

Village of Elmira Heights
215 Elmwood Ave., Elmira Heights, NY
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2026
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 7:00 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: Deputy Clerk Brimmer, Street Superintendent Vanderhoff, Police Sergeant Morrell, Code Enforcement Officer Mein

Public Present: Chris Callas, Mike Swift, Adrienne Strawn

PROCEEDINGS:

1. Trustee Aiosa made a motion to resolve to accept the minutes of the December 2, 2025 Regular 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 approve audit #8 in the amount of \$143,581.52 claim numbers 368 - 409, check numbers 23892 - 23937.

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. Department Official Remarks

Street Superintendent Vanderhoff read his report, which is on file.

Police Sergeant Morrell read Sgt. Gooshaw's report, which is on file.

Mayor Smith read an email from Fire Chief Cadek, who was unable to attend due to Fire Company elections. Michael Cadek stated in the email that he will be stepping down as Fire Chief, and will remain a member of the Fire Department.

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Trustee Patelunas read the Fire Chief's report, which is on file.

Code Enforcement Officer Mein stated that it has been a slower month. The three-month agreement with Hector is wrapping up. He's passed all of his classes so far and will be starting the 4th of the 6 classes soon. Upon completion of this upcoming class, he will be able to sign permits and he is comfortable in doing so.

4. Trustee Fuhlhage made a motion to put the following reports on file for the month of December, 2025.

Fire Department
Police & Summary
Street Department
Code Enforcement
Gas and Diesel Consumption
Village Justice and Acting Justice Reports

Second by Trustee Aiosa

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

Motion Carried.

5. Trustee Fuhlhage made a motion to approve Local Law #1 of 2026, Tax Cap Override

WHEREAS, according to New York State's property Tax Cap Legislation, if a Village government decides to adopt a Village budget with a property tax levy that exceeds the level set by the State, the Village government must pass a local law to override that cap; and

WHEREAS, adopting said local law is not predictive of the final tax levy but will provide the Village of Elmira Heights Board of Trustees flexibility to exceed the Property Tax Cap if it is deemed necessary, and to ensure that any State recalculation of the applicable limit will not make the Village inadvertently out of compliance; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Elmira Heights wishes to adopt a local law authorizing the possibility of a property tax levy for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2026 in excess of the limit established by the State of New York in General Municipal Law Section 3-c; and

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, A NEW Chapter 2 of the Code of the Village of Elmira Heights, New York

Second by Trustee Aiosa

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

6. Trustee Patelunas made a motion to abolish the Village Registration Day as per Village Election Law 15 – 118 (3).

Second by Trustee Churches

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 approve the new 2026 IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate of 72.5¢ per mile from 70¢ per mile for 2025.

Second by Trustee Fuhlhage

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

8. Trustee Churches made a motion to authorize the Clerk to move \$753.00 from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A7310.4 (Youth Recreation) to cover the increase in Summer Cohesion funding.

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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9. Trustee Patelunas made a motion to approve the membership of Austin Janowski into the Elmira Heights Fire Department.

Second by Trustee Aiosa

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

Trustee Patelunas read a letter from Michael Cadek naming the Fire Chief, Assistant Chiefs, and Captains.

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

Chris Callas of 101 Oakwood Ave. wished to follow up on the 250th celebration of the nation. Mayor Smith stated that there was a lot of illness in the month of December and no planning has occurred yet. She reassured him that she does have his contact information.

11. REMARKS: MAYOR, TRUSTEES

Mayor Smith hopes everyone had a nice Christmas, and hopes the New Year is good for all & the Village. A special thank you to Jacob for helping out while the clerks were both out. Jacob and Mayor Smith tried to keep things going while they were out. Prayers for Amanda. Thanks to Deputy Clerk Andrea Brimmer for coming to the meeting.

Trustee Fuhlhage wished to express neighbors' concerns about high speed and no stop at 19th and Robinwood.

12. Trustee Patelunas made a motion to add to the agenda to go into Executive Session to discuss a property offer.

Second by Trustee Churches

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

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13. Trustee Patelunas made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:27 PM to discuss a property offer.

Second by Trustee Churches

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

14. Trustee Churches made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:50 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.

ADJOURNMENT

15. Trustee Fuhlhage made a motion to adjourn the January 6, 2026 regular board meeting at 8:50 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