

Village of Elsie
Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026

President Jason Freeman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: President Jason Freeman; Council Members: Dorothy Ornelas, Mark Helt, Kory Witt, Sam Frink, Joe Ondrusek and Todd Carroll.

Ex-Officios: Present: Village Manager/Police Chief Destinee Bryce, Clerk/Treasurer Kelsey Kelly.
Absent: DPW Supervisor Chris Ormes.

AGENDA CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS, OR DELETIONS: K. Witt motioned to approve the agenda as written, D. Ornelas seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES:

January 13, 2026 – “Zoning Committee” should be “Ordinance Committee” under Police/Code Enforcement Report. T. Carroll moved with corrections, M. Helt seconded. MOTION CARRIED

INVOICES:

T. Carroll moved, K. Witt seconded to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$39,093.41 MOTION CARRIED.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

-BHM CPA Grp Inc: Financial Audit Overview & Introduction provided by Brent Shea

-Elsie Park Update: Ed White gave an update. The evaluations of plans for the addition of a nature trail and sledding hill at the Village of Elsie Park are still in progress. M. Helt moved, seconded by K. Witt to appoint Ed White to the Park Committee. MOTION CARRIED.

-Clinton County Commissioner Nicole Fikes gave a county update.

-LEAP/MEDC- Devon Pingel & Rachel Elsinga gave an update on funding for the Elsie School Development, which has been paused due to government budget.

PRESIDENT:

Village President Jason Freeman stated that the Elsie Library has negotiated for \$2,000.00 to pay for the two years the Village of Elsie owes from a mutual agreement from 1989 (rev.2004). New contract negotiations are tabled as an action step for March 10, 2026 council meeting. K. Witt motioned to approve payment of \$2,000.00 to the Elsie Library, T. Carroll seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Roll Call, all ayes. MOTION CARRIED.

CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:

Kelsey Kelly was sworn in on January 14, 2026, by Village Manager, Destinee Bryce.

Clerk/Treasurer Kelsey Kelly has continued training through BS&A with webinars focused on governmental accounting and utility billing, along with training and resources provided through Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks and Michigan Municipal Treasurer Association, and upcoming attendance in Treasury webinars. Water meter upgrade appointment notices continue to be effective. Shut-off notices have started to go out for outstanding utility bills. D. Ornelas motioned to approve the Clerk/Treasurer Report, S. Frink seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

POLICE/CODE ENFORCEMENT:

In January 2026, there were 55 calls for service. The Elsie Police Department conducted 9 traffic stops and issued 4 citations. A total of 140 hours were worked at the Elsie Police Department. Police activity consisted of traffic enforcement, motor carrier enforcement, one assault, one UDAA, one welfare check, two assisting other agencies, 3 follow-up investigations, multiple community policing events. The Elsie Police Department recently signed with Virtual Academy for \$100 annually, which reduces administrative burden by properly tracking required training directly into MCOLES with tracking certifications. Axon contracts may be covered under MI Bid. There are 4 code enforcement violations that are currently being worked on. Revamping outdated ordinances is crucial to properly enforce violations. K. Witt motioned to approve the police/code enforcement report, T. Carroll seconded. MOTION CARRIED

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VILLAGE MANAGER:

FV Engineering project kick-off meeting for the DWSRF took place on January 26, 2026. A meeting with MEDC and LEAP regarding the RRC process was held on January 28, 2026. The FDCVT grants have been submitted for review. MML conducted their annual risk management assessment, and the Village of Elsie passed. On February 12, 2026, a meeting will be held with MML's Elmer Hilt, where village property and contents coverages will be updated in preparation for the MML annual renewal for FY27. Budget planning continues for FY27. Michigan Rural Water has completed the utility rate study which will be utilized for FY27 budget purposes. K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Witt motioned to approve the Village Manager Report, T. Carroll seconded. MOTION CARRIED

DPW REPORT:

Village Manager Destinee Bryce gave an update. Keeping up with watermain breaks is becoming difficult caused from previously ignored infrastructure needs. The backhoe has been broken down, and the Village is awaiting a potential grant-funded mini excavator in the future. A motion was made by M. Helt to accept bids on selling the backhoe, K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Lift station pumping has continued while awaiting replacement pump. A capital plan for the DPW budget is to obtain a backup pump. A new water line was attached on E. Main St. due to a well going dry, and local codes. The Village of Elsie paid for the tap-in. K. Witt motioned to approve the DPW report, T. Carroll seconded. MOTION CARRIED

ACTION STEPS:

- T. Carroll motioned to approve BHM to conduct the Financial Audit for FY 26 in the amount of \$8,600.00 and FY28 in the amount of \$8,045.00, K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Roll Call, all ayes. MOTION CARRIED.
- T. Carroll motioned to approve the recommended Budget Amendments (1-8) by Financial Controller, Steve Adair. K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Roll Call, all ayes. MOTION CARRIED.
- Budget Committee Meeting set for Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Elsie Village Office.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The floor was opened for public comment. No members of the public offered comments at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

K. Witt motioned to adjourn the February 10, 2026, council meeting at 8:25 PM, S. Frink seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Destinee Bryce
Village Manager
Chief of Police

Jason Freeman
Village President