

2022-05-24 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 24, 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: Clerk Bezely, Village Treasurer Julie Koch, Engineer Adam Ossola, Asst. Superintendent BJ Liebe Police Admin Asst. Sam Sarosinski

Thrasher motion/Margherio second to accept the May 10, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

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

Martin motion/Nelson second to authorize payment of the bills in the amount of \$114,572.20

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

Urbanowski asked if we should be adding to our CD investments. Bezely told the board none of them are due yet. On July 31, 2022, the Sewerage EPA CD will be up for renewal. We can review each of these CDs as they come due. It was mentioned by Mayor Cattani that as interest rates increase we want to invest as much as possible.

Urbanowski motion/Manning second to accept the April 2022 Treasurer's Report.

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

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports: Nelson mentioned the tree reported by Vince Coughlin on S. Selby Ave that was an emergency. Mayor Cattani authorized taking it down. Marty Fiocchi Jr removed the tree and ground the stump for \$1,300.00. Nelson reported on the tree at 108 N Iowa Ave. He updated the board on the resident being upset that the tree wasn't being removed and the sidewalk repaired. Her daughter came into the Village and reported the tree is infested with carpenter ants and is hollow. She stated there was "sawdust" at the base. She feels this tree must be removed and the sidewalk replaced. She stated if this wasn't done by the Village and her mother falls there would be litigation. Both Margherio and Nelson revisited the tree. They both did not see an infestation of carpenter ants and Nelson got up and looked down the middle of the tree. He did not see any rot in the middle of the tree. They both felt that the sidewalk is not bad. They stand by their decision to offer the homeowner the offer to have her hire a contractor to form and finish new sidewalk and the Village would pay for the concrete. They will remove the tree root in an effort to level out the sidewalk and keep the sidewalk from lifting again. Another call will be made by Bezely to the resident. Margherio received a call from the homeowner at 201 S Brush Ave. asking if he takes the tree down on the north side corner of his house could the streets department bring the chipper down and chip the tree as he takes it down. It was also asked if we could have the stump ground out. Bezely will keep a list of stumps to grind and contact Loren Bird. Margherio will have the resident contact BJ and arrange this.

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Music in the Park: Mayor Cattani announced Music in the Park Friday, May 27th. The Fire Department will be cooking hamburgers and hotdogs and he encouraged anyone that can make it to attend.

Engineer's Report: Ossola informed the board that regarding the Water Main Project, he has not seen any protests or heard of any protest paperwork being received. IL EPA is working on pushing the Superior bid through. \$150,000 DCEO Sidewalk Grant for Main Ave: Mayor Cattani asked Ossola if they could set up a time to walk through Main Avenue to look at sidewalks and determine which ones to replace. Nelson, Urbanowski, and Cattani plan to attend. Margherio mentioned concrete prices are going up. Everyone understood. Bezely will contact Ossola with a date. The sooner we get this determined and moving forward the better.

Superintendent's Report: BJ Liebe was present due to Doug being off on workman's comp. Liebe told the board the WWTP pump panel was struck by lightning. We are awaiting a quote for a new panel from Complete Industrial since the old panel is obsolete. Mayor Cattani asked if this was an insurance issue. Liebe stated as long as the insurance company decides to cover the whole new panel. Bezely updated the board that IMLRMA cut a check to the Village for the amount of the Elmore Electric Repair less our \$500.00 deductible. Nelson asked how the pump was running. Liebe told the board that Elmore got the pump up and running but had to change out several relays, etc. There have been a few instances of the starters tripping out. After reset, they are holding for a while. 2017 Ford F250 Pickup Tires: Two quotes were obtained for new tires and it was decided to go with A&B Garage to keep it in town.

Manning motion/Nelson second to go with A&B Garage for 4 new tires on the 2017 Ford F250 Public Works Department Pickup for \$1,055.68

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

Police Chief: Administrative Assistant Sam Sarosinski read updates from Police Chief Jacob Frund who was at a baseball game. The Flock Cameras should be installed soon. Jay Knauf allowed access for the camera to be installed on his family property. Jay was happy to help by allowing the Village to place this camera on their property. A JULIE dig was called in and utilities have been marked. Chief Frund got an update that the cameras in town may possibly be able to be integrated into the Flock system for tracking vehicles which would be a great upgrade if possible. Mario has begun to install and wire cameras. They are located at Main & Walnut, Casey's, and Western and Cleveland. One camera at each place can rotate 360 degrees, zoom in and out to capture license plates, etc. Cameras at the baseball park and Eastern and Cleveland are hard to install due to WiFi issues. His advice was to install these at a later time because it will cost more money to figure out how to connect the WiFi to it. Adam Conness was hired and is currently working shifts. Car show at Dick's Tap – June 3rd: A letter was distributed from the owner, Shawn Jeppson, requesting Pine Street, from Main to the alley be blocked off to allow people to safely walk around the car show which will be held across from Dick's in the empty lot. Jeppson will make sure everything is cleaned up.

Thrasher motion/Urbanowski second to approve the closure of Pine Street from Main Ave. to the Alley for Car Show at Dick's Tap.

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

Sarosinski reported that Frund has had many compliments on the hard work the officers have been doing to ensure stopping at stop signs and controlling speeders. The ordinance violation hang tags are working very well.

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Please keep Chief Frund informed of any positive or negative feedback so he is aware. Sarosinski continues to apply for grants to apply for the Village and the Police Department which will help us grow. Sarosinski is also working hard to update ordinances in an effort to someday get our code online. Frund would like the council to know they can feel free to contact him anytime. Manning asked how weekend coverage is going. Sarosinski told him that there hasn't been an evening weekend open since Chief Frund started.

Building Inspector: None

Village Attorney: None

Unfinished Business: 336 S Main Avenue Appraisal: The appraisal was given to all board members. The board agreed to set the sale price at \$200,000.00. Bezely will contact the 3 interested parties.

Interconnection Agreement & Applications for Net Metering: Manning motion/Martin second to approve interconnection agreement and applications for net metering policy.

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

EV Charging Stations: Bezely stated she reached out to Carbon Solutions with some of the board's concerns from the last meeting. They said they would be happy to set up a zoom meeting on a Tuesday night to speak with the board. They also said they could change the contract to whatever the board was comfortable with regarding the length of the contract. It can also be renewed. They also stated they would gladly speak with our Attorney to answer any questions or concerns the board has. Bezely gave them the address of the Community Center for a possible charging station location. This would cut down on the amount of grass to be cut and offer a location right off of Route 80 and 89 for people to utilize in the I80 Energy Corridor. Bezely asked if the board was okay with her continuing to move forward. Manning stated that Atty. Barry is going to the upcoming IMEA annual conference which is having information on EV Charging Stations and is very interested in what he learns. Manning feels it sounds pretty good to be true. Mayor Cattani stated we will look at it with caution.

New Business: UB Clerk & Deputy Clerk: Martin motion/Thrasher second to increase the Utility Billing Clerk's wage 3% to \$18.56 beginning July 1, 2022, thru June 30, 2023.

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

Conflict of Interest: This ordinance is necessary to obtain State and Federal Grant money.

Nelson motion/Martin second to Pass Ordinance on Conflict of Interest.

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

Bucket Truck: The Village paid \$45,000.00 for our largest bucket truck and to repair the boom will cost \$50,471.72 to repair just (1) section of the cracked fiberglass. Liebe has had no luck finding a truck to rent or purchase. The only possibility Liebe has found is a truck in Virginia. They have a truck that is scheduled to return in the next 1-2 months. If they do get the truck back they would offer it to the Village of Ladd for a rental of approximately 1 year. Then after the 1-year rental, purchase may be an option. Liebe and Englehaupt have canvassed the area for a truck. The only place to get one is a rental company. They are required to have them inspected annually. Liebe told the board if another incident with a semi in the bank alley happened again we could not repair it. Manning told Liebe we'll hire it done. Discussion regarding repair continued. Manning

stated that lead time on parts is possibly longer. In his experience lead times are not trustable due to supply chain issues.

Summer Help: We have 2 applicants that are 18 years old. The board requested a FaceBook post to see if we can let Ladd kids know. \$13.00 per hour will be offered to 2 applicants. Ladd kids will be considered first. Mayor Cattani said that with Doug being off with his injury additional help is definitely needed. Thrasher asked about Englehaupt's condition and Cattani told her once he is cleared for surgery a minimum of 12-14 weeks is likely for his recovery and that is only if all goes well. Bezely will post the positions and we will accept applications until 5/31/2022. Liebe feels that 2 summer help is enough for what they can do. Martin wondered if we need to hire another full-time person to help out. Liebe stated we definitely need to hire a full-time position now before Doug retires which will be in the next 2-5 years. Liebe feels someone with line experience is necessary with an understanding that Village workers must do many jobs within the Village. Manning motion/Thrasher second to hire 2 summer help applicants for the Street Department and electrical department for \$13.00 per hour.

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

Announcements: Margherio mentioned that we had a businessman requesting a grant to fix up his Main Ave. business. He stated he didn't realize most towns' business grants come from their general fund. Margherio stated that next year he feels we should look at the Video Gaming Fees being set aside for this purpose. Margherio spoke with someone from LaSalle and they told him you give businesses even \$500 and you'll see a nicer downtown. The board agreed this would be great to figure out rules and allow businesses to apply for these grants. Manning mentioned setting up rules that depend on the total cost of the business improvements being a factor in how much we award them. It was discussed that perhaps 10% of the total cost could be awarded. i.e. \$5,000.00 renovation would get them \$500.00 in grant money from the Village. Bezely asked Manning if she could direct Chad Vaini to the IMEA electric efficiency application to get money for upgrading the lighting in his Main Ave. business. Discussion ensued and it was decided that this could possibly be a benefit to Vaini. Bezely told the board she contacted the railroad about the Cleveland Street Crossing being so rough and they indicated they would look into this. Bezely explained that utility bills will once again show Electric Usage and Power Cost Adjustment as 2 separate line items. This is necessary since the software can't automatically increase or decrease the electric rate by the PCA. This has to be done by hand and leaves too much room for error. Verbal and Blake suggested reinstating both line items. Bezely told the board the Army called regarding the Tank and Pac Howitzer being deeded to the American Legion and Village of Ladd respectively. There are changes in leadership within the Army and he asked if we would like to have them deeded the opposite of what they are. They both are needing to be maintained by the Village of Ladd & American Legion and remain in Monument Quality. The Army Corps of Engineers no longer paints these monuments or handles painting for monument recipients. Bezely was told that they are usually painted every 5 years. Bezely will contact the American Legion to see if they know who might be called to see if we can get them painted. Army-specific paint codes are needed to ensure they are painted exactly how they originally were. Atty. Barry stated unless the board would like to have the deeds changed he would leave them as is. He thought he remembered that the Tank had to be deeded to the American Legion because it was unable to be deeded to the Village. Bezely will contact people to see if a painter can be acquired. Bezely announced there is summer school and Heidi Templeton will continue to be crossing guard from 6-6-22 to 6-30-22. War Memorial Park was sprayed and fertilized by D&M Landscaping on May 17, 2022. BJ has time off June 4-12 for vacation. Mario has several days in June off for his sound production business due to being repeat jobs. BJ stated there

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will always be someone working in the public works department. He has rearranged his vacation to make sure. Bezely received a call from Casey's asking if the Village of Ladd would return to buying our fuel from them again. Bezely will get information for the next meeting so the board has all the information in front of them to make the best decision. Liebe stated that Casey's is no longer 24 hours and if the Village power goes out they close and are unable to get gas in Ladd. In addition, Liebe stated they won't unlock the doors to allow Village employees to get Village gas cards so they can go to Spring Valley Casey's to fill up in the event of a power outage.

Nelson motion/Margherio second to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk