

## June 11, 2024 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, in the Ladd Village Hall at 121 N. Main Avenue. Village President, Frank Cattani called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Roll Call: Present: Trustees Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, Brad Nicholson, Andy Ruggerio, Molly Thrasher  
Absent: Dave Margherio

In attendance: Village Clerk Rhonda Bezely, Village Treasurer Julie Koch, Superintendent Doug Englehaupt, Attorney Pat Barry, Engineer Adam Ossola, Police Officer Sammi Sarosinski

President's Report: President Cattani read his report. A copy is held at the Clerk's office for review. Cattani also mentioned the Village was awarded a \$150,000.00 grant with no match from Representative Lance Yednock for Main Avenue sidewalks. The Village is also working on a grant to eliminate the storm sewer on the west side of the Village traveling out to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This is a large project and the Village is obtaining engineering advice to move storm sewer from Central and Chicago Avenue to Adam's Creek via West Cleveland.

Thrasher motioned/Nicholson second to accept the May 28, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher - Motion carried

Nelson motioned/Martin second to authorize payment of the bills in the amount of \$67,703.00

Ayes: Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher - Motion carried

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: The council heard about a tree on East Hennepin from Helen Koch. The roots have pushed up a square of sidewalk. Koch inquired about this several years ago but was unwilling to have the tree roots cut out to allow the sidewalk to lay flat due to concern the tree would die. Koch feels that this is a tripping hazard and that although she would prefer not to lose the tree, if the tree committee feels it best to remove the roots and then have a square poured, that is acceptable. Koch would be responsible for forming and finishing but the Village will pay for the concrete. Koch also wanted to express her dissatisfaction with the Fair Solar Credit Rate that changed on 5/1/2024. In 2023 the credit was .1029 and in 2024 it went down to .0542 (approximately ½). This lower credit cuts into her savings and she asks the board to consider the solar customers when getting their information from the IMEA and passing this change on the rate. Linda Peterson addressed the council regarding the sidewalks going in on the north side of East Cleveland, as did Rachel & Matt Hoscheid. The council listened to them speak regarding positive and negative feelings about the Safe Routes to School 2023 Project.

Committee Reports: Nelson reported he would be looking at the tree and sidewalk on East Hennepin to determine a course of action. Ruggerio asked for an update on the flag poles at the monument being straightened. Cattani stated he was told they would be here this week to perform the work. Ruggerio asked for an up on the progress on moving the Village Hall to the Community Center. Ossola stated they've made progress on the drawings. They are approximately 40% done on the drawings.

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Engineer's Report: Ossola updated the council on the Safe Routes to School 2021 project. He stated the concrete work is done also the asphalt patchwork is complete around intersections. Black dirt and seed has been placed along with straw mulch. There may be a little of this to be tidied up. As far as Gensini's work they are waiting for their pavement marking crew to come out and they'll do the crosswalk on Main Avenue and also at Peru and Cleveland Street. They will need to put up some signs and some flashing beacons. The flashing beacons will go up on the stop signs at Peru Avenue and Cleveland Street intersection and then 1 block east, and 1 block west there will be flashing beacons placed on top of a sign. These beacons are solar-powered and have a 12" diameter. These can be set to flash all the time or programmed for certain times of the day. The Village or the Ladd Grade School can decide who will be regulating these. The 2023 Safe Routes to School Grant was announced last Thursday. The engineering still needs to be done to know the exact location and configuration of the sidewalks. The construction and construction phase engineering will be part of the \$250,000.00 grant but the design engineering is not so the Village of Ladd will be paying for this. President Cattani stated that he is very happy with the job that Gensini Excavating did on the 2021 SRTS Project. Ossola stated that they have been very accommodating in helping to address any issues or complaints.

Superintendent's Report: New Business – Discuss Quote for Utility Vehicle from Ladd Farm Mart: Englehaupt explained the quote for purchase vs. the two lease options. This model was chosen so that additional equipment could be considered in the future i.e. a plow for snow, a brush for sweeping, etc. The smaller utility vehicle could not accommodate these items and the council mentioned possibly using a plow on it. Jared at Ladd Farm Mart did not have any used utility vehicles he would be comfortable selling to the Village. This utility vehicle could be used for mosquito spraying since it has air conditioning which is necessary when doing mosquito spraying. Englehaupt stated that the council can review this information and it will be placed on the next agenda for a decision.

Police Chief: Sammi Sarosinski attended for Chief Frund. Sarosinski announced that Frund got the speed trailer from the Village of Mark to place on West Cleveland Street to slow down traffic coming in from the West. Two additional 25 MPH signs have been added to West Cleveland stop signs. Cattani stated that he wants the trailer moved to East Cleveland also due to speeding in this location as well.

Building Inspector: Not in attendance

Village Attorney: Atty. Pat Barry reported that he spoke to the State Comptroller's Office about the Ladd Cemetery. The IL Department of Financial Responsibility is who needs a response regarding the Village of Ladd taking over the Ladd Cemetery Association. First, the council needs to decide as to whether they want to take on the responsibility of the cemetery. If they decide to move forward then a lot of things need to fall into place on a strict timeline. Reports, audits of existing perpetual care funds, Paul's request to remove the Ladd Cemetery association, and the Village of Ladd being added to the license within 30 days. The 1<sup>st</sup> Step will be to pass a Resolution by the Village of Ladd. It is not on tonight's agenda, Barry stated he would imagine that Cattani will want to wait for Margherio to return to have a full board, due to the decision being very important.

New Business – CD RENEWALS: Village Treasurer, Koch explained the recommendations regarding the renewal of 4 CDs in detail. Discussion ensued by the council and a decision was made. Nicholson motioned/Thrasher second to Renew 4 CD's as follows with North Central Bank

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TORT FUND add \$75,000 for a total CD of \$319,624.77 for 12 months at a rate of 4.85%  
ELECTRIC FUND add \$300,000 for a total CD of \$778,011.88 for 12 months at a rate of 4.85%  
150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUND add \$500.00 for a total CD of \$2,688.15 for 12 months at a rate of 4.85%  
WATER DEBT SERVICE FUND invest \$100,000.00 in a CD for 12 months at a rate of 4.85%

Ayes: Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher - Motion carried

New Business – TREES LOCATED ON VILLAGE RIGHT OF WAY: President Cattani explained to the council that he feels we need to take care of trees located on the Village right of way. In the past anyone who called about a branch that was hanging on their roof, or obstructing the sidewalk, or roadway they were told it was their responsibility to trim the tree branches. Cattani feels this is wrong and the Village should remove these branches to keep the Village residents and their property safe. The council discussed the situation. Martin asked Englehaupt how he felt about Cattani's recommendation. Englehaupt stated that he feels it may be an issue of offering a service that you may not be able to back up with labor. In the past if the homeowner reports a dead limb or a concern the tree might fall. The resident reports this to the Clerk's Office and then the committee checks on the tree. They determine if the complaint is valid or not. Then at the council meeting a decision is made to trim it, take it down, or no action is required. Englehaupt stated that once the Village is made aware of a concern about a tree, they are on the hook for any damage that arises, even if they cut out a dead branch and another branch falls due to a storm. If the Village was not aware and a limb falls it is considered an act of God and the Village has no responsibility. Englehaupt stated that if they received notice a limb was hanging over a road sign, on a sidewalk, or over the roadway they would cut the tree for safety reasons. Englehaupt is concerned that residents will be calling with many complaints that shouldn't be the Village's responsibility. It will be difficult to know which situations should be the Village's responsibility and which ones will not be. Cattani stated this would be the committee's responsibility. Englehaupt feels rules in black and white are necessary. An Ordinance will make it easier to adhere to. One year ago Englehaupt stated he cut a reported limb that was dead. A storm several months later took out another limb and it hit their camper. The insurance company paid for the repair of the camper since this tree had previously reported a dead limb. Englehaupt feels we might want to just remove any tree that gets reported with dead limbs.

New Business - FAÇADE GRANT FOR LADD SOUND PRODUCTION: Mario Data submitted a grant application for 2024 since he had a lot of expenses making his building on Main look nice. The council discussed his application.

Martin motioned/Ruggerio second to Award a Façade Grant of \$500.00 to Mario Data of Ladd Sound Productions for 2024.

Ayes: Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher - Motion carried

New Business - SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL 2023 GRANT: Cattani asked Ossola when he thinks this project might begin. Ossola stated next spring at the earliest in his opinion. There was a discussion about how the school felt about this project. This keeps all the kids on the north side of East Cleveland from going across E. Cleveland St. without a crosswalk. This will improve the ability of kids to walk or ride their bikes safely.

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Announcements: Bezely told the council what a great job Ax Church did and thanked Trustee Nelson for taking the lead on this project. Nelson also fabricated a drain cover for the men's restroom that was missing. Cattani thanked everyone who donated desserts and drinks for the workers of Ax Church. The project was very successful.

Martin motioned/ Thrasher second to move out of regular session into executive session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between public employers and their employees or representatives at 7:24 pm.

Present: Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggiero, Thrasher

Returned to regular session at 8:32 pm. Roll call was taken.

Present: Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggiero, Thrasher

Announcements: Bezely remembered she wanted to tell the board she would like to discontinue the Facebook Page for the Village of Ladd. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided the Facebook Page provides residents updates to all Village events and activities. Weeds on Main Avenue Thrasher said the weeds on Main look terrible because they are being sprayed and not pulled or dug out. Cattani is to speak to public works.

Ruggiero motioned/ Nicholson second that we adjourn.

Ayes: Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggiero, Thrasher – Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk