

**Village of Elmira Heights
215 Elmwood Ave., Elmira Heights, NY
Public Hearing / Special Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2026
4:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 4:13 PM at the Elmira Heights Village Hall. **Those Village Board members in attendance and constituting a quorum were:** Mayor Smith; Trustee Patelunas via Zoom from 28326 Loft Mountain Drive, Leesburg, FL; and Trustees Aiosa, Churches, & Fuhlhage.

Others Present: Clerk Martone

Public Present: None

PROCEEDINGS:

1. Trustee Aiosa made a motion to go into Executive Session at 4:13 PM to discuss personnel matters.

Second by Trustee Churches

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

2. Trustee Churches made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 4:55 PM.

Second by Trustee Patelunas

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

**THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGET
WAS OPENED AT 4:56 PM.**

The Mayor and Village Board reviewed the most recent version of the 2026-2027 Tentative Budget, as well as several scenarios that were run and how those scenarios impacted the usage of fund balance.

A tax increase beyond the 2% tax cap, per Local Law #1 of 2026 passed in January, may be in order.

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The Trustees were all in favor of increasing the Mayor’s salary per past practice.

The Trustees’ salaries will increase slightly as per past practice.

Mayor Smith reported that she requested the Department Heads to trim their budgets. In addition to some savings, there is also a potential for increased fire protection revenues compared to the first tentative budget reviewed in March.

It was decided that the Village would submit a counter offer for Street Department shared services with the Town of Horseheads.

Trustee Churches left the meeting early at 6:00 PM.

There was more discussion about the fire hydrants and if the Village is being appropriately billed. The matter is still under review.

The Village Board would like to see more scenarios of different tax increases, and how these increases would impact fund balance as well as tax apportionment rates for the coming year.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSURE & ADJOURNMENT

3. Trustee Patelunas made a motion to close the public hearing and adjourn the April 14th Special Meeting at 6:30 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.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Amanda Martone
Village Clerk