

2022-04-26 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, in the Village Hall. Mayor 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 Jim Manning, Dave Margherio, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, Molly Thrasher, Mike Urbanowski (6)

In attendance: Attorney Pat Barry, Clerk Bezely, Village Treasurer Julie Koch, Engineer Adam Ossola, and Mike Wasilewski of Chamlin & Associates

Margherio motion/Thrasher second to accept the April 12, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski - Motion carried 6-0

Thrasher motion/Urbanowski second to authorize payment of the bills in the amount of \$112,017.26

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski - Motion carried 6-0

Martin motion/Nelson second to accept the March 2022 Treasurer's Report.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski - Motion carried 6-0

Correspondence: A thank you was read from Project Success of Bureau County for the 8 Easter baskets donated.

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports: Margherio mentioned a deck that's been removed from a house on Lincoln Ave which is sitting on Village sidewalk. Bezely stated she contacted the owner and told them they need to move it off the Village sidewalk. The owner stated they were going to soon, but called back and was unable to move it as planned. Chief Frund is going to touch base with the owner.

Engineer's Report: \$150,000 DCEO Sidewalk Grant for Main Ave: Ossola wanted to discuss the Procurement Policy requirements associated with this money. It is quite in-depth. He explained there will need to be a qualifications process to hire an engineer. We are not able to just use our Village Engineer unless we want to pay the engineering costs out of our general fund. The application needs to be submitted with which sidewalks we are replacing. A long discussion ensued regarding engineer selection and sidewalk replacement selection. It was asked how long we have to use this money. Ossola thought approximately 2 years. The council decided we will advertise for an Engineer for this project so we can pay the engineering out of this grant money. We first need to decide which sidewalks we will replace. The board will plan to look over Main Avenue sidewalks and make a determination of sidewalks most in need of replacement before the next meeting. Feasibility Study: Ossola & Mike Wasilewski prepared a pros & cons list for each of the 3 buildings. Wasilewski started by explaining the current **Village Hall** situation with the parapet wall issues. To remodel and move the clerk's office upfront would require structural changes which are very costly. No drive-through would be possible. The police offices and evidence room would be small. The building at **336 S Main Ave** isn't felt to be large enough due to the upstairs being unable to occupy offices. A drive-through is possible if we could obtain additional property to the north. This building has many elevation changes which would be very tough to accommodate. The

Community Center was felt to be the best option for the new Village Clerk's Office and Hall. It has ADA-compliant bathrooms and lots of room for police and clerk. Wasilewski stated the mechanical is fine and the structure is adequate. Partitions can be put up to separate areas. The board room could double as a meeting room for community events and clubs. There is also available property for a drive-through to be constructed. The biggest con is that it is not on Main Avenue. Wasilewski stated he could put some costs together for each property. It is felt that we want to keep the gathering area for possible Mass, special events, and parties for the Village. Various options were discussed with board members. Martin felt it best to add on to the south to house the police department. A new structure would hold the entire department. The existing would be remodeled and the event space would be made much smaller. Wasilewski & Ossola were complimented on a great job.

Cattani told the board that our upstairs renter at 336 S Main Ave is leaving the end of May. This apartment will be available for rent June 1st. Bezely told the board we have had 3 inquiries about this building. It was decided to get the property appraised.

Margherio motion/Manning second to get an appraisal on 336 S Main Ave with the intent to sell this property.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski - Motion carried 6-0

Superintendent's Report: Englehaupt was unable to attend due to a back injury.

Police Chief: Chief Frund mentioned to the board that when deciding on a building for the clerk and police please make sure the evidence room is discussed. Evidence is very important to a case and our current situation is unacceptable. Adam Conness was hired part-time. Frund stated Conness will be working nights which is helpful. Frund contacted Walmart Distribution for possible donations of TV's for our camera system. Frund stated we do not have an AED in our squad car. He feels buying 1 would be okay and the officer would move it to whichever car they are driving. An AED is very important for heart attacks or a child with heart issues. Frund is looking for grants also. Frund also asked Walmart if they have any old shelving we could organize our evidence with. Sarosinski is currently working on Camera grants for in-car systems since one of our systems is broken. Ladd Police Facebook page is up and running. Frund has had several private messages with concerns/complaints that he is touching base with residents about. Frund is purchasing a piece of equipment for each of the vehicle medical bags which helps with a victim who is choking. Frund spoke with all businesses and gave his contact information. Frund got pricing for 22 cameras which was the number of cameras Mario Data felt would cover the town. \$6,900.00 is the estimated cost of 22 cameras. Manning asked Atty. Pat Barry what the legality is with cameras and using the footage in litigation. Atty. Barry stated that they are in public places using taxpayer money to purchase them so no issue with using the footage to solve a case. No liability concerns were mentioned by Atty. Barry. Manning asked who is going to maintain these cameras? He was concerned Mario has other duties he needs to do. Englehaupt was spoken to and he was fine with it unless Data was needed somewhere else. If that is the case the cameras can wait. Frund also stated that 22 was the high number for cameras. 15 may be perfectly fine too. Nelson requested there would be extras for issues with repairing cameras. Flock Cameras were explained by Frund. These Flock Cameras are constantly taking pictures of license plates. These plate #'s are put into a police system that aids in missing children, drug trafficking, murder investigations, etc. Many area towns have them or are getting them. There is a concern to keep our children

and Village safe. We can monitor drug deals, sex offenders, etc. Each camera is \$2,500.00 and the company takes care of everything. Frund explained these cameras can aid in searching for a “black truck” which can help in finding offenders. Margherio asked if the same camera would record plates for anyone going into Ladd or going out of Ladd. Peru has one that will monitor the back way into Ladd. If we apprehended a drug dealer it could possibly bring money to Ladd for an arrest. There is a 1-time fee to IDOT. Atty. Barry asked about a possible grant. Frund stated he has not seen any – it is brand new and nothing has been offered yet. Margherio reiterated that we are talking about 2 different camera systems. Frund feels we can reduce the number of cameras requested to have Mario install. Discussion to determine locations continued.

Margherio motion/Martin second to get 1 Flock Camera to be installed by Casey’s.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski - Motion carried 6-0

Martin motion/Nelson second to purchase 12 cameras to be placed in various locations around the Village of Ladd.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski - Motion carried 6-0

Chief Frund passed out violation hang tags to show the board how his department will be utilizing the hang tags.

Building Inspector: None

Village Attorney: 124 N Hennepin Ave; Atty. Pat Barry updated the board on the house at 124 N Hennepin. Barry stated that there are 2 ways to sell excess municipal real estate. You can have it appraised and sell it for 80% of the appraised value or you can solicit bids and decide who you want to sell it to, as long as 3/4 of the council agrees to sell it at an agreed upon price. Cattani suggested that we sell the property for \$12,000.00. The Village has this much money into this property. Cattani was adamant to have “minimum bid of \$12,000.00” in the ad so we get what we need. Atty. Barry cautioned on doing that because if people aren’t willing to offer that we may be sitting on the lot for many years, incurring grass-cutting fees, etc. Barry stated you can always reject the offer if you’re not happy with it. It was determined to advertise the lot for bid (no minimum amount in the ad) in the News Tribune. Barry & Bezely will get together to accomplish this. The clerk’s office will send a copy of the bid notice to the neighbor to the south of his lot who was interested in possibly purchasing.
Executive Session Minutes: Every 6 months the executive session minutes must be reviewed. Atty. Barry reviewed all closed session minutes in detail and advised that all minutes be released EXCEPT the 08-24-2021 minutes which are the subject of some pending litigation. Once this litigation is resolved we can release these minutes.

Thrasher motion/Urbanowski second to release the executive session minutes except for the 8-24-21 minutes.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski, Cattani - Motion carried 7-0

New Business:

Cost Study from IMRF: Englehaupt is unable to take advantage of Early Retirement due to the expense involved. No action was taken.

Working Cash: Manning motion/Margherio second to abolish working cash of \$7,196.00 and reestablish working cash at \$0.00.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski, - Motion carried 6-0

Mayor Pro-Tem: Mayor Cattani appointed Jim Manning as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Urbanowski motion/Nelson second to accept Cattani's appoint of Jim Manning as Mayor Pro-tem

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski, - Motion carried 5-0

Abstain: Manning

Meeting Dates: Manning motion/Nelson second to retain the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 pm for regular board meetings.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski, - Motion carried 6-0

Policies & Procedures: Martin motion/Thrasher second to retain the same policies and procedures

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski, - Motion carried 6-0

Recreation Committee: We accepted, with regret, the resignation of Felicia Liebe from the recreation committee and would like to appoint Tammy Parochetti and Cheryl Detmers as replacements.

Martin motion/Manning second to move to accept Mayor Cattani's appointments of Parochetti & Detmers upon their acceptance of the position.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski, - Motion carried 6-0

Market Guide Ad: Pricing was given and discussion about choosing an ad was discussed. No action was taken.

Annexation: Cattani stated there are hardly any lots available in Ladd. We would like to move forward with approaching an investor to annex the property behind Bruda's addition for a possible future subdivision. We will continue to search for an interested developer to offer, 10 (½) acre lots or whatever they would like to develop. If they were agreeable to annexation we would rebate the additional taxes due to annexing until the property is resold or developed.

Announcements: Bezely reiterated the upstairs apartment at 336 would be vacant on June 1st. The Village is not soliciting a new renter since our next step is to sell the building. The sidewalk in front of the Stalk Market is uneven and a lady fell on it. I was asked by the owners to see if something can be done with this. The Village of Ladd was awarded the Safe Routes to School Grant. We will receive \$249,932.00. Ax Church is coming again for Hope Week. Sometime between June 6- June 11th. Once the date is known and the number of people coming we will order pizzas and get drinks. Bezely asked if people could bake desserts or donate chips for this wonderful group of people. Doug's mother-in-law passed away and a heartfelt stone was sent to Colorado as a gift of sympathy. A business owner on Main Avenue called to see if we had obtained any facade grants and Bezely explained that we have not seen any available grants that allow the Village to give money to our businesses. Spring Valley is giving façade grants but Bezely was told these grants are taken out of their general fund or possibly from the TIFF district. Discussion ensued regarding looking into a façade committee that would take care of the rules and regulations on these grants in Ladd. No decision was made. Bloodmobile was scheduled for Friday, August 26, 2022, at the Community Center from 1 pm – 6 pm. Bezely would appreciate it if people would sign up to donate. The Taco place at 201 N. Main Avenue is planning to open in June. Bezely asked the board for the ability to contact Castello Brothers and ask if they would consider selling their lots to the Village. It was also discussed to try to purchase additional lots to possibly be the location of the Village Hall and Police Department which would keep the Village Hall on Main Avenue. Englehaupt and Bezely did a Zoom meeting with Carbon Solutions and they are wanting the Village of Ladd to partner with them to install EV charging stations. Ideally, these EV charging stations need to be in an area with a 24-hour business where people can get food or shop, or use the restroom so a truck stop would be ideal. A company is coming

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to Ladd to meet with Bezely this summer to see the areas available to possibly locate. A distribution center would also be ideal. Bezely will keep the board updated on this event. Bezely has spoken with Jim Gambiani regarding his land in addition put in a request for cost per acre for two areas of the Herlien Trust property. Bezely also wrote an email asking for the annexation of all remaining Herlien property into the Village of Ladd to secure the future of Ladd and its electrical distribution system by having this property within our limits. The Village would rebate any additional taxes incurred by annexation until the property is developed or sold.

Thrasher motion/Margherio second to adjourn.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski - Motion carried 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk