

**Village of Elmira Heights
Regular Board Meeting
March 4, 2025
7:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Mayor Smith; Trustees Aiosa, Churches, and Fuhlhage; and Trustee Patelunas via Zoom from 28326 Loft Mountain Drive, Leesburg, FL

Officials Present: Police Chief Noonan, Fire Chief Cadek, Clerk Martone, Code Enforcement Officer Sturgis

Officials Absent: Street Superintendent Vanderhoff, Attorney Pautz

Others Present: Custodian & Fire Company President Randy Hardy, Barb Day

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Called to order at 7:11 PM

1. Trustee Aiosa made a motion to resolve to accept the minutes of the February 4, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Second by Trustee Fuhlhage

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas	Abstain
Trustee Aiosa	Aye
Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye
Trustee Churches	Abstain
Mayor Smith	Aye

2. Trustee Fuhlhage made a motion to approve audit #10 in the amount of \$121,560.34 claim numbers 523-572, check numbers 23350-23397.

Second by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas	Aye
Trustee Aiosa	Aye
Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye
Trustee Churches	Aye
Mayor Smith	Aye

3. Trustee Aiosa made a motion to put the following reports on file for the month of February 2025.

- Police & Summary
- Fire Department
- Village Justice and Acting Justice Reports
- Gas and Diesel Consumption
- Street Department

Second by Trustee Fuhlhage

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Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas	Aye
Trustee Aiosa	Aye
Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye
Trustee Churches	Abstain
Mayor Smith	Aye

4. Department Official Remarks

Police Chief Noonan read his report, which is on file.

Fire Chief Cadek read his report, which is on file.

Code Enforcement Office Sturgis read his report, which is on file.

Trustee Fuhlhage read Superintendent Vanderhoff's report, which is on file.

Fire Company President Hardy made mention of the following upcoming activities from the Elmira Heights Fire Company:

- April 26 – Chicken barbecue
- June 8 – Car show
- August 16 & September 20 – Chicken barbecue
- October 6 – Open house

5. Motion by Trustee Aiosa to authorize the clerk to move the following monies:

- Move \$803.00 from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A1355.4 (Tax Notices) to cover postage costs for the coming tax season
- \$2,525.00 from A5110.2 (Street Maintenance – Equipment) to A5110.4 (Street Maintenance – Contractual) to cover the purchase of a jumping jack
- \$10,000.00 from A3120.14 to A3120.15 to cover police overtime pay
- \$7,525.00 from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A1620.42 (Building – Insurance no health) to cover insurance policies to the end of the fiscal year

Second by Trustee Fuhlhage

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas	Aye
Trustee Aiosa	Aye
Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye
Trustee Churches	Aye
Mayor Smith	Aye

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Mayor Smith provided further explanation for the building insurance fees, stating that unplanned vehicle purchases were one contributing factor for the increase in insurance.

Police Chief Noonan stated that the Tahoe, also known as car number 304, is planned for decommission soon and that this may help in lowering the insurance cost. Trustee Churches advised that if the vehicle is to be put on GovDeals as a police vehicle then it may only be purchased at auction by other police departments; but otherwise that it could be stripped of its law enforcement gear to make it appropriate for general auction.

6. Motion by Trustee Fuhlhage to approve the membership of Garrett Davis into the Elmira Heights Fire Department.

Second by Trustee Patelunas

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas	Aye
Trustee Aiosa	Aye
Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye
Trustee Churches	Aye
Mayor Smith	Aye

7. Motion by Trustee Aiosa to approve an increase on the Village's Crime/Fidelity insurance coverage from \$75,000.00 to \$300,000.00 per the terms of the CDBG Microenterprise Grant agreement.

Second by Trustee Fuhlhage

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas	Aye
Trustee Aiosa	Aye
Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye
Trustee Churches	Aye
Mayor Smith	Aye

8. Discussion & possible action on softball & baseball field leases

The Village currently leases two baseball fields: one to the Elmira Heights Little League and the other to the Elmira Heights Cinderella Softball League. One of the provisions of both leases is that the Village will pay up to \$500.00 for water usage and \$100.00 for electricity usage, and the leagues are to pay anything beyond those expenses. This provision was put in place because of heavy water usage by the leagues in the past. Now, the reverse is true: the leagues have higher electricity usage and lower water usage. As such, both Leagues are requesting the opposite provision where the Village will cover up to \$100.00 of their water usage and \$500.00 of their electricity usage.

Trustee Patelunas wished to review this in more detail at a later date with Attorney Pautz.

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9. Person recognizing the Board on non-agenda items.

Barb Day of 114 Verona Street was then addressed by the Board. Barb appreciates that the Village Website has been kept up to date. She also was curious about the Trustee appointment with regard to Craig's departure from the role.

Mayor Smith explained that because Craig left the position in February, there was insufficient time to arrange for a Village Election. In such an instance the Mayor is then authorized to appoint a new Village Trustee to carry out the remainder of the fiscal year. At the Village's next Organizational Board Meeting, which occurs in April, the Mayor will need to appoint the Trustee to carry out the remainder of Craig's term. This Trustee would then be required to run in a Village Election, to be held in March of 2026, when Craig's term would be due to expire.

10. Remarks: Mayor, Trustees

TRUSTEE AIOSA

Trustee Aiosa mentioned that there is a lot of online chatter right now regarding the poor condition of the train tracks near Anchor Glass. The tracks are owned by Norfolk Southern, and the Village has made attempts to reach out to the company. He asked what more could be done or if the next step would be to get the Village attorney involved further.

Mayor Smith stated that Village officials and employees could be arrested for attempting to make the necessary repairs as it is the responsibility of Norfolk Southern, and this is why it continues to be in disrepair. It was decided to submit this matter to the attorney for further advisement.

ATTORNEY PAUTZ VIA TEXT TO MAYOR SMITH

Attorney Pautz did speak to consultants regarding the Horvath Cell Tower and the company's proposed buyout. Arrangements will be made to coordinate with the consultants soon.

Negotiations for the new PBA agreement are still in progress.

MAYOR SMITH

Mayor Smith wished to thank the Elmira Heights Fire Department for their swift response time the night of her husband's fall. She stated that Smitty is recovering well following the incident.

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11. Motion by Trustee Patelunas to adjourn the February 4, 2025 regular board meeting at 7:51 PM.

Second by Trustee Aiosa

Roll call vote: Trustee Patelunas	Aye
Trustee Aiosa	Aye
Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye
Trustee Churches	Aye
Mayor Smith	Aye

Respectfully Submitted By,

Amanda Martone
Village Clerk
Village of Elmira Heights