

Village of Elmira Heights
215 Elmwood Ave., Elmira Heights, NY
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2026
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM at the Elmira Heights Village Hall. **Those Village Board members in attendance and constituting a quorum were:** Mayor Smith; Trustee Patelunas joined us via Zoom from 28326 Loft Mountain Drive, Leesburg, FL; and Trustees Aiosa, Churches, & Fuhlhage.

Others Present: Clerk Martone, CEO Mein, Police Sgt. Gooshaw, Fire Chief Sabatini, & Street Superintendent Marty Vanderhoff

Public Present: Barbara Day

PROCEEDINGS:

1. Trustee Aiosa made a motion to resolve to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2026 Organizational Board Meeting.

Second by Trustee Fuhlhage

Roll Call Vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye	
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye	
	Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye	
	Trustee Churches	Aye	
	Mayor Smith	Aye	Motion Carried.

2. Trustee Patelunas made a motion to resolve to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

Second by Trustee Aiosa

Roll Call Vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye	
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye	
	Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye	
	Trustee Churches	Aye	
	Mayor Smith	Aye	Motion Carried.

3. Trustee Fuhlhage made a motion to resolve to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2026 Special Board Meeting.

Second by Trustee Aiosa

Roll Call Vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye	
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye	
	Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye	
	Trustee Churches	Aye	
	Mayor Smith	Aye	Motion Carried.

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4. Trustee Aiosa made a motion to approve audit #12 in the amount of \$171,907.15, from claim numbers 599-661, to be paid with checks numbered 24159-24169 and 24206-24254. Checks numbered 24170-24205 are voided due to a printing error.

Second by Trustee Fuhlhage

Roll Call Vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye	
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye	
	Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye	
	Trustee Churches	Aye	
	Mayor Smith	Aye	Motion Carried.

5. Department Official Remarks

Superintendent Vanderhoff read his report, which is on file.
Police Sergeant Gooshaw read his report, which is on file.
Code Enforcement Officer Mein read his report.
Fire Chief Sabatini read his report.

6. Trustee Fuhlhage made a motion to put the following reports on file for the month of April, 2026.

Fire Department
Police & Summary
Street Department
Code Enforcement
Gas and Diesel Consumption

Second by Trustee Aiosa

Roll Call Vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye	
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye	
	Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye	
	Trustee Churches	Aye	
	Mayor Smith	Aye	Motion Carried.

7. Trustee Aiosa made a motion to adopt the 2026-2027 budget with a tax increase of 3.6% instead of the proposed 3.98%, with the caveat that the Board looks into the possibility of utilizing reserve account funds in CDs.

Second by Trustee Fuhlhage

Roll Call Vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye	
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye	
	Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye	
	Trustee Churches	Aye	
	Mayor Smith	Aye	Motion Carried.

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8. Trustee Aiosa made a motion to authorize the Village Clerk to move the following monies:
- A budget transfer of \$2,000.00 from A5182.44 (Electrician) to A5182.4 (Street Lighting) to cover the NYSEG street lighting costs for the fiscal year.
 - A budget amendment of \$7,000.00 from Fund Balance to A5182.4 (Street Lighting) to cover the NYSEG street lighting costs for the fiscal year and upcoming bills to be pre-paid in May.

Second by Trustee Patelunas

Roll Call Vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye	
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye	
	Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye	
	Trustee Churches	Aye	
	Mayor Smith	Aye	Motion Carried.

9. Discussion and possible action for EH Fire Company Gear Dryer

Whenever Fire Department gear is used, or every 6 months if not used before then, it needs to be washed and dried in order to be ready for the next use. The Department's current gear dryer is not efficient, so a grant was pursued to try and obtain funds to purchase a better unit. A partial grant of \$1,800.00 was awarded, and the Fire Company elected to fund half of the necessary costs. Chief Sabatini asked the Board if they would be willing to commit no more than \$4,200.00 to make up the difference.

The decision was tabled for the time being; Trustees Churches and Fuhlhage suggested going to local businesses and explaining the benefit the Fire Department has provided them in terms of dollars and cents.

Trustee Patelunas made a motion to add to the agenda to dedicate \$30,000.00 of the interest gained from the CDARS for road improvements on 13th Street.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll Call Vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye	
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye	
	Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye	
	Trustee Churches	Aye	
	Mayor Smith	Aye	Motion Carried.

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Trustee Patelunas made a motion to dedicate \$30,000.00 of the interest gained from the CDARS for road improvements on 13th Street.

Seconded by Trustee Aiosa

Roll Call Vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye	
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye	
	Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye	
	Trustee Churches	Aye	
	Mayor Smith	Aye	Motion Carried.

10. PERSONS RECOGNIZING THE BOARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.

Barbara Day was then addressed by the Board. Most of her questions had already been answered during the budget approval discussion. She also commented not seeing all of the April meeting minutes on the website. Clerk Martone stated that she would look into it.

11. REMARKS: MAYOR, TRUSTEES

Discussion was had regarding the future of the Street Department.

ADJOURNMENT

12. Motion by Trustee Churches to adjourn the May 5, 2026 regular board meeting at 9:32 PM.

Second by Trustee Aiosa

Roll Call Vote:	Trustee Patelunas	Aye	
	Trustee Aiosa	Aye	
	Trustee Fuhlhage	Aye	
	Trustee Churches	Aye	
	Mayor Smith	Aye	Motion Carried.