

2022-07-26 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

In attendance: Attorney Pat Barry, Clerk Bezely, Engineer Adam Ossola, Police Chief Jacob Frund, and Treasurer Julie Koch.

Thrasher motion/Nelson second to accept the July 12, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

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

Martin motion/Margherio second to authorize payment of the bills in the amount of \$123,364.13

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

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

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

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Roy "Skip" Lewis of Ladd spoke to the council about the difficulty he is having picking up his mail on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday's after work which is around 6 pm. He stated that due to residents who live in apartments on Main Avenue and the restaurant patrons he cannot get a parking place on Main Ave. so he can run in and grab his mail. Skip would like a parking spot for quick pickup of mail. President Cattani mentioned that perhaps he could park in the back of the Post Office and walk around to get his mail. He will consider doing that in the future.

Brad Nicholson of Ladd addressed concerns to the council regarding EV Charging stations and the Village's financial involvement. Nicholson stated that he has concerns about the company that is interested in partnering with the Village of Ladd to bring EV charging stations. Nicholson stated that if he understands correctly, the Village will at their own expense (approximately \$30,000.00), supply the land, and the infrastructure to the sight, and maintain the site cosmetically and mechanically except for the machines themselves. Who will cut the grass, move the snow, and make sure there is no ice to slip and fall on? What are people to do while their vehicle charges? Do we need to supply restroom facilities? Who will maintain the facilities? Will we need to make sure at 2 am they are working? What happens in 3 years if the company goes belly up? Nicholson is questioning why the company is not talking to Casey's, Dollar General, or another business that is open long hours. He feels \$30,000.00 is better spent on Main Avenue helping businesses improve their buildings, etc. Nicholson was concerned if we do this for Carbon Solutions and then a truck stop comes in and they want us to help them get set up are we going to do that. Manning addressed Nicholson that we appreciate all his facts and will certainly take this information and discuss it with Carbon Solutions when they come to discuss the partnership with the Village of Ladd to bring EV Charging stations to the Village.

Committee Reports: Nelson reported that the sidewalk application he received he went and looked at it. The sidewalk needs replacement. Nelson informed the council that he took the Pack Howitzer over to PC Painting to be sandblasted and painted.

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Engineer's Report: Ossola reviewed a change order request for the alley water main project. There is really no change to the cost. It will only be directional drilling which will place more cost on piping and less cost on backfill and trenching. They're wondering since it would be just changing the line item figures but no increase in the cost to directional drill would the Village allow them to do this. Ossola reached out to the grant people and the IEPA making sure they were okay with this if the Village goes ahead and allows the change order and they seemed okay with granting this request. The Village could look at it as the project could move quicker and there would be less destruction of the alley. President Cattani wanted to make sure they will still resurface the alleys as originally noted in the bid. Ossola stated the pipe will be a little more costly because a special pipe is needed to be able to pull it through. Manning asked if the new/special pipe will delay the project and Ossola stated they checked and the special pipe is available.

Manning motion/Urbanowski second to Approve a Change Order to Directionally Bore the project decreasing the Alley Water Main Project by \$12.00.

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

Superintendent's Report: None

Police Chief: Chief Frund reported that he put up orange flags and reflective tape on the stop signs on West Cleveland and Central Ave. People were happy to see these newly added stop signs. It was decided we don't need to add stop signs at Western Avenue. The speed sign is coming tomorrow from the Village of Mark. Frund will decide where to position it and move it around as he feels necessary. Schedules have been filled. Resident Loren Bird came in and thanked Frund for addressing the loud trucks and speeding. He feels things have really improved with police presence. Approximately \$500.00 was collected by the Police Department food stand at the Convoy Against Cancer Truck Show. A donation was given to Cancer and the rest was placed in a fund to purchase some in-school and after-school programs. Numerous grants have been submitted. Thrasher asked Frund if they would like to do anything at the Farmers Market for back to school.

President Cattani informed the board that vandalism is still happening at both park restrooms. Vandals are clogging toilets and sinks with toilet paper and pea gravel. He suggests getting 2 porta potties and a hand wash station at both parks and keeping the restrooms locked. Cameras are in the park but it can't be determined who is vandalizing. The restrooms are open on Monday for Farmers Market and on weekends. The board feels they should be open for requested events only and try the porta potties.

Inspector's Report: None

Village Attorney: Atty. Barry discussed the Appropriation Ordinance. The board was provided copies in their packets. Barry reviewed the line items that were increased or decreased and the reason why they were changed. Barry told the board we added line items in all funds that use electricity so they could pay back the electric fund. This was part of the Electric Study done this year. Barry reminded the board that if you haven't appropriated for things you cannot spend the money even if a grant is received so forward thinking was necessary. Nelson mentioned speaking with Gary Marini regarding our soldier at the monument. There is concern it needs to be revisited to be sure we are doing what we are supposed to do to keep it from deteriorating. Bezely will locate the file on the Monument.

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Manning motion/Martin second to Pass An Ordinance Providing for the Annual Appropriation of Sums of Money for the necessary expenditures of the Village of Ladd, Bureau County IL for 2022-2023 Fiscal Year.

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

New Business: 336 S Main Ave Sale Atty. Barry told the board the buyers have signed everything they need to sign. It is subject to financing approval and inspection, which was done last Wednesday, July 20, 2022. The closing is set for mid-August. We need to adopt a resolution authorizing the sale of this property.

Margherio motion/Urbanowski second to Adopt a Resolution to Authorize the Sale of 336 S Main Ave. in Ladd.

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

Manning asked where we are at with the study on the 3 buildings the Village owns. The study showed which building would be best to move the clerk's office to. President Cattani stated the board needs to decide if they want to move to the community center. Do we want to keep the kitchen? Do we still want to have space for a meeting room? Ossola stated we would have to bring the kitchen up to code. Margherio stated we need to discuss needs and wants. Thrasher asked about the current office at 121 N Main Ave. We will hold off until 336 S Main is closed and then move to the next step.

Unfinished Business: CD's CD rates were received from North Central Bank. Sewerage EPA CD is due 7-31-2022. There is a 10-day grace period but Bezely needs direction on renewing.

Urbanowski motion/Margherio second to renew the Sewerage EPA CD for 1 year at the rate we receive from North Central Bank when Bezely calls on Wednesday to see if there was an increase in rates.

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

Façade Grant Application Atty. Colin Barry told Bezely that this application looked fine. Bezely asked the board if we could place applications in all Main Avenue Businesses utility bills on the first of August when new bills are mailed. The board felt this would be a great way to notify the businesses of the grant availability.

Manning motion/Martin second to Approve the Village of Ladd Façade Grant Guidelines and Application for Main Avenue Businesses with a Maximum of (3) \$500.00 grants annually.

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

124 N Hennepin Ave Bezely contacted Mr. Fuentes, after the July 12th meeting, with the help of a translator to counter offer \$10,000.00. She explained the Village had \$12,000.00 into this lot and was hoping to get \$10,000.00 minimum for the lot. Fuentes stated he would try to get more money and call the Village back. Bezely did not hear back so she had her translator call him this afternoon and see if he had any luck getting more money together and he stated his bid remained at \$7,000.00 due to his financial situation. Margherio asked Bezely if Zillow was an option. Bezely will look into this website.

New Business: Approve Liquor License Nelson motion/Martin second to approve Class A Liquor Licenses for Cancun, Inc., SBT Jeppson, Inc. DBA Dick's Tap, Rips Tavern 2 (subject to receiving Insurance) and Softails, Inc. Class B Liquor License for Casey's Retail Company DBA Casey's General Store. Class C Liquor License for Loyal Order of Moose. Class D Liquor License for Ladd Lanes, Inc.

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Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski - Motion carried 6-0
Public Works Applicants: This will be done in Executive Session.

Announcements: Martin gave Bezely a bravo regarding our new chicken. It has brought a lot of free publicity to the Village of Ladd. Bezely informed the council Loren Bird ground the stump on Brush Ave. Bezely told him great job and don't forget to drop off his bill. He said it was easy and at no charge. Bezely thanked him. Ladd Senior Village told us they have 19 currently moved in and 1 more coming this week. There are approximately 11 applications that still need 1 or 2 more documents to move them forward. Bezely asked about the boards' feelings on the elevation changes in the sidewalk up to the clerk's office. They feel we will hold off for now. 336 S Main downstairs renter had an issue with her drain in the bathtub. It was fixed by a plumber and she requested the price to replace the existing toilet with an ADA height toilet. She will decide if she would like to invest in this since the current toilet is working. A seat rise was mentioned. Bezely will call her and let her know this possible option. Gift Certificates for the quarterly drawing were discussed and it was decided the 3rd quarter drawing will be a \$50 gift certificate to Rocker Bye Boutique! We will make them aware and once it is redeemed the Village will pay Rocker Bye Boutique. A sign needs to be added to the check telling people to take their selfie and tag the Village of Ladd to be in the quarterly drawing! Bezely will work on this. Bezely told the board about complaints from residents regarding Republic Services. Residents are frustrated with the garbage man throwing cans right in people's driveways and right in their way backing out of their drives. They are also inconsiderate of residents' cans. They are expensive and residents feel they throw them and they are cracked. Interest in getting Republic trash and recycling cans has definitely increased. A resident asked if the Village should consider a garbage can on the north side of the chicken and benches to eliminate possible problems with trash. Bezely asked the board to take a look at the "old furniture store" front. It is pulling away from the rest of the building. This may need to have a structural engineer give his opinion again. Bethany Kirk from Carbon Solutions will be at our next meeting on August 9th to discuss partnering with the Village to bring EV Charging stations into the Village of Ladd. We have gotten input from the IMEA to help with determining if a company's contracts are allowed when Villages and towns belong to the IMEA. The IMEA's knowledge will be very helpful at the meeting on 8/9/2022. The IMEA reps will likely attend via zoom also. There will also be a representative from Stratus Networks regarding a partnership with the Village to bring in fiberoptic broadband. This should be allowed with our franchise agreement with Comcast. Bezely stated that she put on the bottom of the utility bills to submit their "name" for the chicken. She will compile a list and the board can decide at the September meeting. Thrasher thanked President Cattani for allowing the guys to pick up brush from the last storms. Cattani told the board the dump truck broke down just as they finished picking up the brush.

Margherio motion/Martin second to adjourn regular session and go into executive session 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) meetings to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees at 7:48 pm.

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

Returned from Executive Session to Regular Session at 8:18 pm.

Roll Call: Present: Trustees Jim Manning, Dave Margherio, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, Molly Thrasher, Mike Urbanowski (6)

Atty. Barry mentioned Habitat funds that may be directed toward Ladd residents in need of help.

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Thrasher asked about the bucket truck we are no longer using once our newly purchased truck arrives. There are rules about selling surplus municipal property. This will be reviewed by Atty. Barry and advertised in the future.

Thrasher motion/Nelson second to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk