

**Village of Elmira Heights
215 Elmwood Ave., Elmira Heights, NY
Special Board Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2026
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 6:05 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: Barbara Day

PROCEEDINGS:

1. The 2026-2027 tentative budget was presented to and reviewed by the Board.

It was discovered that the budget program experienced some sort of error or glitch when it generated the figures for the tentative budget's accompanying data. Mayor Smith and Clerk Martone will look into the issue first thing tomorrow morning. For tonight's meeting, Mayor Smith wished to go over some highlights in the tentative budget.

These highlights included but were not limited to:

- An explanation of past practice in calculating the payroll for the Village Trustees & Deputy Mayor. Trustees Churches and Fuhlhage expressed the possibility of eliminating the increase this time. Trustee Aiosa suggested a smaller "cost of living" increase.
- Fire hydrants from Elmira Water Board will be going up \$20 per hydrant. Trustee Patelunas will reach out to the Chemung County Planning Board to review the GIS maps to make sure the hydrants we are being billed for are truly within the Village limits.
- Questions arose regarding the Summer Cohesion program.
- The Village's current payments to be made in the coming fiscal year for the following vehicles and gear:
 - \$60,000 principal and total \$7,012.50 interest for the aerial platform fire truck first bonded in 2008. It will be paid in full in 2028.

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- \$22,000 principal and total \$9,405 interest for the most recent fire truck, to be funded through the prior sale of an older fire truck.
- \$31,405 payment for the new air packs for the Fire Department
- Each department's budget was reviewed and discussed.
- Our shared service with the Town of Horseheads for the Street Department was discussed as the agreement will end in May of this year. We are waiting on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines possible new terms to last until the end of the calendar year.
- Trustee Aiosa wished to have an amount set aside for the Urban Renewal Agency, possibly with regard to the CDBG program.
- The tax levy, tentatively without going over the 2% tax cap.
- The deficit was also tentatively discussed.

The following steps to be taken in the next two weeks:

- Clerk Martone will reach out to the software company about the program glitch.
- Mayor Smith will approach the department heads about trimming their budgets
- Trustee Patelunas will contact the Chemung County Planning Board regarding the fire hydrant questions
- Trustee Fuhlhage will contact the Chemung County Youth Bureau regarding the Board's questions about the Summer Cohesion program

ADJOURNMENT

2. Motion by Trustee Patelunas to adjourn the March 24, 2026 special board meeting at 8:54 PM.

Second by Trustee Churches

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