



The Elkhart Echo



January 2024

www.elkhartillinois.us

Vol. 39 Issue 1

VILLAGE BOARD NEWS

Mayor Lyle Fout called the meeting to order on January 8, 2024, 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: Dave Barker, Kyle Farmer, Matt Fights, Travis Moore, and Ernie Shaw. John Galassi was absent. Attorney Don Behle, Clerk Ann Curry, and Treasurer Theresa Moore were also present. Visitors present were Mona Maas, Amy Roberts, and Jay Roberts.

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

- A. Approve meeting minutes from December 4, 2023
- 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

None.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

No report.

ATTORNEY

No report.

LIQUOR

License fees have been collected and deposited.

TIF REPORT

Neihaus has requested to be reimbursed for their roof repair. We will need a TIF redevelopment agreement in place.

SOLID WASTE

No report.

LOCAL EVENTS LIAISON/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

The generator will be delivered January 16, 2024.

All the new meters are installed except two. There have been minimal problems with the new meters.

An extension was filed with the EPA to turn in the lead pipe survey. We have until May 2025 to get it done.

STREETS/ALLEYS

No report.

BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT

Lyle has a bid for fixing the roof at the Village Hall. We will go over it next meeting.

VILLAGE PARK

No report.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

No report.

FINANCE

Dave has gone over the audit report with the auditors.

OLD BUSINESS

Mona Maas reported on her progress with having a Tree Committee. She would like the Board to establish a Tree Advisory Committee. The members would be appointed by the board. She would like to have one member of the Village Board to be on the Committee. Mona Maus, Amy Roberts and Jay Roberts would like to be on the Committee. Lyle will temporarily be on the Committee until the Board discusses and decides what to do. Mona was given the go ahead to start the process.

NEW BUSINESS

No report.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

ORDINANCE

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dave Barker, second by Matt Fights, to adjourn at 6:51pm. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted By
Ann Curry
Village Clerk

NEWSLETTER INFO

All material for the February 2024 newsletter should be turned in before
5:00 p.m. on February 7, 2024

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 January 17, 2024, at 11:30am at The Wild Hare

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



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Mt. Pulaski High School Board Minutes – December 18, 2023

<https://www.mtpulaski.k12.il.us/o/mpgs/article/1384357>

The next regular board meeting is Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 7:00pm.

Elkhart Community

Senior's Bingo

(the over 55 crowd)

First Tuesday of each Month

2:00 pm

Village Hall



LET'S GET MOVING IN 2024!!!

**Looking for a group to exercise with?
Need a gym to get together?
Someone to give advice and direction?**

When: Wednesdays and Fridays

Where: at the Christian Church Fellowship Hall (old school gym)

Time: 9:30 am

Bring: stability ball, light weights, bands, and mats if you have them

Sponsor: NAG (Needs and Goal of Elkhart)

Questions: Contact Elise Gleason 217-415-6893



Hello from Mona Maas and the Elkhart Pollinator Habitat!

January 2024 Village Board Meeting

I have been looking at materials on grant funding for trees from different government agencies. I have seen this as a suggestion [to prepare to be attractive grant applicant] in their materials:

Intent: Many local Urban & Community Forestry programs began through the efforts of local community groups, and these groups often serve as a catalyst to encourage active local urban forest resource management for the long term. This performance element aims to ensure that community residents and program stakeholders are informed, educated, and engaged in the development and implementation of a sound community forestry program at the local level.

I am asking that the Village Board establish a formal Tree Board, as an advisory group.

This advisory group "BE," the following:

1. An organization that is formalized to advise on the establishment, conservation, protection, and maintenance of urban and community trees and forests.
2. A board of community members whose primary members are appointed by local elected officials to advise policymakers on tree ordinances, policies, and management.
3. A group that will investigate and prepare the Village to apply for possible appropriate grant funding.

I am suggesting at least 1 board member should be on the board.

I hope to have a list of "primary board member candidates" at the January VB meeting. I would like to be one of those board members. Would this interest you? As far as time commitment, I believe we could organize and move forward with a single monthly meetup of the Board... in person OR electronic, and each pursue research and development on these above objectives... as each of our schedules allow.

What Makes Elkhart Unique and Special

There have been a lot of pictures taken of our beautiful Elkhart Hill - for weddings, senior pictures, and "just because". Here are "before" and "now" pictures of our hill that is 777 feet above sea level, or 520 feet higher than the surrounding flat land. No one really knows exactly when the "cut" in Elkhart Hill was made and exactly when the wooden bridge was first built to span it. We'll keep researching and see if we can come up with a definitive answer for you in the future. What we know is that sometime after the Civil War a cut was made through Elkhart Hill to lower the grade for horse and wagon teams coming in through the east side of the hill. Initially there was only room for one team wagon to go through at a time. The grade of the hill was probably between 6% - 8% grade so as not to stress the horses going up or coming down the hill and to prevent resulting accidents.

To avoid having to travel from the Oglehurst mansion to the bottom of the hill and then back up to the Gillett Chapel (which was built in 1890), a wooden bridge was constructed. As the story goes it was built so that Emma Gillett Oglesby "wouldn't get her petticoats dirty". The wooden bridge was the one over which Governor Oglesby's funeral cortège traveled on their way from the Governor's mansion (Oglehurst) to the Gillett Chapel in 1899. After the death of her brother, John P. Gillett, Emma ordered the construction of the John P. Gillett Memorial Arch to commemorate him. Completed in 1915, the bridge was designed with the help of Emma's son, Lt. Governor John Oglesby. Employing the best structural knowledge of the day, it is the first poured-concrete bridge, privately owned, to span a public road. By this time most travel was by car, and if a car could make it up the hill without shifting, it was considered "worth the purchase"! The Gillett Memorial Arch is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Elkhart Historical Society



ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Happy New Year!

We are excited to announce the arrival of our 2024 calendar and insert. This year's calendar features all the businesses and organizations as well as the people behind them, that makes Elkhart such a unique place to live and raise a family. This calendar is filled with wonderful, full color photos, taken by the extremely talented Joann Carney Drake, and includes information on each company and organization like hours, how you can support them or volunteer with them and more.

Stop by the Country Bumpkin to get your copy today or mail a membership form and \$5 for postage and we will mail you this wonderful tool that can be used to learn more about Elkhart's unique energy that helps keep them on the map. Please consider becoming a part of it by joining The Elkhart Historical Society. A new roster of events will be coming shortly. Information on upcoming lectures and events can be found at elkharthistoricalsociety.org.

Starting this year, all memberships entitle you to a 1-week advance reservation over non-members, meaning for events like our annual Christmas Candlelight Service, you would get the first shot at the seats you want before they sell out. Memberships cost \$20 for seniors, \$25 for everyone else.

Elkhart Public Library District

January 2024

Toddler Time is Moving

Beginning in FEBRUARY,

Toddler Time will be on the
2nd TUESDAY
of the month.

Join us at 9:30am
to sing songs, make a craft,
and hear some stories!



LEGO Club

We continue
to meet every
Thursday from 4-6pm,
and we'd love to
have you join us,
regardless of how
long you can stay.



Homebound Book Delivery

Stuck at home because of an
injury, illness, pregnancy,
or just have medical equipment
that's too challenging?
Let us know what you want,
or let us make some suggestions,
and we'll see that you get the
books, audio books,
or DVDs that you need!



217-947-2313

elkhartlibrary.lib.il.us