

August 9, 2022 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, August 9, 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, and Mike Urbanowski (6)

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

Thrasher motion/Margherio second to accept July 26, 2022, regular meeting minutes as presented.

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

Nelson motion/Martin second to authorize payment of the bills in the amount of \$58,915.83

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

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports: Recreation committee – Thrasher reported hiring the Hocus Pocus Hags for the Halloween Parade & Party which will be held on October 30th

Engineer's Report: Ossola gave an update on the water main project. Ossola stated that the Ameren gas line replacement project is approximately 1 week from completion and Superior plans to be in Ladd to start in 2-3 weeks. Ossola told the council that the pre-construction meeting is set for Thursday, August 11, 2022, at the Village Hall at 11 am.

Superintendent's Report: Liebe updated the council on the bucket truck purchase from Texas. The truck did not pass inspection. The dealership has returned our deposit. We are back at square one trying to find a used truck. Discussion ensued about whether or not a new truck was authorized to be ordered. It was not. It was decided that Liebe should contact Drake Scruggs regarding a chassis. Also, look into the possibility of using our existing truck (with the bad boom) as the chassis for a new truck since finding a "truck" to build on is the problem. Liebe was also told to check back with Drake Scruggs and other truck dealers to see if we can get a new truck ordered ASAP. Liebe was also directed to find a new truck even if it is too tall for our existing garage because a lean-to was an option to cover the truck.

Cattani stated the RR Crossing at East Cleveland will be closed from 8-13-22 to 8-16-22. It will be reopened on the evening of 8-16-22. This is before school begins on 8-17-2022.

Police Chief: Chief Frund had nothing to report and asked the council if they had any questions or concerns. Thrasher stated the camper on South Selby is an issue. All other residents have had to move their campers. Frund will look into this.

Building Inspector: None

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Village Attorney: Atty Pat Barry distributed the Resolution approving the sale of 336 S. Main Avenue. He stated that we may be in a position to close on this property before the next meeting. Everything is going well. The appraised value was \$175,000.00.

Urbanowski motion/Martin second to Approve the resolution to sell the property at 336 N Main Ave in Ladd, Bureau County, IL

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

Atty Pat Barry distributed the Ordinance authorizing the placement of stop signs on West Cleveland. In order to fully authorize these stop signs so they are enforceable, you have to adopt an ordinance to do that.

Martin motion/Manning second to Adopt the Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the erection of Stop Signs in both the Easterly and Westerly directions of Cleveland street at its intersection with Central Avenue in the Village of Ladd, Bureau County, IL

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

Nays: Nelson

Old Business: Carbon Solutions: Bethany Kirk addressed the council with a brief description of Carbon Solutions' company background and what the plan being offered to Ladd is. They are offering to install (2) 50 KW stations at 303 S Central Avenue which is the Community Center empty lot. There is no risk to the Village of Ladd by partnering with them. Carbon Solutions takes care of all capital, development, installation, and maintenance of each station. They take care of all engineering, architecture, permitting, and infrastructure. She explained payment scenarios for EV users. She entertained questions. The proposal 10-year cost savings would be \$140,000.00 which would provide no risk to the Village. The 20-year revenue share would be \$30,000.00 for the Village. Atty. Barry asked if this would only happen if it gets above a certain usage. Kirk explained this will begin at 5% and increases over time after EVs hit the road. The more usage the higher the return. Cattani asked who maintains the station. Carbon solutions will maintain it. It was asked who does snow removal. Matt who attended via google meet stated that they would ask the Village to remove snow like on other Village-owned properties. Carbon Solutions Group is responsible for all maintenance of the charging stations. They contract OEM warranties until they expire then they have contractors that maintain the stations. This all falls on Carbon Solutions. Matt stated that they are not exclusive to any OEM. The majority of their stations installed to date are Charge Point and ABB. Urbanowski asked if the charging stations would be lit up. There is an option to add lighting to the area if needed. Manning asked about the closest units they have in place. Matt gave background on the company. Carbon Solutions began in Chicago in 2006. They are focusing on the carbon markets. They are a sustainability-focused company. Their core business remains environmental attributes or carbon credits. They are one of the top 3 wholesalers of these credits in the US. The EV charging business is linked to carbon credits. That is their approach to the business. The EV business is loosely headquartered in San Diego. Matt continued to explain their company accomplishments. They are currently, for the past 3 months, with Beth leading power originating efforts in Illinois. They are focused on Illinois because it is their home state along with the many incentives available in Illinois. Urbanowski asked for the closest charging station to Ladd. Bethany responded East Dundee is probably the closest to Ladd. Atty Barry asked Bethany if she realized that Ladd is a member of the IMEA. He explained that no one can buy power in Ladd except from the Village of Ladd. Rod Whelpley attended via Google Meet and explained that there would need to be a discussion on how this would need to work in order not to invite other possible companies to try to sell power in Ladd. Ladd needs to weigh the

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risks and rewards of the proposal from Carbon Solutions. The IMEA is happy to assist in this. IMEA will work with the Village and Carbon Solutions to clear up some issues. Matt stated they are more than willing to work with IMEA and the Village to go about this which may be to sell power by the minute and not by kWh. Matt stated they have had constraints with other areas and worked through these and installed chargers. Matt stated that they would need a year's leeway to iron out things until the station is energized. Atty Barry explained to the board that they would sell the service of charging by the minute. They would not charge by the kWh. It would be up to the council to decide if it is worth risking someone wanting to buy power from someone other than the Village. We need to consider the benefits as opposed to the risk. Bethany stated that Chargepoint chargers charge the driver. There is one located at JP Chevrolet in Peru.

New Business: Stratus Networks: Tyler Evans from Stratus Networks addressed the council. He explained that they would like to partner with the Village of Ladd to see if there is an interest in bringing Fiber optic Broadband to the Village of Ladd for an option other than Frontier or Comcast for internet and phone. They have been in business since 1999 in Peoria IL. They have their own construction company for installation which alleviates dealing with many companies in the mix. It is 100% underground. There is no aerial installation. Stratus usually approaches smaller communities that are underserved and usually only have 1 other company for internet or phone availability. This allows them to help communities to have a 2nd option. They first start with surveys to residents to help see if there is a need or interest to bring fiber to a Village. The Village seemed very interested in Tyler's presentation and feel a survey would be a good start to assess the situation. Tyler stated that some communities contribute funds to help get broadband to their community sooner. Generally, stratus runs the fiber optic broadband to the easement and as people request it be brought to their house they install that line. Nelson asked about the fiber size. Harris, said they use 14 gauge trace wire. He explained how this benefits customers and Villages. Manning asked if this would be in addition to Comcast. Harris stated yes, this would be the 2nd option for residents. Stratus prides themselves on the redundancy that they have built-in, to not lose a whole town or village all at once if there was a cut in the fiber line. Harris states that they have great customer service and education for residents on how to have television stations without needing a set-top box like Comcast. Regarding our franchise agreement, Comcast requires notification before we go into a business relationship with Stratus Networks. Harris explained cost approximations are 1 gig up and 1 gig down \$80 monthly, step downs could be 500-600 Mb \$60 monthly, next would be 200-250 Mb up and down in the \$35-40 monthly range. Business would have 10 gigs per second. Stratus Networks would take care of everything if they move forward with a partnership with the Village of Ladd. They contact JULIE and take care of everything. Manning is asking more questions regarding partnership and money involvement. Some areas have ARPA funds available to put towards broadband. Sometimes Villages help distribute flyers, and information on Stratus Networks to help get the word out this helps get 30% or more residents interested which increases the possibility of getting fiber optic in your town. Bezely will reach out to get information on a survey to distribute to residents with the next utility bill mailing. They currently don't require any signed contract to commit to fiber optic installation.

Wages for Elected/Appointed Officials: The 3 trustee positions that are up for election in April 2023 will automatically be increased to \$150.00 monthly pay per ordinance #1091. The appointed positions of Treasurer and Building Inspector remain at \$100.00 monthly pay at this time.

Thrasher motion/Martin second to increase the Appointed Positions of Treasurer and Building Inspector to \$150.00 monthly after the April 2023 election.

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

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Link Media Request for Tree Removal: The council was not in favor of removing the tree on Main Avenue which obstructs the view of the billboard on the side of Dick's Tap. They would prefer that Link Media move the billboard to the west. They feel the tree is part of the Village's streetscape.

Football Ad: The council was not in favor of placing an ad in the News Tribune, BCR, and Ottawa Times.

Announcements: Bezely contacted Gary Marini regarding maintenance that needs to be done on the Soldier at War Memorial Park. He will obtain a list of maintenance from the company that restored the soldier and the costs and get that to Bezely. The lot at 124 N. Hennepin Ave. was placed on Zillow at no cost and there have been lots of looks but no bids. Eric Mixon provided a bid on the lot of \$8,000.00 but it must allow him to park his RV on this lot or he rescinds his bid. The Village code in an R1 or R2 district does not allow his RV to be parked on the lot in the Village of Ladd. Bezely will contact Mixon. Bezely explained what transpired after the last meeting where she was told to get portable restrooms for both parks but allow the Farmers Market, any pavilion rentals, or Pickleball nights to be able to use the bathrooms in the park. I explained to Cattani that this impacts a lot on my office. Scheduling cleaning of the bathrooms, getting keys to people, making sure we get them back, checking the bathrooms for vandalism while they were open. So Cattani stated to just lock them up. Only porta potties will be used. The farmers market wanted the park bathrooms open and so do pickleball and families that have events in the pavilions. Discussion ensued and it was decided to keep them locked up until next year and only use porta potties. Next February it will be placed on the agenda to revisit this situation. Manning suggested metal toilets, sinks, etc. in an effort to have a bathroom that isn't easily vandalized. Bezely told the council a trash can as we have on Main Ave is \$564.44 from Wausau Tile Company. Bezely mentioned the number of renters cars on Main Ave in the 100 block of North Main. It was decided to reach out to the landlord and ask her to have her residents park over by the empty lot at the bank or on a side street during working hours of the businesses on that block. Bezely asked the council what they would like to do with the old furniture store and they will take no action at this time. Bezely and Liebe mentioned a possible change that may want to be considered to the Net Metering Policy regarding backup batteries being allowed and if so what size and their location needs to be included on the application for Net Metering along with the interconnection agreement. Atty. Barry will look into this and report back.

Martin motion/Thrasher 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 8:13 pm.

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

Returned from Executive Session to Regular Session at 8:30 pm.

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

Martin motion/Urbanowski second to hire Colton Corsolini as Public Works utilityman at \$20.60 per hour subject to him obtaining his CDL license within 1 year.

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

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Margherio asked if we could please call the other 3 applicants that were interviewed and let them know they were not selected. Bezely will contact them tomorrow. It was mentioned to let them know we may possibly be hiring another employee in the near future and would like to have them apply again.

Nelson motion/Margherio second to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk