

1 - FINAL -

2 **Minutes**

3 **Regular Meeting of the Elberta Village Council**

4 401 First Street | ELBERTA, MI 49628

5 **October 17, 2024 @ 7 pm**

6
7 **Call to Order 7:00 pm**

8
9 **Roll Call**

10 President Jennifer Wilkins – PRESENT | Pro Tempore Emily Votruba – PRESENT | Ken Holmes –
11 PRESENT | Ryan Fiebing – PRESENT | Brett McGregor – PRESENT

12
13 **Audience**

14 Michael Cederholm (Frankfort Fire & Rescue), Ken Mlcek (Fleis & VandenBrink), Gary Sauer
15 (County Commissioner), Mark Rains and Cheryl Herr-Rains (White Street), Justin Towle (DPW)
16 (had to leave early)

17
18 **Approval of Minutes**

19 **Motion** by Holmes, seconded by McGregor, to approve the **September 19, 2024, Regular**
20 **Council Meeting Minutes** as presented. **All Ayes. Motion passed. Motion** by McGregor,
21 seconded by Holmes, to approve the **October 1, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes** as presented.
22 **All ayes. Motion passed.**

23
24 **Approval of Agenda**

25 **Motion** by Votruba, seconded by Wilkins, to approve the **October 17, 2024, Regular Council**
26 **Meeting Agenda.** All ayes. Motion passed.

27
28 **Correspondence**

- 29 **1. Mark Rains and Cheryl Herr Rains** Update on vacating a portion of Robarge Street. Per
30 their atty, normally when a street is vacated, half goes to property owners on one side,
31 half to the other; then Rainses might seek to purchase the neighbor's half. Rainses may
32 seek affidavits from three neighbors saying they would waive their portions, and bring a
33 proposal to the planning commission, then council would vote on a resolution to
34 vacate, then a public hearing, then court rules on title change from public to private
- 35 **2. Frankfort Fire & Rescue Report – Cederholm/Written & Verbal Report** See VOE
36 website for complete report and safety tips. 23 active members. 1 EMS and 1 fire run in
37 October in Elberta. 515 total medical runs this year so far, 32 in Elberta. 120 fire runs
38 total, 10 in Elberta. Deer are running. Sunset at 6:32 on Halloween so watch for little
39 ones. Change batteries in smoke detectors, change furnace filter. Keep doors closed at
40 night to stop fires from spreading. Have 2 min to escape house when you hear smoke
41 detectors and see flames. Have a meeting place and account for everyone so
42 firefighters can prioritize lifesaving over property saving

43
44 **Inquiry of Conflict on Agenda Items**

45 Wilkins and Votruba recused from Payroll vote.

46
47 **Brief Public Comment on Agenda Items (3 min)**

48 None.

49 **Approval of Bills**

50 **Motion** by Holmes, seconded by Votruba, to approve the accounts payable expenditures in the
51 amount of \$433,228.33. **Roll call: Holmes Aye | Fiebing Aye | McGregor Aye | Wilkins Aye |**
52 **Votruba Aye | All Ayes. Motion passed.** **Motion** by McGregor, seconded by Fiebing, to approve
53 the payroll expenditure in the amount of \$15,486.63. **Roll call: Holmes Aye | Fiebing Aye |**
54 **McGregor Aye | Votruba Recused | Wilkins Recused | All Ayes. Motion passed.**

55
56 **Financial Reports**

- 57 • **Rev/Exp Sheets - Fiscal Year 2025** Property taxes in and accounted for. There may be
58 an incorrect excess in state shared revenues for major and local streets.
- 59 • **MiClass Investment Account September 2024 Statement**
60 No contributions or withdrawals. Beginning total balance \$410,651.91, ending total
61 balance 412,417.48; Park MiClass fund not included in the report.

62
63 **Unfinished Business**

- 64 **1. FY25 Budget Amendments.** Amendments made to revenues (property taxes, cleanup
65 fees, trash carts, facilities rentals, etc.) and expenses (training, clerk and treasurer
66 wages computer services, mowing [down!], etc.). Net is +\$40,687.53. **Motion** by
67 McGregor, seconded by Holmes, to adopt the FYBudget Amendments as presented.
68 **Roll call: Holmes Aye | Fiebing Aye | Votruba Aye | Wilkins Aye | McGregor Aye | All**
69 **eyes. Motion passed.**

70
71 **New Business**

- 72 **1. Contract Agreement - Tree Services, Dunscombe & Sons.** Contract good thru
73 February 2027, \$2,000 half day rate, \$4,000 day rate, stump grinding, mulching, large
74 clearing projects, trimming and removal. Have already done satisfactory work clearing
75 Robarge. **Motion** by Votruba, seconded by Wilkins, to approve the contract with
76 Dunscombe & Sons and authorize Wilkins to sign it. **All ayes. Motion passed.**
- 77 **2. Permission for Event Theory Tents to Set Up at LSS Fields August 2025** Rental
78 contract states that council approval is required for a tent company other than GJ's.
79 ELSS manager Kristi Mills approves. Extra certificate of liability insurance was provided.
80 A layout will be reviewed in advance to avoid damage to irrigation lines. **Motion** by
81 Wilkins, seconded by Votruba, to allow Event Theory to be the tent provider for a
82 wedding rental in August 2025. **All ayes. Motion passed.**

83 *****

84 **REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

85 **County Commissioner Gary Sauer** – Verbal Report. At Mackinac Policy Conference, Enbridge
86 discussed cameras that can tell when a boat's anchor has gone astray. New health department
87 officer, 5 days a week, starts 11/27. Maples is at 99.7% occupancy and 82% are Benzie
88 residents. Emergency radio communication tower approved in Frankfort. Recycling will
89 probably move temporarily to its old location at the lot behind Stormcloud Parkview Tap Room
90 while a wetland is filled in to become the new spot. Diamond crossing park improvements in
91 Thompsonville on Betsie Valley Trail. Open house at Homestretch October 25th. Road
92 Commission open house October 26 at old Platte Valley School. Two critical bridges will not be
93 repaired.

94 **LSS** – K. Mills/ Written Report. Nearly booked up already for next year.

95 **Zoning Administrator** – J. Mills / Written Report.

96 **Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council** – Steve Radionoff; no mtg October, next mtg
97 November.

98 **Planning Commission** – Fiebing / Minutes/Verbal Report. Zoning rewrite: zoning map update,
99 Beckett&Raeder will produce a draft ready for review in January; steering committee might form
100 to meet outside of regular meetings because of compressed timeline; open to members of

101 public!
102 **Parks & Recreation Commission** – McGregor / See Minutes. Two kinds of hats and a shirt are
103 available, price TBA. Parks & Rec Plan public input underway; see website or office for survey
104 printout and schedule of events. October 29, 5 pm to 7 pm in LSS for public input open house.
105 Interact Club to do beach cleaning.
106 **Employee Team Meetings** – Wilkins / See report. Banners to come down. A building or
107 structure to cover salt is needed to meet EGLE storage requirements
108 **DPW** – Justin Towle/Verbal Report. Beach project and water project almost completely done.
109 **Clerk-Treasurer** – Vacant / Verbal Report. Open house from 8:30 to 11 am at Village office for
110 potential office job candidates. Five people who had submitted resumes were invited. Three
111 showed and were given job apps. Wilkins and Votruba are covering the basics until we're
112 staffed. UHY accountant continues to work on backlog of bank recs. Mark & Carol Carlin show
113 on WUWU 100.1 Thursday mornings; will call the Village Office.
114 **BGFAC** – Wilkins & McGregor / See Minutes Revised DEP submitted, budget amendments,
115 current loans and salt barn and plow discussed.
116 **Personnel & Policy Committee** – Votruba & Wilkins / Verbal Report and Minutes.
117 **BLUA** – Wilkins & Holmes / Verbal Report. Information from Frankfort and Elberta being
118 gathered to finalize the BLUA project.
119 **Water/Sewer Committee** – Wilkins & Holmes / Verbal Report
120 **Village/GTRLC Working Group** – Wilkins & Fiebing, Meeting with Land Bank. The Elberta
121 Waterfront Community Conservation Project is the covergirl of this month's *Landscript*. \$3.6
122 million still needed for purchase price by December 15.
123 *****
124 **Extended General Public Comment (5 min)**
125 None
126
127 **Announcements**
128 Parks and Recreation Plan Survey open to the public October 15–30, 2024. Place mail-in
129 ballot at the Community Bld drop box, not the Village Office dropbox.
130
131 **Adjournment**
132 8:11 pm by Holmes
133
134 Final minutes prepared by
135 Emily Votruba, Trustee
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137
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