

October 22, 2024 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, October 22, 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 Dave Margherio, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, Brad Nicholson, Andy Ruggerio, Molly Thrasher (6)

In attendance: Village Clerk Rhonda Bezely, Treasurer Julie Koch, Superintendent Doug Englehaupt, Engineer Adam Ossola, and Police Chief Jacob Frund

Nicholson motioned/Ruggerio second to accept the October 8, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented.

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

Nelson motioned/Margherio second to authorize payment of the bills for \$154,339.30.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher but abstained from approving check issued to her for Halloween Party Supplies - Motion carried

Thrasher motioned/Martin second to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2024.

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

Correspondence: A note of thanks was read from Duane Calbow of NCICG for the card at his retirement party. A note of thanks was read from Gold Star Mission – the bicycle group that passed through Ladd approximately 1 month ago.

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports: Thrasher announced the Halloween Parade is Sunday, October 27, 2024, at 1 pm.

Engineer's Report: Nothing to Report

Ruggerio asked Ossola if the flags marking the waterlines where potholing is being done could be removed. Ossola stated that Chamlin must come back and survey all the Buffalo Boxes and they are leaving them to help the surveyors.

Superintendent's Report: Cattani asked Englehaupt if the manhole was finished. Englehaupt stated yes. Englehaupt asked the council if they would like to go out for bids on our Water Tower Maintenance Contract or stay with the company we have worked with for a long time. The last contract was for 5 years this included interior and exterior cleanings, along with paintings, and maintenance of both of our water towers. This bid information will outline the types of paint to be used on the interior and exterior. Discussion ensued. We will place this on the next agenda to discuss this. Margherio asked if we could put a little fancier painting on our water towers the next time we get our water towers painted.

Police Chief: Not in attendance.

Building Inspector: Not in attendance.

Village Attorney: **New Business: Pass Ordinance #1175 Approving Wholesale Connection Agreement:**

Atty Barry explained the ordinance in detail. A copy of the just the Ordinance was provided to the council. Nicholson motioned/Ruggerio second to Pass Ordinance #1175 An Ordinance Approving the Terms of and Authorizing the Execution of the Wholesale Connection Agreement with Ameren Services Company and the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency for the Village's Delivery Point.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher, President Cattani – Motioned carried

Continued 10-22-2024

Englehaupt arrived at 6:34 pm.

Old Business: Email Archiving: An Estimate for Hosting 6 email accounts for the Village of Ladd and Archiving of all 6 email accounts was discussed. The cost to host and archive all 6 accounts would increase by \$244.80 annually by adding archiving. We would no longer need LKCS to host our email accounts.

Martin motioned/Thrasher second to Approve the Estimate from Mark Karlosky Consulting for Email Hosting & Archiving of 6 Village Email Accounts.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher – Motioned carried

New Business: Approval to Obtain Easements: Cattani stated that we have discussed this at the last meeting and we would like to obtain these easements now since Cattani spoke with all landowners and they were acceptable with giving the Village an easement.

Thrasher motioned/Margherio second to Approve Obtaining Easements from Landowners West of Ladd for a Future Sewer & Storm Sewer Project.

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

New Business: Donation Request Project Success Holiday Baskets: Martin stated that 420 families have signed up for these baskets at this time.

Margherio motioned/Nicholson second to Donate \$500.00 for Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets to Project Success.

Ayes: Margherio, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio - Motion carried

Abstain: Martin and, Thrasher due to their positions with Project Success

New Business: Façade Grant Payment for 105 N Main Ave: The work on the front of the building was completed recently. The building inspector checked everything over and approved the payout of 10% of the front of the building costs not to exceed \$500.00.

Nelson motioned/Martin second to Approve Payment of the Façade Grant once receipts are received from Amore's Pizzeria, Pietro "Frank" Alfano for materials used on the front of his building at 105 N Main Avenue.

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

Announcements: **Community Center Landscaping:** Bezely told the council that Julie Palmer and Jeff Erickson recently planted beautiful perennials from their yard and trimmed the trees and bushes at the Community Center. Everything looks great. A thank you card was sent. **Sidewalk in front of the Post Office:** A resident recently tripped on the raised sidewalk and fell. A claim was submitted letting the insurance company know. The resident stated she just wants the Village to get this repaired. Bezely will reach out to the Village's insurance company for an adjuster to come and discuss the necessary measures the Village needs to take. Discussion ensued regarding replacement vs. hydraulic pumping up the lower portions. Englehaupt stated that he remembers the hydraulic pumping was not ideal and it was felt that replacement may have been more cost-effective. This area is not part of the DCEO Grant to replace Main Avenue sidewalks. Discussion ensued. **Tar and Chip on East Cedar Ave** on the South side of Charro Tacos & Bakery is being requested by the business owners along with parking lines painted to mirror West Cedar. Discussion ensued regarding who should pay for this and to have engineering involved no matter who decides to pay for this. MFT funds could be allocated to this area in the future. If the council would like to investigate getting this done, we will get a cost estimate. **The Bureau-Putnam Enterprise Zone** meeting will be held at 6 pm tomorrow, October 23, 2024, at Spring Valley City Hall. Discussion on expanding the zone to add 156 acres will be held. The Council was provided this information if they can attend tomorrow night. Ladd resident, Anna Dempsey, has organized some adult fun for Halloween this Saturday, October 26th. **Scarecrawl** will be a bar crawl that begins at Rip's and continues to Softails, Dicks, Ladd Lanes, and end at Players Club. Costumes are encouraged and a prize will be given for the best costume. All the bars are aware and have the poster Anna designed. **The NCICG Annual Meeting** will be at the Auditorium Ball Room on November 7, 2024 let Bezely know if you can attend and she will RSVP for everyone.

Continued 10-22-2024

President Cattani explained the situation with **10/33 Ambulance** raising their price per capita for Ladd to have Ambulance coverage in 2025. Our prior rate per capita was \$10.00 and it will increase to \$36.00 per capita to help the ambulance service stay in business. This is due to St. Margaret's Hospital and IVCH closing. Discussion ensued. Bezely stated that she investigated what the Village has received from 2013 to 2024 in Property Tax for 10/33 Ambulance and there is a surplus of \$32,629.00. Cattani stated that Spring Valley Mayor Melanie Malooley-Thompson is doing a cost-of-service study for 10/33 Ambulance so she will share her information with Cattani. Bezely asked Atty Barry if the ESDA Fund can be used to pay the difference between what the Village gets for 10/33 Ambulance from Property Taxes and what we will owe in 2025. Bezely stated that we have a \$33,000.00 surplus in this fund and we use it for our warning siren maintenance. He suggested that Bezely contact our CPA. Bezely will reach out to Kim Bird from Hopkins & Associates. It was suggested that we have a representative from 10/33 attend our next meeting to explain things to the Council. The Ladd 10/33 Ambulance representatives are Sue Wagner and Heather McCutcheon. Cattani will speak with Malooley and a 10/33 Ambulance representative before the next council meeting.

Nicholson noticed that 2 IT companies had bills paid on the last meeting bill printout. Bezely stated that this was an old bill that was not paid and the previous IT brought it to her attention. We are only using Mark Karlosky Consulting for IT.

Martin motioned Nicholson second to move out of regular session into executive session Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees and Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) Meeting for 6 Month Review of Closed Session Minutes at 7:28 pm.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggiero, Thrasher - Motion carried

Returned to regular session at 7:43 pm.

President Cattani requested a roll call.

Roll Call Present: Margherio, Martin, Nelson Nicholson, Ruggiero, Thrasher (6)

Also present were President Cattani, Atty. Barry, and Clerk Bezely

Old Business: Compensation for Deputy Clerk:

Nicholson motioned/Thrasher second to Approve Compensating the Deputy Clerk with an additional \$2.50/hour beginning with the next pay period on 10-28-2024. Atty. Barry will prepare an Ordinance for the next meeting to be passed.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggiero, Thrasher, President Cattani - Motion carried

Cattani requested a motion to approve, the executive session minutes from 9-24-2024 provided to the council members for review.

Nicholson motioned/Ruggiero second to approve the 9/24/24 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nicholson, Nelson, Ruggiero, Thrasher, President Cattani - Motion carried

Margherio motioned/Martin second to Release Executive Session Minutes for Public Review, per Atty. Barry's 6-Month Review, from the 7/25/23, 8/8/23, 8/22/23, 1/9/24, 4/9/24, 5/14/24, 6/11/24, 6/25/24, 7/23/24, 8/13/24, 8/27/24, 9/10/24, and 9/24/24 meetings. The 7/9/2024 Executive Session Minutes will remain Closed & Private.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nicholson, Nelson, Ruggiero, Thrasher, President Cattani - Motion carried

Thrasher asked Cattani what he thinks of the daily log sheets. The council members discussed some of their concerns. After many concerns were discussed, it was requested that President Cattani speak to the employee not complying with his daily log.

Ruggiero asked if it was determined that any employee who takes FMLA must exhaust all sick, vacation, comp, and personal time before using FMLA. Bezely stated that they do not have to use their sick, vacation, comp,

Continued 10-22-2024

and personal time before they use FMLA per Atty. Barry. Nicholson asked who is going on FMLA. Cattani stated that Englehaupt may be having surgery on 11/15/24 and if so, he has requested FMLA. If he ends up having surgery, he could be off for 12 weeks.

Nelson asked Cattani if he was going to address the unprofessional doodling on the daily log sheet. It was mentioned that this should be sent to Jed at IBEW. President Cattani requested Bezely to send this information to the IBEW Union Representative for discussion. Cattani will talk with the employee.

Nicholson questioned initials on the log sheets under authorized overtime. Bezely explained what happened in the 2 situations in question.

Bezely will copy the union employee timesheets and attach them to their daily logs. Then the council can compare them and have a better understanding.

Martin motioned/Ruggerio second to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk