



The Elkhart Echo



June 2025

www.elkhartillinois.us

Vol. 40 Issue 6

VILLAGE BOARD NEWS

Mayor Lyle Fout called the meeting to order on June 2, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. at the Elkhart Village Hall. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. Answering present: Kyle Farmer, John Galassi, Matt Fights, Travis Moore and Matt Olson. Clerk Mona Maas, Treasurer Amy Roberts, and attorney Don Behle were also present.

Motion by Travis Moore, second by Matt Fights, to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B, C, and D.

- A. Approve meeting minutes from May 5, 2025
- B. Approve submitted bills and bill sheets
- C. Approve employee reimbursements
- D. Approve Treasurer's report

Roll call vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC

Skylynn Howard and Jay Roberts.

- Ms. Howard is an Elkhart resident with a business, Afterlife Beauty. She cleans and restores headstones using a "proper" chemical called v2, a solution that doesn't harm plants. She circulated photos and her brochure around the table. She has been contacting different government agencies to get approvals to do the hired work and asks for the Village Board to approve. The Board doesn't have the authority to do that but welcomed her and referred her to Virginia VanPelt with the local Cemetery Association.
- Jay Roberts from Elkhart restaurant "The Talk" discussed another incident of a vehicle driving into their building. Discussions of possible preventive measures; discussion about parking and safety measures that the Village will try to help with.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Lyle met with Rich Adams for discussion of preparation of the required IEPA water report; he does not have the work back yet. Liquor licenses will be issued this month.

ATTORNEY

No report.

LIQUOR

No report.

TIF REPORT

Treasurer Amy Roberts has received the property tax bills and will process them.

SOLID WASTE

Matt Fights discussed scheduling the annual dumpsters for the community. He is targeting July 12 and 13. That will be after the community wide garage sales and avoids the 4th of July holiday.

LOCAL EVENTS LIAISON/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

Matt Fights reports he is still getting "middle of the night" calls on relays as the pump house sensors are tripping. Lyle will follow up with Petersburg Plumbing to install the sensors that go down in the tank to address that.

STREETS/ALLEYS

John Galassi has followed up with Logan County Board members to attempt to escalate some action on the issue of standing water holding in the ditches. Lyle will also make contact again to get this addressed.

BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT

No report.

VILLAGE PARK

- Travis Moore reported that the fish supplier from Nemo's is scheduled to return on 6/5/25 to resupply some of the fish hatchlings. As often happens, some of the hatchlings didn't survive transport. Village maintenance is feeding the fish three days a week for now.
- The Village secured "jersey blocks" from the mine and will use them to relocate the rock and salt supply that is currently stored out near the pond. Jerry Davis is going to let the Village relocate that storage over to property near the existing "burn pile".
- The Village will begin installing the aeration system.
- Matt Fights reported that Paul Hayden (Assistant Fire Chief) can arrange for Milo Wurth, (trained and willing) to dive the pond for Elkhart. He will help diagnose some problems with the existing equipment and can help map the depth of the pond. This could be scheduled soon, after the aeration system is lined out.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

No report.

FINANCE

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Contract with Aquatic Control for treatment of Elkhart Lake. Travis Moore helped to negotiate the contract to a monthly payment of \$530 each month for 12 months.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Items/Action Items

- 1) The Energy Transition Community Grant has opened, and Elkhart is working to submit application. There will be more discussion to follow. This is an initial phase.
- 2) Need to upgrade to a new computer to resolve ongoing problems with the water billing process. Amy Roberts reviewed the problems and will proceed to replace the computer for under \$1000.

3) Animals. There have been multiple questions and concerns expressed about dogs that are let loose in Elkhart. Lyle reviewed that dogs are not to be let loose to roam in Elkhart!

-He reviewed how Elkhart works with Logan County Animal Control: When a dog is reported loose and the Logan County Animal Control is called in to retrieve the dog, the charge to Elkhart is \$200. Each time. *That cost will be passed on to the owner.*

-Elkhart has an Animal Control Ordinance – if your pet is running loose, that is disturbing the peace. Day or night. **Don't let your animal run loose!**

-The Ordinance is linked on the Elkhart website - <https://www.elkhartillinois.com/bulletin-board>

RESOLUTIONS

Elkhart's contract with the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association requires an Elkhart Return to Work Policy to be completed by September 2025. Don submitted the policy for review. This will be completed and submitted for final vote next month.

ORDINANCE

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Time: 6:57 p.m. Motion by Travis Moore, second by Matt Fights, to adjourn. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried. Next meeting July 7, 2025. Submitted By: Naomi (Mona) Maas Village Clerk

*****Items for the newsletter MUST be turned into Sarah by 5:00 pm on the Wednesday following the Village Board Meeting. If they are not received by 5:00 pm, they will not be in the newsletter. *****

Thank you!

Elkhart Village Board

NEWSLETTER INFO

All material for the July 2025 newsletter should be turned in before
5:00 p.m. on July 9, 2025

Please email your article in Word to sarahvball@hotmail.com

If there is any event that needs added to the calendar,

Please call (217-494-0059) or e-mail the information.

Senior Citizen Luncheon

The Elkhart Senior's Lunch will be on June 18, 2025, at 11:30am at The Talk of The Town.

For questions, please call Anita at (217) 341-0167.



We Need Volunteer Firefighters!!!



bad pay



crappy hours



tough working conditions

Come Join Us!!

GREAT SATISFACTION!!

WHO WILL ANSWER THE CALL?

ELKHART VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief: Jay Akers 217-737-6500

Assistant Chief: Paul Hayden 217-871-0121



Elkhart Community

Senior's Bingo

(the over 55 crowd)

Sponsored by NAG

First Tuesday of each Month

2:00 pm

Village Hall



Elkhart Community Picnic and Firefly Walk

Join us on Saturday, June 14th (rain date June 21st) at 5:30 p.m. for a community picnic at Nancy Jane Moore Community Park, 109 Stellar St., Elkhart, Illinois. Bring your own dinner and enjoy time for the kids to play. If you don't want to picnic, you can still join us for the walk later. Please arrive at the park by 7:20 p.m.



At 7:30 p.m., we will drive together to the north end of Elkhart Hill, to the grounds of Bob and Lynne Neal, where the Firefly Talk & Walk will start. Allen Yow, who spoke about fireflies at last summer's Elkhart Historical Society dinner, will guide us.

Allen leads firefly tours in Springfield and Jacksonville each year and is excited to show us this summer wonder. Fireflies, also called lightning bugs, glow worms, or moon bugs, all refer to the same insects. Their different light patterns help us tell them apart. They use these lights to attract mates. Habitats are important for all living things, including these amazing summer lights. Come learn more and help us protect them for future generations.

This event is free and family-friendly, organized by the Elkhart Historical Society. The Talk of the Town Restaurant will provide food options for the picnic, with further details and meal prices on the menu available. Please read the instructions for an easy picnic dinner solution. You can call 217-947-2238 with any questions. Bring insect repellent and a blanket to sit on during the walk. Enjoy the beauty of Elkhart Hill, and we hope to make this an annual event!

TALK OF THE TOWN
PICNIC DINNER ORDER FORM
FOR JUNE 14, 2025 (Rain Date June 21st, 2025)

PULLED PORK BULK 1 LB. (includes 3 buns per pound)

\$10.00 X _____ (NUMBER) = \$ _____

PULLED PORK SANDWICH & CHIPS **\$9.99** X _____ (NUMBER) = \$ _____

COLD FRIED CHICKEN 2 PC (includes breast and choice of 1 leg, wing or thigh)

\$6.00 X _____ (NUMBER) = \$ _____

COLD FRIED CHICKEN 4 PC (includes 1 breast, 1 thigh, 1 wing and 1 leg)

\$10.00 X _____ (NUMBER) = \$ _____

CHICKEN TENDERS **\$2.50 each or 2 for \$5** X _____ (NUMBER) = \$ _____

CLUB SANDWICH (Ham turkey bacon cheese lettuce tomato & Mayo) + CHIPS

\$11.00 X _____ (NUMBER) = \$ _____

BLT SANDWICH & CHIPS **\$ 11.00** X _____ (NUMBER) = \$ _____

SINGLE SERVING POTATO SALAD **\$ 2.00** X _____ (NUMBER) = \$ _____

SINGLE SERVING COLESLAW **\$2.00** X _____ (NUMBER) = \$ _____

Need tableware & Napkins ☐ Paid Total _____

MUST BE PAID WHEN ORDERED - - - FILL OUT AND DROP OFF ORDER FORM AT
TALK OF THE TOWN BETWEEN JUNE 3 AND JUNE 11, 2025 (1P.M.-7P.M.). Talk of the
Town is closed Sunday and Monday.

PICK UP ORDERS AT 5P.M. ON JUNE 14TH. Save your receipt as proof of purchase.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PICNIC AND CARAVAN TO THE FIREFLY VIEWING AND
GUIDED WALK- - 217 899 2238

Order Date _____

Name _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____ Cash ☐ or Card ☐



June

Elkhart Public
Library District



READING
WILL TAKE YOU
EVERYWHERE!

Where will reading take YOU this summer? If you're a Young Reader or Pre-Reader, we hope you'll join us to see some exotic things and travel to some interesting places, including some that are OUT OF THIS WORLD. We have some SUPER FUN things planned this year!

BE SURE TO NOTE TWO IMPORTANT THINGS BELOW,
WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS OUT!

Who: Preschool - 5th Grade

Where: Elkhart Public Library

When: WEDNESDAYS, June 18 - July 16
from 1 - 2:15**

NOTE #1: We will meet at 3:30 for our finale on July 16 so we can really PARTY!

NOTE #2: Pick up your book bags and start reading NEXT WEEK on Wednesday, June 11th!



BUTTERFLY RELEASE EVENT

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Last year was so much fun we just had to bring it back. Like last year, registration will be required to reserve a butterfly for you or someone in your family. We want to allow as many people to participate as possible, so there will be a limit of 3 BUTTERFLIES PER GROUP OR FAMILY.

Online registration begins July 1st or you may stop by the library to sign up.

BOOK SALE

Come by the library to pick up something inexpensive to refresh your personal library or to share with a friend! It's time for another book sale, with all kinds of items including children's books.

We will be set up all week from June 9 - 19, so stop by any time during operating hours. We might have just the thing for you (or a friend's) entertainment or education.

FINANCIAL Q & A

EXTENDED! Didn't get a chance to stop by in May? Good news!

Blake Curry is back ALL SUMMER on Mondays & Wednesdays. Stop by any time between 4:30 - 6:30 with questions about retirement, estate planning, investing, etc.

ARMED FORCES DISPLAY

We've been set up for National Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, and now for D-Day (6/6).

Stop by to see pictures of two local veterans in their First World War uniforms, a Navy jumper (the top of the sailor's Dress Blues uniform), some award pins, and a REAL Japanese phone box!

[And maybe pick up one of our featured Military books while you're at it. *wink*]

AfterLife Beauty



Headstone Beautification
Your local headstone caretaker
located in Elkhart IL

217-671-7414 ~Skylynn Howard