

Elwood Fire Protection District
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2025

1. Pledge of Allegiance: The Board stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Bertucci at 9:00 a.m. at 309 W. Mississippi Street, Elwood, IL 60421.
3. Roll Call:
Present: President Allan Bertucci, Secretary Patricia Vinsel, and Treasurer Colleen Prieboy.
Also Present: Fire Chief Christopher Locarius, Deputy Chief Jasen Melahn, Fire & Life Safety Educator Ehrin Villalobos, Training Coordinator Jeff Toepper, Battalion Chief Justin Lorand, Lieutenant Nick George, Administrative Assistant Clare McKinney, and Attorney John Motylinski. James Howard with Government Accounting attended via Zoom.
4. Public Comment (Limit 3 minutes): None
5. Public Hearing on the 2026 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance #11202025A: A motion was made by Bertucci and seconded by Prieboy to open the hearing. No comment. A motion was made by President Bertucci and seconded by Vinsel to close the hearing.
6. Approval of the October 16, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Prieboy and seconded by Bertucci to approve the minutes as written. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
Approval of the November 6, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Prieboy and seconded by Bertucci to approve the minutes as written. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. 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 Bertucci and seconded by Vinsel to approve the Financial Report. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried. Approval of Bills: A motion was made by Prieboy and seconded by Vinsel to approve the Bills. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
8. Officers & Attorney's Reports: Reports were presented by Locarius, Melahn, Villalobos, Toepper, Lorand, George and Motylinski.
9. Old Business: None
10. New Business:
 - a. Discussion / Possible Action on the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance #11202025A: A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Bertucci to approve Ordinance #1120205A. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.

- b. Discussion / Possible Action on the 2024 Levy Ordinance #11202025B: A motion was made by Bertucci and seconded by Vinsel to approve Ordinance #1120205B. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
- c. Discussion / Possible Action on Abatement Ordinance #11202025C: A motion was made by Bertucci and seconded by Prieboy to approve Ordinance #1120205C. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
- d. Discussion / Possible Action on 2026 Benefits for Executive Assistant, Administrative Assistant, Fire & Life Safety Educator, and Training Coordinator: A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Bertucci to approve the 2026 Benefits for Executive Assistant, Administrative Assistant, Fire & Life Safety Educator, and Training Coordinator. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
- e. Discussion / Possible Action to Approve the Final Eligibility List for the Position of Battalion Chief: A motion was made by Bertucci and seconded by Vinsel to approve the Final Eligibility List for the position of Battalion Chief. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
- f. Discussion / Possible Action to Extend Conditional Offer of Hire to Three (3) Battalion Chiefs Candidates: A motion was made by Bertucci and seconded by Prieboy to extend the conditional offer to hire three (3) Battalion Chief Candidates. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
- g. Discussion / Possible Action on the IPRF Workers' Compensation Policy Proposal: A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Prieboy to approve the IPRF Workers' Compensation Policy. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
- h. Discussion / Possible Action on the Property & Casualty Insurance Policy Proposal: A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Prieboy to approve the Property & Casualty Insurance Policy. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
- i. Discussion / Possible Action on the Accident & Sickness Insurance Policy Proposal: A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Prieboy to approve the Accident & Sickness Insurance Policy. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
- j. Discussion / Possible Action on Feather Shark IT: A motion was made by Bertucci and seconded by Vinsel to approve Feather Shark as the IT provider. All in favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
- k. Discussion / Possible Action on Joliet Steel Release: A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Prieboy to approve Joliet Steel Release. All in Favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
- l. Discussion / Possible Action on Surplus Equipment: A motion was made by Bertucci and seconded by Vinsel to give Chief Locacius the authority to surplus or dispose of the 2024 Sutphen Engine. All in Favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried. A motion was made by Vinsel and seconded by Bertucci to give Chief Locacius the authority to surplus or dispose of the SCBA Equipment. All in Favor: Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.
- m. Review Correspondence: Reviewed the Fire and Life Safety Conference FY2026.
- n. Other New Business: Colleen Prieboy formally submitted her resignation for the Elwood Fire Protection District Board effective January 15, 2026.

11. Closed Session: None

12. Adjournment: A motion was made by Bertucci and seconded by Vinsel to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted

Patricia Vinsel

Board Secretary

