

BOROUGH OF ELMER
SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

COUNCIL REORGANIZATION
JANUARY 1, 2014

1. Swearing in and Oath of Office to Newly Elected Officials:
 - Councilmembers-Elect: Lynda Davis
2. Call to Order: Steven A. Schalick
3. Invocation: Benjamin Laury
Salem County Freeholder
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Roll Call of Members
6. Election of Council President
7. Presentation of Resolutions and Ordinances
8. Confirmation of Fire Department Officials
9. Committee Assignments
10. Introduction of Guests and Borough Officials
11. Mayor's Address
12. Adjournment

Joseph P. Stemberger
Mayor
January 1, 2014

January 1, 2014

Councilmen-elect Lynda Davis and Steven A. Schalick were administered the oath of office by Salem County Freeholder, Benjamin Laury.

The reorganization meeting of the Elmer Borough Council convened in the Borough Hall, at 12:00 noon with Mayor Stemberger presiding.

Mayor Stemberger announced that the 48-hour notice, as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, had been sent to two newspapers and posted as required.

Invocation was given by Benjamin A. Laury, Salem County Freeholder, followed by the flag salute.

Councilpersons Davis, Long, Nolan, Schneider, Schalick and Zee answered to the roll call. Absent – Williams.

Mayor Stemberger declared that the nominations were now open for President of the 2014 Borough Council.

Councilman Lewis M. Schneider was nominated by, Councilwoman Davis. seconded by Councilwoman Nolan.

There being only one candidate nominated for President, Mayor Stemberger directed the Borough Clerk to cast the deciding vote. Clerk cast the vote in favor of Lewis M. Schneider. Mayor Stemberger declared Lewis M. Schneider duly elected as President of the 2014 Borough Council.

The following resolutions were read by the Clerk:

**BOROUGH OF ELMER
SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION

Number 1-2014

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Joanne Eddy be appointed Tax Search Officer for the year 2014.

That Beverly S. Richards be appointed Municipal Search Officer for the year 2014.

That Joanne Eddy be appointed Collector for the Borough of Elmer Water Department for the year 2014.

That Robert M. Richards be appointed Assistant Superintendent of the Borough of Elmer Water Department for the year 2014.

That Donn Nelson be appointed Water Meter Reader for the Borough of Elmer Water Department for the year 2014.

That Barry Davis be appointed Clean Communities Coordinator for the year 2014.

That Jack Justice, Jr. be appointed Fire Safety Code Official for the year 2014.

That Timothy O'Donnell be appointed Fire Code Inspector for the year 2014.

That Joanne Eddy be appointed Animal Registrar for the year 2014.

That Karen Foster be appointed Custodian of the Elmer Borough Hall for the year 2014.

That Dawn Williams be appointed a Class II member of the Elmer Land Use Board for a one-year term ending December 31, 2014.

That Lynda Davis be appointed a Class III member of the Elmer Land Use Board for a three-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2016.

That Lew Reed be appointed a Class IV member of the Elmer Land Use Board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2017.

That Tammy Collins be appointed Class IV member of the Elmer Land Use Board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2017.

That John Hagan be appointed Class IV Alternate No. 1 of the Elmer Land Use Board for a two-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2014.

That David Newkirk be appointed Class IV Alternate No. 2 of the Elmer Land Use Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2015.

That Linda Herrmann be appointed Class IV Alternate No. 3 of the Elmer Land Use Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2015.

That Michael Kulig, Sr., be appointed Housing Officer for the year 2014.

That Tom Krawecz be appointed Land Use Board Zoning Official for the year 2014.

That Countywide Animal Care and Control, LLC be appointed Animal Control Officer for the year 2014.

That Cumberland County SPCA be appointed Animal Shelter for the year 2014.

That Cynthia L. Nolan be appointed the Borough of Elmer's representative to Salem County Advisory Solid Waste Council for the year 2014.

That Doris Hemsley be appointed Deputy Registrar for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016.

That Gaye Uhland be appointed Alternate Deputy Registrar for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016.

That Constance Yost be appointed Alternate Deputy Registrar for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016.

That Michael Miller be appointed Office of Emergency Management Coordinator for a three year unexpired term ending December 31, 2015.

That Steven Felice be appointed Deputy Office of Emergency Management Coordinator for a three year term ending

December 31, 2016.

That Marita McCarthy-Carll be appointed Administrator of the Mid-Salem County Court for the year 2014.

That Barbara Garozzo be appointed Deputy Administrator of the Mid-Salem County Court for the year 2014.

That John Casarow, Jr. be appointed Municipal Judge of the Mid-Salem County Court for the year 2014

That John G. Hoffman be appointed Municipal Prosecutor for the Mid-Salem County Court for the year 2014.

That Emily McDonahue be appointed Public Defender for the Mid-Salem County Court for the year 2014.

That Gamaliel Cruz be appointed a Class II Police Officer for a one-year term ending December 31, 2014.

That the Salem County Department of Emergency Services will provide radio dispatching services to the Elmer Borough Police Department on a 24-hour basis during the year 2014 at a cost not to exceed \$13,500.00.

That Joseph P. Stemberger be appointed the Borough of Elmer Representative for the Conscientious Employee Protection Act for the year 2014.

That Cynthia A. Strang be appointed Chief Financial Officer for a four-year term ending December 31, 2017.

Mayor Stemberger administered the Oath of Office to Cynthia A. Strang, Chief Financial Officer.

**BOROUGH OF ELMER
SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION

Number 2-2014

BE IT RESOLVED: That this governing body does hereby confirm the following Officers of the Elmer Fire Department for the year 2013.

President	Stephen A. Richards
Vice President	Frederick C. Lesti
Recording Secretary	Jay L. DuBois
Treasurer	Michael L. Fisher
Chief	Jack D. Justice, Jr
First Asst. Chief	R. Matthew Richards
Second Asst. Chief	Andrew B. Williams
Captain 1	Michael A. Miller
Captain 2	Michael W. Coles

RESOLUTION

Number 3-2013

BE IT RESOLVED: That the rules of the Elmer Borough Council for the year 2014 be the same as those

adopted for the year 2013.

RESOLUTION

Number 4-2013

BE IT RESOLVED:

By the Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer, that the Borough Clerk, Beverly S. Richards, be authorized as the person to sign all vouchers as to the receipt of goods, materials or as to services rendered for the year 2014.

RESOLUTION

Number 5-2014

**RESOLUTION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE TAX AND WATER COLLECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 2014**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Elmer is able to set policies and procedures for the office of the Tax and Water Collector that allows for the best fiscal interest of the municipality,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector, is hereby authorized and directed to the following:

TAXES

1. Interest on taxes shall be 8% on the first \$1,500 of the delinquency and 18% on all subsequent delinquency until the account is paid in full. All accounts have a 10 day grace period during each quarter when taxes are due.
2. A year end penalty of 6% for taxpayers with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000 who fail to pay the delinquency before the end of the year.
3. A tax sale of all delinquent accounts for the 2013 Municipal Taxes will be held no later than January 31, 2014.
4. A tax sale of all delinquent accounts for the 2014 Municipal Taxes will be held no later than January 31, 2015.
5. Delinquent tax accounts in the amount of +/- \$5.00 may, at the discretion of the tax collector be canceled prior to the tax sale.
6. Charges for Certificates of Redemption shall be \$25.00 per certificate.
7. Charges for Replacements of Loss Tax Sale Certificates shall be \$100.00
8. All Tax Sale Liens shall be redeemed through certified funds only (cash, money order, or certified check).
9. All payments made to clear accounts for tax sale must be made through certified funds only (cash, money order, or certified check).
10. Borough Charges for property clean-up, trash removal, and other similar charges shall be charged an interest rate of 18%, 30 days after the billing date.

WATER

1. A late fee penalty on water shall be 5% on the 11th day following the due date on the bill. All accounts have a 10-day grace period during each quarter when the bills are due.
2. A tax sale of all delinquent accounts for the 2013 Municipal Taxes will be held no later than January 31, 2014.

3. A tax sale of all delinquent accounts for the 2014 Municipal Taxes will be held no later than January 31, 2015.
4. All payments made to clear accounts for tax sale must be made through certified funds only (cash, money order, or certified check).
5. Delinquent water accounts in the amount of +/- \$5.00 may, at the discretion of the tax collector be canceled prior to the tax sale.
6. Final water reads shall be given a charge of \$20.00 per read.
- 7.

RESOLUTION

Number 6-2014

CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer to adopt a cash management plan in accordance with NJSA 40A:5-14; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is authorized to invest idle funds in accordance with NJSA 40A:5-15.1 as well as the following Governmental Unit Depository Protection Act (GUDPA) approved banks:

First National Bank of Elmer
Fulton Bank

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer will provide the governing body with a monthly report that summarizes:

1. All investments made or redeemed over the past month.
2. Each organization holding local unit funds.
3. The amount of securities purchased or sold, class or type of securities purchased, book value, earned income, fees incurred, and market value of all investments as of the report date and;
4. Other information that the governing body may request.

WHEREAS, provided that local unit funds are deposited or invested as designated or authorized by this cash management plan, the Chief Financial Officer is relieved of any liability for any loss of such moneys due to the insolvency or closing of any depository designated by, or for the decrease in value of any investment authorized by, the cash management plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the above cash management plan be adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer, County of Salem and State of New Jersey, effective for the 2014 calendar year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all disbursements shall be made by check and signed by the Mayor, Borough Clerk and Chief Financial Officer. In the event that the Mayor, Borough Clerk or Chief Financial Officer is absent or incapacitated, the President of Council shall be authorized to sign in their place.

RESOLUTION

Number 7-2014

BE IT RESOLVED: By the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer, Salem County, New Jersey that Trick or Treating will be Friday, October 31, 2014 between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and the curfew for Thursday, October 30, 2014 and Friday, October 31, 2014 will be enforced with all persons under the age of 17 being off the streets by 8:00 p.m., unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**BOROUGH OF ELMER
SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Number 8-2014

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A BOROUGH SOLICITOR FOR THE YEAR 2014

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 provides that the Governing Body of every local unit shall appoint a Borough Solicitor and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Elmer has procured the Borough Solicitor as a FAIR AND OPEN contract pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 19:44A-20.3; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract may exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is one year and may be extended as approved by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, Brian J. Duffield, an Attorney at Law, has submitted a proposal dated November 13, 2013 indicating they he will provide the services of Borough Solicitor for a fee of \$7,105; and

WHEREAS, Brian J. Duffield, an Attorney at Law, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Brian J. Duffield, an Attorney at Law, has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Elmer in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Brian J. Duffield, an Attorney at Law, from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services", must be publicly advertised;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer, County of Salem , State of New Jersey that:

1. The Borough Council authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Brian J. Duffield, an Attorney at Law, as described herein; and,

2. That a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services of the State of New Jersey.
3. That a copy of this Resolution be published in the Elmer Times, as required by law, within ten (10) days of its passage.
4. That the attached certification showing availability of funds and specifying the exact line item appropriations which shall be charged is incorporated herein and attached hereto as though set forth herein in verbatim.
5. That the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

**BOROUGH OF ELMER
SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Number 9-2014

RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN AUDITOR FOR THE YEAR 2014

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 provides that the Governing Body of every local unit shall cause an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions to be made after the close of the fiscal year and for that purpose shall employ a Registered Municipal Accountant of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Elmer has procured the audit as a FAIR AND OPEN contract pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 19:44A-20.3; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is one year and may be extended as approved by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, Ford, Scott an Associates., LLC has submitted a proposal dated November 13, 2013 indicating they will provide the audit for a fee of \$22,500; and

WHEREAS, Ford, Scott an Associates, LLC has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Ford, Scott and Associates, LLC has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Elmer in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Ford, Scott an Associates., LLC from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that

the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services", must be publicly advertised;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer, County of Salem , State of New Jersey that:

1. The Borough Council authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Ford, Scott and Associates, LLC as described herein; and,
2. That a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services of the State of New Jersey.
3. That a copy of this Resolution be published in the Elmer Times, as required by law, within ten (10) days of its passage.
4. That the attached certification showing availability of funds and specifying the exact line item appropriations which shall be charged is incorporated herein and attached hereto as though set forth herein in verbatim.
5. That the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ELMER,
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROMOTING
DETECTIVE SERGEANT STEVEN J. FELICE TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT
OF THE BOROUGH OF ELMER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Number 10-2014

WHEREAS, Detective Sergeant Steven J. Felice exhibits a desire and the dedication to further the goals and objectives to preserve and protect life, health and property in the Borough of Elmer, and to provide supervision and leadership skills to accomplish those goals; and

WHEREAS, Detective Sergeant Steven J. Felice, throughout his career, has completed training to enhance his personal and professional skills and has performed his duties in a manner that reflects positively on the Borough of Elmer and the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Detective Sergeant Steven J. Felice has distinguished himself on several occasions during his assignment as Patrolman and continues his outstanding efforts by working with other State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies and Officers; and

WHEREAS, Detective Sergeant Steven J. Felice has performed the aforesaid duties in a progressive, responsible, professional manner entitling him to be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, for all of the foregoing reasons, the Chief of Police recommends to the Mayor and Council that Detective Sergeant Steven J. Felice be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmer concurs with the recommendations of the Chief of Police, and has determined that Detective Sergeant Steven J. Felice should be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant of the Borough of Elmer Police Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmer, County of Salem, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Detective Sergeant Steven J. Felice is hereby promoted to the rank of Lieutenant of the Borough of Elmer Police Department.

This Resolution shall take effect on January 1, 2014.

Beverly S. Richards, Borough Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Lieutenant Steven J. Felice.

**BOROUGH OF ELMER
SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION

Number 11-2014

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer, County of Salem, and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Regular Borough Council Meetings shall be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., prevailing time at the Borough Hall, Elmer, NJ, at which time Borough Council shall discuss and formally act upon all business matters.
2. The Official newspaper is hereby designated as the Elmer Times.
3. The newspapers for publication of notices are hereby designated as the Elmer Times and/or South Jersey Times.
4. Regular Meetings of the Borough Council shall be held on the following dates:

January 8, 2014	July 9, 2014
February 12, 2014	August 13, 2014
March 12, 2014	September 10, 2014
April 9, 2014	October 8, 2014

May 14, 2014

November 12, 2014

June 11, 2014

December 10, 2014

5. The Borough Clerk shall mail copies of all notices, including 48-Hour notices, to any person or persons requesting the same upon a prepayment of the sum of \$25.00 per year.
6. A copy of this resolution shall be forthwith published in the Elmer Times.

RESOLUTION

Number 12-2014

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer, that Beverly S. Richards is hereby appointed the Elmer Borough Public Agency Compliance Officer for the year 2014 in compliance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to forward this Resolution to the Division of Contract Compliance and EEO in Public Contracts forthwith.

RESOLUTION

Number 13-2014

Re: A resolution authorizing the Borough of Elmer Tax Assessor to file appeals with the Salem County Board of Taxation as may be necessary

Whereas, statutory provision is made for review and correction of errors prior to certification of an assessment list; and

Whereas, provision is also allowed for the discovery and correction of errors after establishment of the tax rate; and

Whereas, changes in property ownership at times necessitates adjustments in the veteran's and/or senior citizen's deduction allowed on the assessment list; and

Whereas, responsibility for the maintenance and correction of the assessment list rests with the Borough Tax Assessor subject to laws and regulations; and

Whereas, the Mayor and Borough Council, again for the aforementioned reasons, hereby authorize and direct the Borough Solicitor or special tax counsel to the Borough, as the case may be, to authorize the filing of Counterclaims seeking an increase in the assessment in the event true value is determined to be higher than anticipated.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer as follows:

1. The Mayor and Borough Council, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby authorize the Borough Tax Assessor to file such appeals as may be necessary with the Salem County Board of Taxation to maintain the accuracy and equality in the assessment list of the Borough of Elmer, subject to the advice of the Borough Solicitor and the prior approval of the Mayor and Borough Council.
2. The Mayor and Borough Council, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby authorize the Borough Tax Assessor to execute Stipulations of Settlement on behalf of the Borough of Elmer, subject to the advice of the Borough Solicitor and the prior approval of the Mayor and Borough Council.
3. The Borough Council, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby authorizes and directs the Borough Solicitor or special tax counsel to prepare and file the appropriate Counterclaims seeking an increase in the assessment to correspond with the true value to be established by the Court or the Board of Taxation, whichever the case may be.
4. The Mayor and Borough Council hereby direct the Borough Clerk to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Salem County Board of Taxation and to the Borough Assessor.

Motion Zee, seconded Nolan that the resolutions be adopted as read: Ayes- Schneider, Davis, Nolan, Schalick and Zee. Nays – None. Motion carried.

The following Committees were presented:

**BOROUGH OF ELMER
SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL
2014**

FINANCE/ CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS	Schalick* Schneider Williams
STREETS	Williams* Schalick Schneider
PUBLIC SAFETY	Schneider* Zee Williams
BOROUGH HALL/PUBLIC PROPERTY	Davis* Schalick

Nolan

WATER/STREET LIGHTS

Zee*
Davis
Nolan

TRASH/PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Nolan*
Davis
Zee

Joseph P. Stemberger
Mayor

* Chairperson

After remarks from Borough Council Members, Chief Financial Officer, Borough Clerk, and the Public, Mayor Stemberger read the following address.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

As we begin our New Year, hear these words from the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 11:11-12: "But the land... is a land...which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year". In this year's mayoral address, I am not going to speak about taxes, accomplishments, or problems in our town. Instead, I will talk about the community we love, the Borough of Elmer, NJ.

L.B. Cowman, author of the classic devotional "Streams in the Desert", penned these words for the New Year: "Today, dear friends, we stand upon the verge of the unknown. There lies before us the new year and we are going forth to possess it. Who can tell what we shall find? What new experiences, what changes shall come, what needs shall arise? But here is the gladdening message from our Heavenly Father, "Thy Lord thy God careth for it. His eyes are upon it away to the ending of the year."

She is certainly correct in saying who can tell. No one knows the future regardless what those fortune teller booths on the boardwalk try to tell - or should I say sell - you. But the great blessing of living in a small town is knowing that whatever the future holds you won't be alone. There is a caring community behind you.

Yesterday we mourned together at the funeral of one of our town's beloved citizens, Ethel Dodge. Many testified not only to her faith and perserverence, but to times spent with her and the family in Dodge's market. It was great to hear the memories, but also to know that Ethel and her family knew she could call on members of the community to take her to the appointments, to visit her in times of need, to care for her. Early last year, the McDonald family suffered the tragic loss of

their son, Lucas. What did his mother, Jeanette say to me? "This town is amazing". The support and caring they received and continue to receive has overwhelmed them.

And, that is what life in a small town is - a caring community. Look around you and notice the acts of kindness. See high school student Sandy Ludwig shoveling her elderly neighbor's walk after a snowstorm. Watch as walkers and runners toss their neighbors' papers onto their porch. Look at those picking up litter and keeping Elmer clean. On Thursday, you can see soup being delivered to shut ins. We have the Salvation Army and the free Clothes Closet operating out of the Presbyterian Church as well as Peter's Pantry Food Bank in the Methodist Church. Christmas was brighter for families due to these ministries operating within our town. And, so many others do their good deeds in secret - visiting our elderly, helping them with chores, offering financial assistance, being there for them.

As we begin another year together, I encourage you to see the blessings in this small town. Yes, we have our problems, especially in this struggling economy. Unfortunately, we have lost important businesses, but look at what we do have. Notice the new Dodge's still being a mainstay on the corner - a gathering place for locals as well as those passing through. A business continues at that corner and has for more than a hundred years. Did you know the Elmer Diner now donates soup to the soup ministry of the Elmer UMC? Do you see how the Bistro supports various causes through their special community outreach events? The Elmer IGA being a staunch supporter of our food bank, giving back to the community? This year they also made a huge contribution to Carla's kids - gifts for the homeless children in our county. There is Maninno's Pizza helping out the Hangar, the community youth center. We have several banks that do a great job of supporting our town. Pennsville Bank not only supported Ranch Hope this Christmas, but also donated to a needy family in town. Century Federal supports the food bank, and First National also is a giving presence to our youth ministries. These are just some of the blessings - there are many others you can name. Our public library received a generous donation from the Rotary Club as well as the Ruritans, while the Masonic Lodge lends support to the food bank. We have our own police force doing a wonderful job, a hospital, and a hometown newspaper, the Elmer Times, still going strong after more than a century.- how many small towns can make that claim? Let's not forget those who are at the forefront of service: the Elmer Ambulance Corps, the Elmer Fire Department, the Emergency Management Team. They give selflessly of themselves to our town.

Now, I want to encourage you to support our businesses as they support our town. I remember Ethel telling me when the sale of Dodge's took place that the most important thing I could do was shop there. A woman ahead of her time, she knew how important it was to shop local. Now it's a big trend with a name - locavore! So in the new year, resolve to be trendy - be a locavore, support your town by supporting the many businesses that support it. And, if you are looking for a way to give back to the community, see me or any council member. We can help you find an opportunity to serve.

May God bless us all with peace and prosperity in this New Year.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Davis and seconded by Nolan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

January 1, 2014

Beverly S. Richards,