

Village of Elsie
Council Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2026

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

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

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

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

MINUTES:

- March 10, 2026 – D. Ornelas moved, T. Carroll seconded. MOTION CARRIED.
- April 14, 2026 – M. Helt moved, S. Frink seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

INVOICES:

T. Carroll moved, K. Witt seconded to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$21,547.61. MOTION CARRIED.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

-Ed White provided an Elsie Park Update by email. The compost and leaf area north of the park has been turned over with equipment on loan from Summit Contractors and is approximately 90% clear of soft spots, allowing residents to drive in and drop off leaves. White recommended permanent signage directing residents to the leaf pile and the brush pile, along with noting what items do not belong in the leaf composting area. The Council agreed to have estimates obtained for new signs and bring the matter back as an action item at the next meeting.

PRESIDENT:

No updates were provided by President Jason Freeman

CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:

The Elsie.org website now includes new online pavilion rental, paperless billing, and a citizen complaint form with photo upload capability. Utility bills were due the prior week; 16 shutoff notices had previously gone out, eight accounts were shut off, and all have since made payment or arrangements. Approximately eight new shutoff notices are anticipated before June billing. Water meter upgrades continue, with roughly 15 appointments made since the April meeting. Hero Park brick order forms are available at the Village office and will be sent to be engraved in sets of ten. There are currently six pavilion reservations for 2026. The DPW has been working on water lines near pavilion three. K. Witt motioned to approve the Clerk/Treasurer Report, D. Ornelas seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

POLICE/CODE ENFORCEMENT:

In April 2026, there were 37 calls for service. The Elsie Police Department conducted 7 traffic stops, issuing 2 citations. A total of 169 hours were worked at the Elsie Police Department. Police activity consisted of traffic enforcement, motor carrier enforcement, medical assist, ordinance violations, and community policing. Annual Department CPR/CPE training took place. On April 22, 2026, the Michigan State Police Criminal Processing and Authentication Unit conducted a Quality Assurance Review (QAR) audit, and the Elsie Police Department received a score of 100% for accuracy, completeness, and timeliness. Code enforcement is active and proving effective. K. Witt motioned to approve the police/code enforcement report, T. Carroll seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

VILLAGE MANAGER:

The Village was not selected for CDS appropriations funding this year. Year-end reporting for FY 2026 and monthly deficit elimination filings are ongoing. On April 22, 2026, a meeting with Treasury confirmed that internal and external constraints prevent Treasury from funding the F&V Engineering project plan costs or the Woodhill Group CFO services. FDCVT grants are expected to be announced within the next month for the fire hydrant replacements, and a mini excavator. Treasury noted

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appreciation for the Council's progress toward financial responsibility. A grant opportunity for fire equipment was forwarded to the Elsie Area Fire Department. A Dairy Festival coordination meeting was held April 30, 2026. Quotes for the Elsie Park walking path were received, with a decision on the selected contractor to be added to the June meeting action steps. A Beautification Day event with Ovid-Elsie 8th grade students is scheduled for May 26th at the Elsie Park. An upcoming meeting with LEAP was noted, with MEDC and LEAP actively advocating for the Village regarding the old school project and downtown district. Street administrator Joe Ondrusek has been working with the DPW on prioritizing road and sidewalk improvements. K. Witt motioned to approve the Village Manager Report, M. Helt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

DPW REPORT:

There is active water line work taking place near pavilions two and three at the Elsie Park, with water partially shut off in that area pending repairs. Cemetery mowing is underway and on track to be completed before Memorial Day. New lift station motors have arrived at the vendor and are awaiting scheduling for installation. Approximately 27 water meter upgrades were completed in April. Lagoon pump two is running inefficiently and has been placed in standby while pump one takes the load. Two bids were received for the main water break road repairs: McKearney at \$6,700 and Mike and Sons Asphalt at \$10,000. Bids for the walking path at Elsie Park came in at \$47,990 from McKearney and \$56,181 from Mike and Sons Asphalt. M. Helt motioned to authorize combined street repairs and walking path improvements not to exceed \$56,000, with McKearney as the selected contractor, seconded by K. Witt. Roll call vote, all ayes. MOTION CARRIED. T. Carroll motioned to approve the DPW report, K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION STEPS:

- T. Carroll motioned to approve Resolution # 26-0002, Adopting Final Project Planning Documents for Water System Improvements, with Village Manager Destinee Bryce being designated an authorized representative. S. Frink seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Roll Call, all ayes. MOTION CARRIED.
- D. Ornelas moved to approve the Elsie Dairy Festival application request for charitable gaming for a 50/50 raffle during the 2026 festival, K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Fairfield Township Resident stated concerns with formal contract between the Village and the Fire Authority.
- Duplain Township Resident announced that candidate filing paperwork for upcoming elections is available with Duplain Township Office, with a deadline of July 21, 2026, at 4:00 PM. There will be a public hearing on June 25, 2026, with US Fish and Wildlife and MDNR to discuss the dam, including upcoming relocation of mussels beginning on June 8, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

M. Helt motioned to adjourn the May 12, 2026, council meeting at 8:20 PM, K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Kelsey Kelly
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Jason Freeman
Village President