

December 26, 2024 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Thursday, December 26, 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, and Molly Thrasher (5)

Absent: Trustee Andy Ruggerio (1)

In attendance: Clerk Rhonda Bezely, Deputy Clerk & Treasurer Julie Koch, Engineer Adam Ossola, Police Chief Jacob Frund, Atty. Pat Barry

Martin motioned/Nicholson second to accept the December 10, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented.

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

Absent: Ruggerio

Nelson motioned/Margherio second to authorize payment of the bills for \$94,450.57

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

Absent: Ruggerio

Thrasher motioned/Nicholson second to accept the Treasurer's Report for November 2024.

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

Absent: Ruggerio

Correspondence: A thank you from Gateway Services was read.

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports: None

Engineer's Report: **New Business: Engineering Agreement for Main Avenue Sidewalk Grant:**

Martin motioned/Nicholson second to Approve Chamlin & Associates to Provide Engineering for the Main Avenue Sidewalk Grant.

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

Absent: Ruggerio

New Business: NPDES Permit Renewal: The NPDES Permit Expires October 2025 but you must have the renewal application submitted 6 months before the expiration.

Margherio motioned/Thrasher second to Authorize Chamlin & Associates to Prepare and Submit the NPDES Permit Renewal for the Village of Ladd.

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

Absent: Ruggerio

Superintendent's Report: Not in attendance. Margherio asked how Doug was doing. Cattani stated he spoke with him and he is "coming" along.

Continued 12-26-2024

Police Chief: Chief Jacob Frund provided the council with a 2024 End of Review. He provided stats of all the calls the police department managed in 2024, stats from prior years showing the increase in the department's calls, and revenues for these stops. Juvenile calls have increased which requires more manpower. Things do not look to change; mental health plays a part in these calls. Nelson asked if the bars had been compliant with closing times. Chief Frund feels this has been fine. Things are going well with police coverage. Chief Frund stated that there has not been a pay increase since 2021 for our patrol officers. He requested a \$1.00 per hour increase to Ordinance #1114 which would change patrol officers to \$26.50 per hour beginning with the next payroll 12/23/2024 through 1/5/2025. Atty. Pat Barry will prepare the ordinance to be passed at the next meeting on January 14, 2025. Nelson motioned/Nicholson second to Increase Patrol Officers to \$26.50 per hour and continue to keep the \$4.00 Shift Differential as Defined for Friday, Saturday & Sunday Nights.

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

Absent: Ruggerio

Nicholson asked about the 2020 Police Car needing a new exhaust and what happened. Frund stated that he tried to get it covered by warranty, but it was not a warranty issue. It was an issue with a part of the exhaust that was causing issues.

Building Inspector: Not in attendance

Village Attorney: **Old Business: Stop Work Order 109 N. Main Avenue:** Atty. Pat Barry has not heard from the owners or their attorney. Barry stated he could write them a letter requesting access to the building to have a structural engineering inspection. Then we need to advise them of getting these concerns taken care of. President Cattani states that he would like to hold off as of now with any action. He feels that a considerable amount of money has been put into this building and feels the owner will be reaching out. Nelson is concerned about heavy snow/load causing this building to collapse since there is a new roof on the building and it is no longer going into the building. Pictures were provided to the council showing the concerning condition of the new roof. When the stop work order was placed on the building there was a worker there. The owner's husband then called the office and was very upset. The situation is that he was requested to come to a council meeting to discuss the situation with the council. He still has this opportunity and has not come to a meeting. The council is willing to work with the owner they just need them to come to a meeting. We will revisit this heading into the Spring. **New Business: Renters who leave Ladd with an unpaid account balance:** Atty. Barry explained to the council that there is concern about renters who move out without paying their utility account balance. The Landlords are required to pay this balance before renting the location out again. In the past, we have told renters who do not pay their balance due before leaving Ladd that they will not be allowed to rent anywhere in Ladd until they make good on their unpaid balance. When we help to collect this balance, we place this money on the Landlord's utility account and let them know their previous renter paid up their past due. Otherwise, the Clerk's Office does not take their meter deposit which allows them to move into another rental. Bezely was just looking for backing from the council as to this practice or an Ordinance that states all these requirements. Barry stated that the Village could take the position that they are a delinquency risk and refuse to supply to them with utilities until they make good on their prior delinquency before creating the new account (unless they have filed bankruptcy and discharged the prior delinquency). That could mean they could be forced to pay the Village or the landlord for the prior delinquency. If they paid the Village, the Village could credit that amount to the landlord who

was forced to pay their balance. We will keep an eye on this type of situation and we can pass an ordinance later if this continues to happen in the Village of Ladd. All landlords are made aware of their tenant's unpaid delinquent balance monthly.

Old Business: 10/33 Ambulance: President Cattani asked the council to approve the new \$36.00 rate per capita for 10/33. We want the Village of Ladd residents to have 10/33 Ambulance available to them if an emergency arises. Discussion ensued. The council understands if this is not passed and paid by the Village of Ladd (through the levy of taxes with the additional balance paid from the General Fund) we will have to find a private ambulance service to take care of Ladd which will likely cost a lot more money than 10/33 Ambulance's invoice for \$45,468.00. The Village receives \$19,000.00 in property taxes through the levy process so the \$26,468.00 difference must be paid out of the general fund. We will pay \$3,789.00 monthly beginning January 1, 2025. We would like to see 10/33 Ambulance do more to educate the people in their jurisdiction so that residents who use 10/33 request 10/33 on all transfers.

Margherio motioned/Thrasher second to begin making monthly payments in January 2025 for \$3,789.00 for Ambulance Coverage for the Residents of the Village of Ladd.

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

Absent: Ruggerio

Announcements: None

Nelson motioned/Nicholson second to adjourn.

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

Absent: Ruggerio

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk