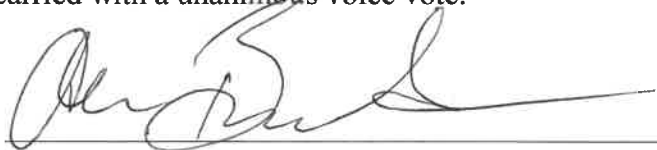


**Elwood Fire Protection District
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 19, 2026**

1. Pledge of Allegiance: The Board stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vinsel at 9:00 a.m. at 309 W. Mississippi Street, Elwood, IL 60421.
3. Swearing in of Trustee Veerman: Attorney John Motylinski administered the Trustee's oath of office to April Veerman.
4. Roll Call:
Present: Treasurer Patricia Vinsel, President April Veerman.
Also Present: Fire Chief Christopher Locacius, Deputy Chief Jasen Melahn, Fire & Life Safety Educator Ehrin Villalobos, Training Coordinator Jeff Toepper, Battalion Chief Brandon Pfizenmaier, Executive Assistant Jill Deaville, Administrative Assistant Clare McKinney, Attorney John Motylinski, and James Howard with Government Accounting attended via Zoom.
Absent: Secretary Allan Bertucci.
5. Public Comment (Limit 3 minutes): None.
6. Approval of January 15, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Veerman to approve the minutes as written. All in favor: Aye 2, Nay 0, Absent 1. Motion carried.
7. Financial Report by Government Accounting, Approval of Bills: The Financial Report was presented by Howard of Government Accounting. A motion was made by Veerman and seconded by Vinsel to approve the Financial Report. All in favor: Aye 2, Nay 0, Absent 1. Motion carried. Approval of Bills: A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Veerman to approve the Bills. All in favor: Aye 2, Nay 0, Absent 1. Motion carried.
8. Officers & Attorney's Reports: Reports presented by Locacius, Melahn, Villalobos, Pfizenmaier, Toepper, and Motylinski.
9. Old Business:
 - a. Discussion / Possible Action on the Purchase of a Pumper Tender / Tanker: A motion was made by Veerman and seconded by Vinsel to approve the purchase of a Pumper Tender / Tanker not to exceed \$1,600,000.00 and to authorize Locacius to execute any necessary documents. Roll call: Veerman: Aye, Vinsel: Aye, Bertucci: Absent. Motion carried.
 - b. Discussion / Possible Action on 2026 Staffing Contract: A motion was made by Veerman and seconded by Vinsel to approve the 2026 Staffing Contract as quoted with PSI to be effective March 15, 2026. All in favor: Aye 2, Nay 0, Absent 1. Motion carried.
10. New Business:
 - a. Discussion / Possible Action on Election of Board Officers: A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Veerman to elect Veerman as the President of the Board of Trustees. All in favor: Aye 2, Nay 0, Absent 1. Motion carried. A motion was made by Veerman and seconded by Vinsel to elect Vinsel as the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. All in favor: Aye 2, Nay 0, Absent 1. Motion carried. A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Veerman to appoint Bertucci as the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. All in favor: Aye 2, Nay 0, Absent 1. Motion carried.

- b. Discussion / Possible Action on Account Signers: A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Veerman to remove Colleen Prieboy as a signer and to add April Veerman to the other board members, Bertucci and Vinsel, as account signers for the Elwood Fire Protection District on all loans, bonds and accounts including First Bank of Manhattan, Charles Schwab, and Sawyer and Falduto. All in favor: Aye 2, Nay 0, Absent 1. Motion carried.
 - c. Discussion / Possible Action on Wescom Dispatch Representative: A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Veerman to appoint Veerman as the primary Wescom dispatch representative. All in favor: Aye 2, Nay 0, Absent 1. Motion carried.
 - d. Discussion / Possible Action on Investment Option and Elections: A motion was made by Veerman and seconded by Vinsel to place up to \$4,000,000.00 with Sawyer & Falduto for investments and to authorize Locacius and Deaville to effectuate the transfer. All in favor: Aye 2, Nay 0, Absent 1. Motion carried.
 - e. Discussion / Possible Action on HVAC System: A motion was made by Veerman and seconded by Vinsel to approve the purchase of the HVAC System as quoted by Pitch Perfect not to exceed \$20,000.00. All in favor: Aye 2, Nay 0, Absent 1. Motion carried.
 - f. Surplus Equipment: None
 - g. Review Correspondence: The Board reviewed the following the Village of Elwood's Announcement of Fred Hayes as the Village Administrator and a thank you from the Elwood Police Department.
 - h. Other New Business None.
11. Closed Session: None.
12. Adjournment: A motion was made by Veerman and seconded by Vinsel to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. B. L.", written over a horizontal line.