

## July 12, 2022 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, July 12, 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 Dave Margherio, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, and Molly Thrasher (4)

Arrived @ 6:32 pm Manning (1)

Absent: Mike Urbanowski (1)

In attendance: Attorney Pat Barry, Attorney Colin Barry, Clerk Bezely, Asst. Superintendent Liebe, & Engineer Adam Ossola

Nelson motion/Margherio second to accept the June 28, 2022, regular meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher - Motion carried 4-0

Martin motion/Nelson second to authorize payment of the bills in the amount of \$45,035.58

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher - Motion carried 4-0

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports: Nelson & Margherio informed the council that the tree at 209 S Hennepin Ave is alive but hasn't been trimmed in a long time. Branches are falling out of it. It is a very large tree. There is overgrowth of this tree. There are no electric lines and no dead branches. The homeowner is welcome to get the tree trimmed but the Village only gets involved when the tree is dead or dead limbs are present. There is another tree on 108 N LaSalle Ave that is dead. BJ will drive by and look at them. BJ stated that the tree at 209 S Hennepin Ave is too big for the Village to handle.

Margherio reported on an issue at 805 E Cleveland St where storm sewer was put in by Pohar many years ago. It appears to be settling/sinking. They are concerned it is being undermined perhaps. BJ will have a look at this area.

Trustee Manning Arrived @ 6:32 pm

Mayor Cattani mentioned a sink hole in the alley behind the bank. When semi went through the bank alley there are wires left hanging by Kathy Closen's pool. Cattani asked BJ to go see what they wires are and then we need to contact the phone company or Comcast. Cattani told BJ the kids are pulling down the Christmas lights in the trees in War Memorial Park. They need to be pushed up higher so they can't be pulled out of the trees since they don't get taken down.

Engineer's Report: Ossola gave an update on the water main job. He is waiting on signed contracts to come back from Superior. The gas company has started their gas relocation in the alley. Ossola stated that he thinks the water main project should be started in mid-August. Cattani stated that we've had questions from the Business Owners on the watermain project. Ossola stated that Superior is going to need to work with them to inform them of the timeline and what to expect with the alley being closed so the businesses know how to handle deliveries, garbage, etc. Ossola stated that the Village needs to distribute the lead notice and perhaps another informational notice can be delivered along

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with the lead notice to help in explaining things. The Village is not aware of any lead lines to their knowledge. Discussion ensued on possible lead goosenecks and possible situations. Discussion also ensued about the people/businesses effected in the alley and keeping them informed about what is happening so they can make arrangements to accommodate these closings. Safe Routes to school. Ossola stated that he needs to know how the Village plans to pay for their 20% \$62, 500.00 plus the design engineering. Ossola explained we could use general funds or Motor Fuel Tax funds or ARPA funds. The council decided ARPA funds would be ideal for this project. The 2<sup>nd</sup> payment should be coming in the fall therefore we will plan to allocate it to the Safe Routes to School Project. Ossola stated that the Safe Routes to School Project won't bid until Spring of 2023.

Superintendent's Report: Liebe reported on the big water leak this past Sunday. 260,000 gallons was lost in the leak. This leak has been fixed. It affected our water customers north of the Main Ave railroad tracks. Stop signs are going up on Cleveland St as soon as they come in. Stop ahead signs were also ordered. Manning asked for the update on the truck. Liebe stated that the inspection hasn't been completed yet. Englehardt is still working on this. Thrasher asked about Doug's status. He is in therapy but won't be back until possibly September. The public works job opening is posted on Indeed. We've received approximately 17 resumes. Cattani stated that Englehardt will review them all first. Martin thanked Liebe for fixing the power outage last week. Manning told Bezely that the banners on the Village Hall look very nice. Bezely stated that she would like to see them stay up until September.

Police Chief: Chief Frund was not able to attend. He asked Bezely to announce that he and Sarosinski will be selling hot dogs, chips, and lemonade at the Convoy Against Cancer Big Truck Show from 10 a – 3 pm to raise money for school programs or after-school programs for Ladd students.

Building Inspector: None

Village Attorney: Atty Pat Barry stated he is still waiting on the signed contract for 336 S Main Ave. Bauer is having an inspection on July 20, 2022. Barry expects to receive the signed contract soon because it is subject to the inspection and financing.

New Business: 134 N Hennepin Ave - an offer was presented for \$7,000.00. Cattani reminded the council that we have approximately \$12,000.00 in it. Margherio feels it's best to just get rid of it since we have to maintain it and it costs us money every month. Cattani suggested a counter offer. The council agreed and decided to counter offer \$10,000.00 since we have \$12,000.00 in it. Many Ladd builders were contacted and offered information on this lot. It is a 50 x 125 standard Village lot.

Unfinished Business: CD renewals - The Sewerage Fund EPA CD matures on July 31, 2022. The council asked if we could obtain updated rates for the July 26, 2022 meeting and will decide then how they would like to proceed.

Carbon Solutions Partnership - The council feels we need a face-to-face meeting with at least (1) representative from Carbon Solutions and the rest of their team available via zoom. We need to determine the location and number of EV Charging stations along with the cost to get the power to these chargers. From a Village standpoint we need to know what our involvement will be financially.

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New Business: Audit- Kim Bird, CPA from Hopkins & Associates completed the FY 22 audit for the Village of Ladd. Audit reports were distributed to the council. She reviewed pertinent information and invited the council to ask questions. Bird pointed out the General Fund being increased due to additional tax revenue. Bird reminded the council the 1<sup>st</sup> ARPA payment was put in the water fund to help with the cost of the water main replacement. Her overall findings were very positive. The general fund has \$230,000.00 in cash increase in the general fund but Bird pointed out that \$119,000.00 is from restricted accounts which makes it restricted. She highlighted the water, sewer, electric, recreation funds and offered information as to their balances. Over all our cash increase for FY22 is \$428,000.00 which \$81,000.00 is ARPA funds. Bird told the board she thinks an operating budget would be worth giving a try again. Streets and police have requested a budget to know how to plan equipment updating and know that they are managing a department that is both effective and up to date with materials and equipment. The council feels if Bezely can make time to implement this they would be open to an operating budget being followed.

Manning motion/Thrasher second to approve the Financial Audit for FY 2022 Presented by Kim Bird of Hopkins & Associates

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

Close Village Clerks Office September 15 & 16, 2022 Bezely requested that she and Koch attend the Civic Symposium in Wisconsin Dells for training on the Village Software

Nelson motion/Thrasher second to give permission to close the Village Clerk's Office for training on September 15 & 16, 2022.

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

Add Class A Liquor License Margherio asked why there is a limit on liquor license. Atty. Pat Barry stated this helps control the number of establishments in your town that are allowed to serve liquor. Margherio presented a scenario regarding adding liquor licenses when needed. It was agreed that when a business completes an application requesting a liquor license they can come before the board and at that moment the board can decide to issue the license and increase the number of Class A licenses allowed in the Village of Ladd at that time. The addition of the Class A Liquor Licenses has had no action at this meeting.

Announcements: Margherio provided an update on the coffee shop. He stated they are working hard to remodel topnotch. The side of the building has been sided and paint has been started on the north side of the building. Martin asked if Bezely was aware of the situation with the Stalk Market. Bezely isn't sure when they are planning to open. Bezely asked the council to look at the sidewalk leading up to the entrance to the Clerk's Office that is uneven and difficult to navigate for people using walkers or wheelchairs. We can rediscuss next meeting. Bezely told the board that BJ is planning to get the chicken put up on Main Avenue before the Big Truck Show. Bezely asked the council if they would consider purchasing (2) \$50 gift cards from Ladd Businesses on Main Avenue because she would like to have a sign placed by the Chicken that states to "take a selfie with the Chicken and Tag the Village of Ladd for a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate from a Main Avenue business quarterly." The council told Bezely to give this a try for the last 2 quarters of 2022 and we'll see how it goes. Bezely asked the Council if she could purchase ribbon and scissors to use in the upcoming business grand openings and she was told yes. Bezely showed the council pictures of Curt Frund's yard after the July 4<sup>th</sup> heavy

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rain. He has requested that with the water main replacement something might be able to be done to keep water from flooding his yard. Pictures were given to Engineer Ossola and he will see what possibly could be added extra to our water main replacement project due to begin in a month or so to help alleviate the problem. Bezely told the council that it was mentioned that War Memorial Park should be rolled, as the ground is uneven when walking due to vehicles and trucks pulling into the park. Bezely stated that Mike Gennin from the IMEA stopped by and a discussion regarding having a generator at the Community Center in an effort to offer a cooling center if a rolling blackout occurs was mentioned. This will be decided once the future of the Community Center is known. Bezely asked if a survey would be necessary for 134 N. Hennepin Ave. and the council feels that it is not. Bezely told the council that she typed up rules and an application for the Village Façade Grant program that the council will review and see if they would like any changes made. This will be on the next agenda and notice of the Façade grant will be given in the August utility bill mailing to all Main Avenue Commercial Businesses. It was decided that Bezely will contact the school and see if there can be a contest to allow the kids to name the chicken.

Thrasher motion/Nelson second to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk