heights fire Department to move forward applying for the DEC grant for structural firefighting helmets and hoods.

Seconded by Trustee Southard.

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas Aye
Trustee Amberg Aye
Trustee Southard Aye
Trustee Aiosa Aye
Mayor Smith Aye

16. Street Superintendent Vanderhoff discussed the need for a street sweeper, he stated that there is a waiting period for purchasing new. The cost to rent a street sweeper is between \$8,000 – \$11,000 per month. Don Fisher from Horseheads said he did not have a problem with bringing the Hhds street sweeper down to the Village but there would have to be some sort of payment, The Superintendent said until we decide what we are going to do we should go with the Hhds idea. Trustee Amberg asked if ours is unable to be repaired. The Superintendent answered that Horseheads Street Department had worked on it for 3 months, Sincom had sent electrical parts to see if that was the problem and nothing seemed to work. Trustee Patelunas asked the Mayor if he and Trustee Amberg, who are both on the street committee could have a meeting with Don Fisher of Horseheads to discuss co-buying a sweeper. He would like to have that meeting within the next 3 months. The price Superintendent Vanderhoff has gotten for a trade in is \$175,000. The cost of a new one is \$364,000 at this time.

17. There was no one present to recognize the board on non-agenda items.

18. The Mayor stated that they had the “Kick off Meeting” for the 17th St. Basin Project, which wasn’t what she was expecting. The meeting consisted of things she will be doing throughout the project.

Mayor Smith also mentioned that the Octoberfest was cancelled but the Historical Society and a few other businesses still had some activities.

19. Motion by Trustee Amberg to adjourn the November 14th, 2023 regular board meeting at 8:15PM.

Seconded by Trustee Southard

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