

What's Happening with the Elmwood Village Board of Trustees?

Wednesday, November 4th, 2015, the Elmwood Village Board of Trustees met in regular session at the Village Office. All Board members were present, Curt Wilhelm, Chairperson, Pat Wray, Vice Chairperson, Julie Anderson, Park Goddess, Mike Krass, Street Commissioner, and Lou Allgayer, Utilities Commissioner.

The meeting started with the review/approval of the previous meeting's minutes. These are always posted on the Elmwood website if you would like to see them. The agenda for the current meeting is posted there also. We try to get it posted as soon as possible but it is usually the day before the meeting.

At each Board meeting there are some topics that are always discussed so they are standard on the agenda. Items such as Streets, Park, Library, Water, Sewer, Planning/Zoning, and Special Events. We don't always follow the order listed on the agenda but we do get to all of them.

This week we started with discussion and approval of a building permit for Vanderpools. A contractor representative was there to answer any questions. The permit was approved. It always makes the process of approval go a little easier if the person or party needing a permit approved comes to the meeting to answer any questions.

Rian Harkins, from SENDD, (Southeast Nebraska Development District) came to present an update on the nuisance abatement project. SENDD was contracted by the Village earlier this year to assist in dealing with properties that might be considered a nuisance. Over the past several years the board has tried to deal with a few nuisance properties on their own but the process was slow due to a lack of guidance on how to proceed. The board sought out SENDD to give a presentation on the proper procedure to follow and their assistance earlier this year. The board divided the town into sections and earlier this summer selected a section of the town to begin the process. SENDD then performed several inspections of that area to determine if the properties were in violation of the Village Ordinance for Nuisance properties. SENDD then identified the properties and contacted the owners to let them know that they needed to do something with the nuisance violations on their property. The Village Board did not know who was on that initial list. If the property owners contacted SENDD and worked with them for a resolution the board never knew it. If they did not do what was needed then we were given a report as to the situation. If a resolution cannot be agreed upon by SENDD and the property owner then the Village Board will take action. Mr. Harken gave an update on a few properties that would need the Board's attention. The board will review and follow his recommendations if they believe it is in the best interest of the Village and the property owner. He will report back in a month.

STREETS: On Tuesday, 11/3/2015 there was a fuel spill starting around 4th and East D street and continuing down South 3rd street toward the CO-OP. Cass County Emergency Management was contacted due to the spillage running into the storm sewer. It was determined that there was lot of dirt in the bottom of the storm sewer that prevented the oil from spreading. Ed put down floor dry and cleaned up what was there. No further action was needed.

The Christmas lights are almost ready to be hung. Ed and Lou have worked all year to convert the lights to LED bulbs and spruce up the ornaments. They were beginning to show wear after many years of service. Due to the work they performed and the addition of LED lights the Village saved a couple thousand dollars and will save approximately \$200 a year on electrical costs with the LED bulbs. Lou also reported that a new hanger will be added to the bottom of the flag holders so that a smaller flag can be hung showing the date of the Holiday Extravaganza.

Mike is still working to obtain more bids for the sealing the cracks in the streets in 2016.

PARK: The stump from the damaged tree is gone and Lou will pick up 2 lbs of tall fescue grass seed to put down on the spot where the tree came down. Pat has the carpet for the Gaga Pit and will pick up the glue which she will donate to the project. She just needs to coordinate with people to get it done and needs to find a day when it is warm enough...probably over 60 degrees.

LIBRARY: Miki Bruns is a new Library Board member. Janet Sorensen is out for a while and Anne Pope will help cover some of the hours. The Library report was approved.

WATER: The meter at the school was not working and Ed took it apart and found a big chunk of rust in the meter. Once he removed it and put it back together the pump began working just fine. This saved the Village from purchasing a new meter which would have cost several hundred dollars.

Ed received a bid on the fire station back flow preventer valve and will pass that on to the fire department. He also received a bid on replacing the meter at the Methodist Church, it has been working intermittently for several months. Mark Hogue will replace the meter with Ed's assistance on a Saturday morning when no one is using the facility.

Ed sent in the Water Needs Survey that is requested by DHHS. It is a list of all the things we would like to have done for 2017. He included installing radio read meters which entails software and training. These are not necessarily items that will be completed, just a list of potential items that might need attention. Each item would be viewed with scrutiny to see if it would work within the Village's budget.

No news on the NRD grant for the well head project as of yet.

SEWER: Cummings Diesel checked out the engine battery on the backup generator at the wastewater treatment plant and determined that it needed to be replaced. Its normal life is about 2 years. It is a 4D battery that runs about \$199.00. We had a \$27 credit so it cost us about \$164.00. Randy Bornemeier started hauling the sludge from the plant Wednesday night and would finish Thursday night. Ed is also working on the Needs Survey for the wastewater treatment plant.

PLANNING & ZONING: No report

SPECIAL EVENTS: The Holiday Extravaganza will be on Saturday, November 28th. The Christmas lights and banners will be in place. Lou will provide 6 cedar trees for main street to be decorated with donated ornaments. Bonnie Brewer has the stands. We will put them up on Friday afternoon/evening.

CATS/FERAL CATS at large/comments & Suggestions/Associated Actions: Julie presented a new ordinance to replace the old pet ordinance. This will include dogs and cats and be more detailed. Board members have had the opportunity to read it and make comments. It will be sent to the Village attorney to add specifics such as fines. If completed it will be read at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: 2015 Village Goals – Tabled until next meeting; One and six year street plan – this will need to be reviewed and determine what the plan is.

Presentation of Claims for Payment: Approved.

Other information: The grinding will start at the brush pile this week, probably Thursday or Friday. The new brush pile will be open by the next meeting. The old site will be roped off with No Dumping signs. If people continue to dump at the old site it could be considered littering and the person/party could be subject to fines.

The Community Development Association meeting will be Wednesday, December 9th.

A Cass County Deputy stopped by the meeting. Sheriff Bill Brueggemann had asked his sergeants to stop in at some of the board meetings around the county and it was our lucky night. I'm sure he enjoyed our discussions. And the cookies. They were really good.

Hope to see you at a meeting! If you can't make it just watch for the updates!