

**Village of Elsie**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**June 9, 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, K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

**MINUTES:**

- May 12, 2026, Council Minutes J. Ondrusek moved, M. Helt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.
- May 12, 2026, Public Hearing Minutes – K. Witt moved, S. Frink seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

**INVOICES:**

T. Carroll moved, D. Ornelas seconded to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$35,088.95. MOTION CARRIED.

**SPECIAL REPORTS:**

- Nicole Fickes provided a Clinton County update.
- Ed White had no park update.

**PRESIDENT:**

The Village of Elsie remains under a (DEP) Emergency Deficit Elimination Plan. An upcoming financial audit later this summer will evaluate the progress we have made toward improving our financial position. As of April 2026, there is \$10,668.00 in our general fund, after \$207,918 had to be paid back to other interlocal funds, to include the water and sewer fund. According to Financial Controller Steve Adair, we are on the path forward and making financial improvements. The rising cost of necessary infrastructure improvements continues to impact the outlook of the general fund.

The Village of Elsie received a contract offer from the Elsie Area Fire Department in the amount of \$30,000, with the Village also absorbing liability costs. In response, the Village offered to provide free water, sewer, and trash services and will be presenting a newly written contract proposal to the Elsie Area Fire Department. Due to DEP reporting requirements, the Village is currently unable to include a monetary amount in its offer. T. Carroll motioned to approve the President Report, D. Ornelas seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

**CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:**

The Elsie.org website changes have continued to meet the new compliance deadline of April 26, 2028. Utility bills went out and are due on June 26, 2026. Corrected Utility Rate sheets will be sent out in the upcoming billing cycle. 8 shut off notices were sent out with a shut off date of June 24, 2026. 106 water meter upgrade notices were sent through utility bills. The Village of Elsie's Hero's Park received a donation in the amount of \$300.00. There are 6 upcoming pavilion reservations for 2026.

J. Ondrusek motioned to approve the Clerk/Treasurer Report, K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

**POLICE/CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

In May 2026, there were 44 calls for service. The Elsie Police Department conducted 9 traffic stops, issuing 2 citations. A total of 140 hours were worked at the Elsie Police Department. Police activity consisted of traffic enforcement, motor carrier enforcement, medical assist, ordinance violations, and community policing. The Elsie Police Department participated in the Ovid-Elsie Beautification Day on May 26, 2026. Code and Zoning enforcement continues with additional certified letters being sent to blighted properties. The Village wide large item pick up day is June 27, 2026, and afterwards, we will be issuing citations for blight. Animals at large complaints have increased. Two properties have been mowed by the Village for tall grass per Village ordinance. K. Witt motioned to approve the police/code enforcement report, T. Carroll seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

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**VILLAGE MANAGER:**

FDCVT grants from the Michigan Department of Treasure in the total amount of \$268,543.00 for fire hydrant replacement and the purchase of a mini excavator and trailer have been received. The DWSRF has been submitted as of June 1, 2026. The Village is always seeking additional grant opportunities. The 2026 tax assessment roll from Duplain Township assessor, Mark Holley. We are diligently working to get them in the mail by July 1, 2026. The Village financial audit is set to begin in July 2026. Monthly DEP filings have continued. Currently working on implementing an asset management initiative, so we can prepare for infrastructure improvements. A consumers energy audit was conducted, and for energy efficiency, there are a few Village Office lights to be updated to LED soon. Council Member D. Ornelas and Village Manager D. Bryce attended the Lansing Economic Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting. Efficiency in policies and procedures has been identified and will be presented to the personnel committee at a later date for review. DPW Supervisor C. Ormes and Village Manager D. Bryce have a meeting with Miller Legacy on June 12, 2026, regarding the Village's fire hydrant installation project. K. Witt motioned to approve the Village Manager Report, M. Helt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

**DPW REPORT:**

McKearney Asphalt was awarded the street and park paving project. A letter was received from the District Engineer outlining items that must be completed by June 29, 2026. Pump #2 at the Lagoon Lift Station remains in lag status and is being utilized as needed. Approximately 100 water meters remain to be upgraded. The Village received a state grant for the replacement of 27 of the 41 inoperable fire hydrants, and the hydrants have been ordered. A mini excavator was ordered on May 27, 2026. Two burials took place at Riverside Cemetery during the month of May. J. Ondrusek motioned to approve the DPW report, M. Helt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- D. Ornelas motioned to approve Resolution # 26-0003, Accepting the FDCVT Grant in the amount of \$70,273.00, towards reimbursements of expenditures required to implement the project entitled mini excavator and trailer equipment purchase, K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Roll Call vote, all ayes. MOTION CARRIED.

- K. Witt motioned to approve Resolution #26-0004, Accepting the FDCVT Grant in the amount of \$198,280.00, towards reimbursement of expenditures required to implement the project entitled Fire Hydrant Replacement Project, M. Helt seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Roll call vote, all ayes. MOTION CARRIED.

-T. Carroll motioned to approve the Village of Elsie L-4029/Village Operating 10.7 mills, S. Frink seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Roll call vote, all ayes. MOTION CARRIED.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Duplain Township Resident discussed an Elsie Dam Project open house on June 10, 2026, at 5:00 PM with U.S. Fish and Wildlife along with DNR staff present. Duplain Township Public Hearing on June 25, 2026, regarding the Elsie Dam Project. Deadline for turning in ballot applications is July 21 at 4:00 PM at the Duplain Township Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

T. Carroll motioned to adjourn the June 9, 2026, council meeting at 8:44 PM, K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Kelsey Kelly  
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Jason Freeman  
Village President