



Village of Elsie

Michigan's Dairy Capital

PH# (989) 862-4273
FAX#(989) 862-5287

125 W. Main Street
P.O. Box 408
Elsie, Michigan 48831

VILLAGE OF ELSIE October 13, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Elsie Village Council was called to order by Village President, Jason Freeman at 7:00 P.M.

Members present and participating in discussion, as reflected in the record, included Council Members Kory Witt, Sam Frink, Dorothy Ornelas, Mark Helt, and Joe Ondrusek, Village Manager/Police Chief Destinee Bryce and Dpw Supervisor, Chris Ormes. With council member Todd Carroll absent.

2. Approval of Agenda

The floor was opened for corrections, additions, or deletions to the agenda.

Corrections to agenda. President Freeman noted a correction to Action Step 4. The one-time sidewalk payment goes to the Elsie Masonic Lodge, not Duplain Township.

Adoption of agenda. Motion by Kory Witt, supported by Joe Ondrusek, to approve the agenda as corrected. Motion carried.

Amendment to agenda. The agenda listed the prior regular minutes as September 4, 2026; the correct date is September 8, 2026. Motion by Dorothy Ornelas supported by Mark Helt, to amend the agenda to read September 8, 2026. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes, September 8, 2026, regular meeting. Motion by Sam Frink supported by Mark Helt to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Minutes, September 8, 2026, closed session. Motion by Dorothy Orenelas supported by Mark Helt to approve the closed session minutes. Motion carried.

4. Presentation and Approval of Bills

Bills totaled \$140,131.52. This total includes the final \$99,500 payment to Miller Legacy for the fire hydrant project, which grant funds will reimburse.

Motion: Mark Helt moved to pay the bills as presented. Seconded by Kory Witt. Motion carried.

5. Special Reports

1. **Clinton County Commissioner Nicole Fickes** could not attend because of the County budget hearing. She sent a written update, which President Freeman read aloud. It covered the September 17 Ways and Means meeting (proposed 2027 County budget), the September 24 Ways and Means meeting (animal control dog run bid, a planner position, and a \$50,000 grant application), and proposed 2027 County expenditures of

\$31,550,407. It also covered the September 29 appointment of Steve Lonier as District 4 Commissioner and the October 13 budget hearing. Agendas, packets and videos are posted on the County website.

2. **Hero Park, Dorothy Ornelas.** A grant application for about \$1,000 was submitted by October 15. It would help to pay for statue concrete footings, professional help and landscaping. Sixteen more memorial bricks were installed (42 in total), so all purchased bricks are now in place. Footings are expected to go in Thursday, weather permitting. The statues have been returned.
3. **Elsie Park, Ed White.** Mr. White priced the parts needed to repair the damaged fence at the park's east corner: three upright posts, one horizontal rail, and clamps. The pre-tax subtotal is \$189.55 (see Action Step 1).

6. President

- a. **Potential fire agreement with the Elsie Fire Authority.** Council discussed a draft agreement and the Village Attorney's advice that an escape clause can be included. Topics were a 30-day escape clause, a one-year versus five-year term, liability, and the Authority's reasons for wanting an agreement. No action was taken at this point; the item was held for Action Step 5.
- b. **Holiday pay eligibility, Jaden Schultz.** The Village Manager reported that Mr. Schultz works full-time (DPW, plus utility billing on Mondays and Wednesdays). She raised the item for transparency. Held for Action Step 6.

7. Clerk/Treasurer's Report

The report covered several items:

- The October check run had 34 invoices and 23 checks, totaling \$140,131.52. This included \$99,500 to Miller Legacy for installing 27 fire hydrants (to be reimbursed) and \$8,500 to BHM CPA Group for the financial audit (not reimbursable).
- The 2026 tax settlement was turned over to the Clinton County Treasurer. Seven checks received after the September 14 deadline were forwarded to that office for collection. The County will pay delinquent 2026 real and personal property taxes to the Village in the coming weeks.
- Shut-off notices have been sent. About 18 accounts owe more than \$700, and about \$16,000 in utility bills is outstanding.
- Utility bills for August 1 to September 30, 2026, have been issued and are due November 2, 2026.
- BHM CPA Group will present the financial audit at the November council meeting. Council asked the Village Manager to schedule a special meeting or workshop before November 10, 2026, if available. At that meeting, BHM CPA Group would present the audit, and Financial Controller Steve Adair would present budget amendments.

***Motion:** A motion was made by Kory Witt to approve the Clerk/Treasurer's report. Seconded by Mark Helt Motion carried.*

8. Police Report (Chief Bryce)

In September the department made three traffic stops (one citation), handled 40 calls for service, and worked 140 hours. The Chief has applied for a Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant, which covers 50% of vest cost. She is also seeking a grant for speed radar signs on North Ovid Street, at about \$2,800 each; some residents have offered to help pay for them. The Clinton County Sheriff's Office continues to assist. Code enforcement handled four violations, and two properties are on blight rehabilitation timelines.

***Motion:** A motion was made by Kory Witt to approve the police report. Seconded. by Sam Frink Motion carried.*

9. Village Manager's Report (Destinee Bryce)

The report covered several items:

- Financial reports have been filed with Treasury regarding the grant-funded mini excavator and trailer. Semi-annual reports for the fire hydrant grant are in progress.
- Accounts payable are running smoothly with the Woodhill Group.
- Staff attended the Integrated Infrastructure Conference on September 23 and 24. A building valuation for MML was done on September 25.
- Michigan Rural Water will do an energy efficiency review. Granite Telecommunications is auditing the Village's phone invoices.
- The Manager requests half reimbursement of the \$6,401 sidewalk repair at 100 E. Main St. Duplain Township Supervisor Bruce Leevy arranged for that repair to be done at the Elsie Masonic Lodge's expense.
- The Village Attorney is updating the blight nuisance complaints.
- A zoning compliance letter was issued for 522 N. Ovid St. The property is a legal nonconforming single-family use in the C-2 district.
- A Brownfield Redevelopment Authority meeting is proposed for 6:30 p.m. on November 10, 2026, to approve the final Act 381 plan for the Elsie School redevelopment.
- Leaf bags are actively being distributed.

Motion: A motion was made by Mark Helt to approve the Village Manager report. Seconded by Kory Witt Motion carried.

10. DPW Report (Supervisor Chris Ormes)

Dpw will collect leaf bags each morning instead of on a set day. Water meter replacement is about 81 to 82% complete. The fire hydrant project is finished, but it revealed many water valves that do not shut off. The valve at Elm and Ovid leak constantly, and the valve at Pine and Ovid is broken. Parts to repair both will cost about \$3,000, not counting asphalt repair in the spring.

Motion by Kory Witt, supported by Mark Helt, to approve up to \$3,000 for parts to repair the two water valves. Motion carried.

Council discussed planning valve replacements through an asset management plan. It also discussed offering the old fire hydrants to Village residents before listing them on an auction site.

Motion: A motion was made by Kory Witt to approve the DPW report. Seconded by Sam Frink. Motion carried.

11. Action Steps

1. **Elsie Park improvements.** Motion by Kory Witt, supported by Mark Helt, to approve park fence repairs of up to \$250. Motion carried. The Village will order the parts tax-exempt through its Home Depot account.
2. **Granger temporary fuel surcharge.** Granger asked for a three-month fuel surcharge, estimated at \$0.10 per household per month (about \$45 a month for roughly 450 households). By consensus, Council tabled the item to the November meeting so the Financial Controller can review its budget impact.
3. **Halloween 2026 trick-or-treat hours.** Motion by Kory Witt, supported by Mark Helt, to set trick-or-treat hours for Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Motion carried.
4. **Sidewalk repair at 100 E. Main St.** Motion by Kory Witt, supported by Sam Frink, to make a one-time payment of \$3,200.50 to the Elsie Masonic Lodge as the Village's half share of the sidewalk repair at 100 E. Main St. Motion carried.
5. **Fire agreement consideration with the Elsie Fire Authority.** Motion by Sam Frink, supported by Mark Helt, not to send a draft agreement to the Elsie Fire Authority and to tell the Authority that the Village is not interested in an agreement at this time. Roll call vote:
Yeas: Sam Frink Mark Helt

Nays: Joe Ondrusek, Kory Witt, Dorothy Ornelas

Absent: Todd Carroll

Motion failed, 2-3.

By consensus, the item was placed on the November 10, 2026, agenda as "Potential Fire Agreement Consideration by the Village of Elsie to the Elsie Fire Authority."

6. **Holiday pay eligibility.** No motion was made. By consensus, Council agreed that as a full-time employee, Jaden Schultz is eligible for holiday pay unless the employee handbook's probationary period applies. That decision is left to the Village Manager.

12. Other Business / Public Comment

- **Village of Elsie Resident.** Asked whether the Fire Authority's new building outside Village limits would use Village water, and why Village liability is involved. He said the Authority appears to be withholding information. Staff explained that the building will not be on the Village water system, but the Authority will use Village water when fighting fires.
- **Village of Elsie Resident.** Said Duplain Township taxpayers inside the Village pay the same fire millage as other township residents. He objected to agreement language that he believes excludes Village taxpayers from coverage.

13. Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made to adjourn at 8:26hrs at by Mark Helt and. Seconded by Kory Witt Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Destinee Bryce
Village Manager, Village of Elsie

Approved by Council on _____ [as presented / as corrected].

Jason Freeman, Village President