

**Village of Elmira Heights
215 Elmwood Ave., Elmira Heights, NY
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM at the Elmira Heights Village Hall. **Those Village Board members in attendance and constituting a quorum were:** Mayor Smith; Trustees Aiosa, Fuhlhage, & Churches. Trustee Patelunas joined via Zoom from 28326 Loft Mountain Drive, Leesburg, FL

Others Present: Clerk Martone, Street Superintendent Vanderhoff, Code Enforcement Officer Mein, Police Sergeant Morrell

Public Present: Christopher Callas, Tammy Churches, Barb Day

PROCEEDINGS:

1. Trustee Fuhlhage made a motion to resolve to accept the minutes of the October 7, 2025 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.

2. Trustee Patelunas made a motion to approve audit #6 in the amount of \$562,425.23, claim numbers 259 - 322, voiding claim # 285, to be paid with checks numbered 23787 - 23847.

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

Code Enforcement Officer Mein read his report, which is on file.
Street Superintendent Vanderhoff read his report, which is on file.
Trustee Churches read Police Chief Noonan's report, which is on file.
Trustee Patelunas read Fire Chief Cadek's report, which is on file.

Village of Elmira Heights
215 Elmwood Ave., Elmira Heights, NY
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025
7:00 PM

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

Fire Department
Police & Summary
Code Enforcement
Street Department
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 Aiosa made a motion to set a date of December 2, 2025 for a Public Hearing for discussion and possible action on the Fire Protection District #2 Agreement between the Town of Elmira and the Village of Elmira Heights.

Second by Trustee Fuhlhage

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

6. **Resolution #16** of 2025: Village Election Day

Trustee Aiosa made a motion to resolve that, pursuant to Election Law §15-104, the Village Election shall be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at the Village Hall located at 215 Elmwood Ave. in Elmira Heights, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00PM.

Second by Trustee Fuhlhage

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

**Village of Elmira Heights
215 Elmwood Ave., Elmira Heights, NY
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025
7:00 PM**

7. **Resolution #17 of 2025:** Resolution to Support Congressman Langworthy's Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) and in opposition to Government-Mandated Natural Gas Bans

Trustee Patelunas made a motion to resolve to support Congressman Langworthy's Energy Choice Act and in opposition of Government-Mandated Natural Gas Bans.

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration's climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945), federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

**Village of Elmira Heights
215 Elmwood Ave., Elmira Heights, NY
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025
7:00 PM**

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the VILLAGE OF ELMIRA HEIGHTS strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Lmagworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State’s natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VILLAGE OF ELMIRA HEIGHTS urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and reserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

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 Patelunas made a motion to approve the shared service agreement with the Town of Hector for Code Enforcement commencing on 10/23/2025 for a period of ninety (90) days.

Second by Trustee Aiosa

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

**Village of Elmira Heights
215 Elmwood Ave., Elmira Heights, NY
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025
7:00 PM**

9. The discussion regarding the contract between the Village of Elmira Heights and the Thoma Development consultants for the CDBG Microenterprise Grant was tabled.

10. Trustee Fuhlhage made a motion to approve the memberships of Greyson McMaster & Shane Lohmuller 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.

11. Motion by Trustee Aiosa to move the following monies:

- \$10,000.00 from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A3120.15 for police overtime.
- \$98,400.00 from A599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) to A5110.4 for traffic signal upgrades to 14th & Grand Central
- \$20,000.00 from A599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) to A5110.4 for the cameras for 13th & Elmwood
- \$14,950.00 from A599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) to A5110.4 for the cameras at 14th & Grand Central

Second by Trustee Patelunas

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

12. Trustee Fuhlhage made a motion to deem a 2014 Lincoln MKZ impounded by the Police Department as surplus property to be put up for auction on Govdeals.com

Second by Trustee Aiosa

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

**Village of Elmira Heights
215 Elmwood Ave., Elmira Heights, NY
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025
7:00 PM**

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

Christopher Callas of 101 Oakwood Ave. asked if the Village would be joining another municipality or if there are plans to have our own 250th celebration for the country on July 4th. Mayor Smith stated that it would also be a 130th celebration for the Village of Elmira Heights and that there are plans in discussion for a big 2-day weekend long celebration that possibly includes a nighttime lighted parade. Mayor Smith offered Mr. Callas to join the Events Committee.

14. REMARKS: MAYOR, TRUSTEES

Mayor Smith wished to thank both the Street and Police Departments for their participation at Oktoberfest. She also stated that the Village of Elmira Heights is a party in a multiple-municipality letter in opposition of the bicycle lane situation on Miracle Mile.

Trustee Churches mentioned that he attempted to contact Greenleaf Recycling regarding issues that residents on 11th Street have had, and received no response. He also asked Police Chief Noonan to monitor the parking situation there.

Trustee Churches held a meeting at the Village Hall on October 20th with residents who have complained about the feral cat situation. Amy Detota from Animal Control was also present at this meeting. The highlights are as follows:

- There isn't an easy solution to feral cat issues. The State of New York does not have laws for cats (they can free-roam), but municipalities can be more restrictive.
- Enforcement will be difficult, but consideration should be given to possibly enacting some local laws. The City of Corning imposed a mandatory spay/neutering, with proof for reason for noncompliance or otherwise a permit to breed cats.
- The first and most emphasized step should be to educate the public. A portion of the public is likely to ignore this information, but there are a lot more citizens out there that just want to do the right thing. A media blast of public education on the topic was suggested.
- There is a grant that opens up a couple of times per year – next opening approximately in May – for trap, neuter, and return programs. It is a common solution, though Amy Detota from Animal Control stated that truly feral cats cannot be returned.

**Village of Elmira Heights
215 Elmwood Ave., Elmira Heights, NY
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025
7:00 PM**

Trustee Churches also mentioned parking issues near Pick's Pub. He said that there is a State law already in existence, but wanted to know if the Village could put a sign up in accordance with the State law, or if a local law would additionally need to be enacted. There was a discussion about the logistics of fine revenue.

Trustee Churches had an idea that involves splitting the Village into four different "sectors" that each of the Trustees could observe their own section once per month or so, not unlike larger municipalities having wards and councilmen that oversee said ward. He also spoke in support in creating a planning board.

Trustee Churches additionally commented that the Village needs a new website, and suggested we also look into social media.

ADJOURNMENT

15. Motion by Trustee Churches to adjourn the November 10, 2025 regular board meeting at 8:21 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