

**SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 31, 2008**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Village of Elwood, was called to order at 6:30 PM, March 31, 2008. One board member Trustee Matichak absent.

Also present: Aimee Ingalls, Nick Narduci, Mark Selko (Ed Graham's office), Todd Thomas, Bob Bland, Scott Haywood, Jerry Buchenau and George Ruban

Meeting opened with Pledge to the Flag.

**AN ORDINANCE ABATING CERTAIN REAL ESTATE TAXES
HERETOFORE LEVIED FOR THE TAX LEVY YEAR 2007 FOR
THE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON GENERAL
OBLIGATION IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2005
HERETOFORE ISSUED BY THE VILLAGE OF ELWOOD**

President Ruban – this ordinance is done every year.

Nick Narduci – apologized to being late, this ordinance goes with the tax levy ordinance and was omitted.

If we do not abate the taxes, the homeowners would be taxed and we do not want this to happen.

A motion by Trustee Strawn to approve An Ordinance Abating Certain Real Estate Taxes Heretofore Levied for the Tax Levy Year 2007 for the Payment of Principal and Interest on General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2005 Heretofore Issued by the Village of Elwood. Seconded by Trustee LaPaglia. A voice vote was called: Trustee Bernhard – yes, Trustee Jones – yes, Trustee Kucera – yes, Trustee LaPaglia – yes, Trustee Strawn – yes. Motion carried. Ordinance 905

STATUS OF EMC CONTRACT

Aimee Ingalls – just wanted to update you on the EMC contract.

Nick Narduci – all of our funds are solid except water and sewer. Debt to DECO to be repaid. Met with DECO with rates, we do not have a good handle on the plant operations. Trying to get a handle in order to go back to DECO. Needs to run efficiently as possible. DECO wants some answers from us. Best option for Village is a lease option. Negotiate contract among ourselves. Scott Haywood, Wally Callahan and Baxter Woodman looked at the agreement. Gallons pumped is a problem, treat 80% of what is pumped. Need to find out how efficient plant is running and be able to justify. We have spent time with EMC. EMC has received a copy of the agreement, they came back with a proposal. We have not received enough information from them right now. Would like to check out some other options. Need some other bids, asking your permission to formally bid, to be able to bring to the board. We need to get a handle on an agreement. May have to hire our own operator. The plant runs well, just need to get a handle on the financial aspects. There is a down side on changing vendors.

President Ruban – we need figures so we get what we are spending in a year. We are not getting reporting figures, we have asked for the last few months. We got to look at very close and very hard.

Trustee Strawn asked what the cost of the chemicals are?

Nick Narduci – we do not know what they use out there.

We need to be fiscally responsible. Option of going out and see what a licensed person would cost to run the plant. We need the figures to get our answers.

Nick Narduci – need your permission to go out for other bids. Will put together the bid documents.

Trustee Strawn – why are you using Baxter Woodman related to this? Baxter Woodman should have set down with EMC. Baxter Woodman in conflict with EMC.

Nick Narduci – Baxter Woodman is our Engineer. Baxter Woodman only does short term, no long term, just to help us through the transition.

Aimee Ingalls – we are not experts, Baxter Woodman worked on the technical aspect of plant. Baxter Woodman will not bid on the contract. They are going to transition us.

Nick Narduci – contract with them to put bid packet together. Is that OK for us to look around?

Todd Thomas from EMC, the operator of the waste water plant. Explained about their company, they do individual and municipal contracts. Reviewed some documents that have been sent back and forth to the Village. The remark was made that EMC not forthcoming with information. I believe we have given a lot of information. We have been requested for other information from Aimee and Nick. A letter with proposal on June 20th with a summary of costs and what we do at the plant. We gave a lot of information for this renewal. The meeting with competitors was very uncomfortable for us. When Nick requested the price for labor only, we have given everything that was requested. We want to work out something. We are eager to provide assistance to find the water loss, with no additional cost to our services. Explained more about the company.

President Ruban – question to Nick – are any of your answers I n here?

Nick Narduci – we need numbers and amounts.

Todd Thomas – at the meeting only labor costs were asked for. EMC to help with budget, they are uncomfortable giving numbers, there are certain things you do not give to competition.

Nick Narduci – need something to compare.

Todd Thomas – in the June 20th letter we gave you everything we do. You have a lot of information and we would like to work with you.

Nick Narduci – we have to be able to show numbers that is the best cost option for us when we go to DECO, we need to prove. When we went to DECO, did not look good for us because we did not have a handle to show them the exact numbers.

Hire our own people, get the bid out and see what comes in and hopefully EMC will be the lowest.

Aimee Ingalls – we have a procurement ordinance on how we can go out for bid. A lot of places have run their plants in house. We never kept a good handle on this. They are excluding the priority information as our customers.

Todd Thomas – would like to set down and negotiate, what we withheld, you would use to work against us.

President Ruban – we need something when we go back to DECO.

Nick Narducci – what we need first is the following 1) cost to operate on our own, hire our own people and the ramifications; 2) look at other firms and bid out, EMC could be the lowest.

A motion by Trustee LaPaglia to approve bidding out for other options. Seconded by Trustee Jones. A voice vote was called: Trustee Bernhard – yes, Trustee Jones – yes, Trustee Kucera – yes, Trustee LaPaglia – yes, Trustee Strawn – yes. Motion carried.

Trustee Strawn – do a RFQ and get the lowest bidder.

A motion by Trustee LaPaglia to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Trustee Bernhard. All voted in favor of motion. Motion carried.

Pat Buchenau
Village Clerk