



**ELWOOD VILLAGE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
JUNE 1, 2022**

**Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, Village of Elwood, June 1, 2022, at 7:00 pm, was called to order by Village President Doug Jenco.

**Role Call**

Present: Village Board President Doug Jenco, Village Board Trustees: Michael Varman, Ron Schmidt, Jodie Bertucci, and Kendy Elberson

Also, Present: Village Administrator/Village Clerk Julie Friebele, Police Chief Fred Hayes, Public Works Director Larry Lohmar, and Attorney Jordan Kielian

Not Present: Village Board Trustees: Tricia Maas and Darryl Lab

**The Meeting Opened With the Pledge to the Flag**

**Presentations and Public Hearings**

**Presentations:**

**Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow**

Mr. Glasgow presented Chief Fred Hayes with a check for \$5,000 for the purchase of two Flock Safety cameras to be placed on critical roadways within the Village of Elwood. Flock Safety cameras assist law enforcement in proactively preventing crime by sending real-time alerts to law enforcement when a stolen car or known wanted suspect from a national crime database enters the jurisdiction. When any type of disturbance or crime is reported, a review of the camera data can yield the license plate or plates of those responsible.

Mr. Glasgow also discussed minors' parental consent regarding abortions, no bail bonds, and K9 Tib and what an asset he is to the Village of Elwood.

**Elwood's Acting Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Chris Locacius took on the role of Acting Fire Chief for the Village of Elwood. Chris began his fire service career in 1993 when he was twenty-four. Twenty-eight years later, Chris retired as Fire Chief Chris Locacius of the Homer Glen Fire Station. He accepted the position in Elwood and plans to run the department with safety as a top priority, dedication, pride, respect, honor, and partnership with the community. Chief Locacius also discussed Jasen Melahn who has forty years of fire service experience and twenty of the forty years in Elwood. Mr. Melahn was recently promoted to Deputy Fire Chief.

**Public Comments – Pertaining to Agenda Items**

Members of the audience did not have public comments pertaining to the agenda items.

## **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Presentation of Minutes – May 4, 2022
- Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report April 26, 2022 through May 27, 2022 in the amount of \$353,823.45.
- Presentation of Bills – Unpaid Invoice Report in the amount of \$126,181.44.

Trustee Varman seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes. The motion carried.

## **Reports & Communications From Village Officials**

### **Administration – Village Administrator Julie Friebele**

#### **An Ordinance Approving a Special Use for a Planned Unit Development**

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing on April 26, 2022, which was recessed and reconvened at 7:00 pm on May 10, 2022, regarding the proposed issuance of a Special Use Permit for a Planned Unit Development in the C-2 Zoning District to provide for the use of a Dealership and Showroom for the sale and lease of new and used small and mid-sized construction equipment and machinery. The property consists of approximately 5.446 acres generally located: East of the intersection of Highway 53 and North of Mississippi Avenue, within the corporate limits of the Village of Elwood. As required, the Public Hearing Notice was published in the Joliet Herald Newspaper on April 9, 2022, was also published on the Village website and posted outside of the Village Hall. Two (2) signs were posted on the property in question one (1) facing Route 53, the second sign facing Heritage Drive. Michael Martin Attorney for Petitioner Clarence Harding gave testimony on behalf of the development. The Plan Commission recommends approval of the issuance of a Special Use Permit for the Planned Unit Development based on the conditions set forth in the Commission Record. The Plan Commission recommends a Special Use for a dealership and showroom for small and mid-sized and construction equipment and machinery as an allowable Special Use on Lot 2 of the Final Planned Unit Development in conjunction with the Planned Unit Development based on the findings of fact. The Plan Commission's report to the President and Board of Trustees was presented and read.

A motion was made by Trustee Varman to adopt an Ordinance Approving a Special Use for Planned Unit Development to Allow a Dealership and Showroom for the Sale and Lease of New and Used Small and Mid-sized Construction Equipment and Machinery and for Certain Exceptions to the Elwood Zoning Ordinance With Respect Thereto. Trustee Bertucci seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes. The motion carried.

#### **2022-2023 Alliant Mesirow Insurance Renewal Plans**

The Village must renew its medical, dental, and life insurance plans annually by or before the first day of July. The insurance committee consisting of Village employee representatives from administration, public works, and police departments met with Paul Mizera from Alliant Mesirow to review the proposed options. The proposed plans are essentially the same as those that are currently being offered.

Regarding the health insurance renewal effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois (BCBS) issued a 7.87% increase to the current rates. Approximately 4% of this increase stems from the enrolled population aging one year from last year's renewal with the remaining increase coming from BCBS raising their rates in the small group market. Because the Village has less than 50 employees, thus "community-rated" the renewal increase is not able to be negotiated.

From a historical perspective, the Village’s health insurance rates are about 19% higher than they were five (5) years ago, in 2017. During this same time frame, the average increase among small group benefits programs in the Chicagoland area is approximately 61%, so the Village’s program is running well below the benchmark.

Our benefits broker, Alliant, did reach out to United Healthcare, Humana, and Aetna for quotes. The only alternate carrier that was able to provide a package that was comparable in plan design and network strength was United Healthcare; however, their quote came in approximately 26% above our current rates, thus not a viable option.

Additional Coverage (Principal)

Principal Financial released the renewal for the Village’s coverage of dental, voluntary vision, employer-paid life, and voluntary life insurance. The only rate change Principal suggested was a 4.9% increase on the dental rates however Alliant was able to negotiate this to a “no change” so there will be no changes to rates for the coverage this year. Given this favorable renewal, Alliant has also advised to renew all lines with Principal for the July 1<sup>st</sup> date.

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to approve the 2022-2023 Alliant Mesirow Insurance Renewal Plans with BlueCross Blue Shield of Illinois, that reflects a 7.87% increase of the current rates and Principal Financial for dental and employer paid life insurance, and that the employees continue to contribute 25% of the health insurance premiums. Trustee Varman seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes. The motion carried.

**Resolution for Prevailing Wage Rates for Laborers, Mechanics and Other Workers of Public Works of the Village of Elwood**

The Prevailing Wage Act regulates wages of laborers, workers and mechanics employed in any public works by the State, County, City or any public body or any political subdivision or by anyone under contract for public works. If the Village does not adopt a Resolution Adopting the Prevailing Wage Rates for Laborers, Mechanics, and Other Workers on Public Works during the month of June, then the prevailing rate of wages for the Village shall be the rate as determined by the Illinois Department of Labor. A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to adopt a Resolution for Prevailing Wage Rates for Laborers, Mechanics, and Other Workers of Public Works of the Village of Elwood. Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elberson – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes. The motion carried.

**Police Department – Chief Fred Hayes – Presented by Sergeant Marc Reid**

**During the Month of April 2022**

The Elwood Police Department responded to 340 calls for service. For more details concerning the types of calls, residents can visit the Village of Elwood website.

Police officers issued a total of 107 citations:

- Local Citations (O.V.) 3
- State Citations 84
- Overweight Violations (0)
- Monthly Total 87
- 2022 Year to Date Total 543

Arrest Report Summary:

- Traffic Arrests 9

- Warrant Arrests 0
- Criminal 0
- Monthly Total 9
- Year to Date Total 32

**TRAINING REPORT:**

<b>OFFICER</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
Sarah Zimmerman	CIT Mental Health Awareness & Response	4/6/22	8
Ed Wright	CIT Mental Health Awareness & Response	4/6/22	8
Sean Swabowski	CIT Mental Health Awareness & Response	4/6/22	8
Ed Wright	Trauma Informed Response to Sexual Assault	4/14/22	8
Ken Jaburek	Trauma Informed Response to Sexual Assault	4/14/22	8
Nick Adams	Trauma Informed Response to Sexual Assault	4/14/22	8
Anthony Lohmar	Trauma Informed Response to Sexual Assault	4/14/22	8
Robert Wellen	CIT Mental Health Awareness & Response	4/6/22	8
Robert Wellen	CIT Mental Health Awareness & Response	4/6/22	8

**Total Training Hours: 72**

- The link for the 2021 Annual Report will be placed on the Village’s social media sites.
- The Village is starting with three (3) Flock cameras and eventually will be increased to five (5). The cameras have been very successful in assisting law enforcement and play a critical role in making communities safer. The cameras only take a picture of the vehicle’s license plate, not the driver. If the vehicle has been stolen or is suspected of being in a crime law enforcement will be notified. The Village will not be limited to cameras that we own for services, it gives us the ability to connect and work together with other law enforcement agencies to extend our search capacity.

**Public Works – Director of Public Works Larry Lohmar**

**Mosquito Abatement**

The Village’s Public Works Department is working to reduce area mosquito populations and nuisance health hazards associated with mosquitoes. Crews from the Village are certified by the State of Illinois to apply larvicide to storm sewer catch basins and spray to reduce the adult mosquito level. The mosquito abatement spraying will begin this evening and will continue throughout the season.

**Water/Waste Water Treatment Plant**

Staff is in process of the treatment plant scheduled maintenance and repairs.

**Elwood Public Works 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Soap Box Derby Race**

The Soap Box Derby response is moving along really well. It is a great opportunity for parents to work with their son or daughter to design and build a Soap Box Derby Car to compete in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Elwood Public Works Derby Race. We have built a few cars for kids that would like to be in the race although kids/parents do not have the ability to build a car. The schedule is as follows:

August 20<sup>th</sup> (Elwood Days)

Time: 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm Races

Registration: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Contact: Larry or Matt at 815-423-1077 for more information!

## **Village Administrator – Julie Friebele**

### **Primary Election Early Voting**

Grace Period registration, registering, and voting simultaneously is available from June 1, 2022 through June 27, 2022, at the Will County Clerk’s Office or at an Early Voting location.

Same day registration is available at all polling places in Will County on Election Day, June 28, 2022.

The Village is holding early voting (limited to Village residents) Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> & Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

### **National Night Out**

Come join us for another great year of celebrating with our community!

The event enhances the relationship between residents and law enforcement in the community. It assists in strengthening neighborhoods and police relations.

- Tyler Park, 101aa N Chicago Avenue, Elwood
- Tuesday, August 2, 2022
- Time: 6-8 pm
- Great food, bounce house, raffles, and more!

### **Elwood Community Days**

#### **Elwood Community Days, Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

Elwood Fire Department – Smoke House

The mobile “Smoke House” is used to demonstrate a fire simulation to teach children what the signs are and how to escape a fire.

Food Truck/Vendors:

LaPasadita Mexican cuisine, Raceway Pizza, Chef’s Tast Truck, TCBY Truck, Auntie Anne’s Truck.

Beer Garden & Margarita Truck!

Bands:

Junk Yard Dogs will perform from 5 – 7 pm.

Righteous Hillbillies will perform from 8 pm. - midnight.

#### **Saturday will be busy:**

Parade at 11:00 am

Scheduled after the parade are a creature show, magic show, pony rides, a petting zoo, foam pit, zip line, rock wall, soapbox derby, cup-in-hand kickball, bingo, and a bags tournament.

Food Truck/Vendors:

LaPasadita Mexican cuisine, Raceway Pizza, Chef’s Taste Truck, TCBY Truck, and Auntie Anne’s Truck.

Beer Garden & Margarita Truck!

The Poison’d Crue Band will perform from 8-midnight.

Once again, we will need volunteers to assist with the event. Please give Julie a call to sign up!

**Upcoming Village Meetings**

Planning and Zoning	Tuesday, June 28 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm
Finance Committee	Tuesday, June 28 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 pm
Village Board of Trustees	Wednesday, July 13 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)	7:00 pm
	Wednesday, Aug 10 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)	7:00 pm

**Village President – Doug Jenco**

- Welcome Clarence Harding to the Village.
- Memorial Day service at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery was fantastic. If you have never been to the annual service, you should make a point to go. The Memorial Day ceremony is to honor those in the armed service who made the ultimate sacrifice.
- The Village looks spiffy; thank you to Larry Lohmar and the Public Works staff.
- The Police Department is doing a great job; even though they are short-staffed the Village’s staff is putting in long hours to cover the shifts.
- Hope that everyone has a safe summer.

**Other Business**

Schedule a Special Meeting of the Village Board of Trustess on June 22, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Village Council Chambers.

**Public Comments**

The Route 66 sign on Douglas Street was installed on a temporary basis for the Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor event. It was recently removed and will be permanently positioned once the concrete pad is installed.

**Closed Session**

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to go into closed session to discuss Collective Bargaining. Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Elbersen – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes. The motion carried.

**Reconvene Open Session**

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to reconvene the open session meeting. Trustee Varman seconded the motion. The Village Board voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

**Actions to be Taken Following the Closed Session Meeting**

No actions were taken following the closed session meeting.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Varman seconded the motion. The Village Board voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

*Julie Friebele, Village Clerk*