

November 28, 2023 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, in the Village Hall. Village President, Frank Cattani called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. Happy Birthday was sung to Atty. Pat Barry.

Roll Call: Present: Trustees Dave Margherio, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, Brad Nicholson, Andy Ruggerio, and Molly Thrasher (6)

In attendance: Clerk Rhonda Bezely, Police Chief Jacob Frund, Engineer Adam Ossola, Building Inspector Barry Flanagan, Atty. Pat Barry

Thrasher motioned/Margherio second to accept the November 14, 2023, regular meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher - Motion carried 6-0

Martin motioned/Nicholson second to authorize payment of the bills in the amount of \$135,084.22

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher - Motion carried 6-0

Ruggerio motioned/Nelson second to accept the Treasurer's Report for October 2023.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher - Motion carried 6-0

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports: Ruggerio reported he has no update on the flag poles to be added at War Memorial Park.

Engineer's Report: Ossola asked the council about the DCEO project which is the Main Avenue sidewalk replacement. They need the Village to pay for the project and then be reimbursed by the DCEO. You can request a cash advance but Ossola doesn't feel this would be worth the work it would require, as it is only for approximately 1 month of work, or \$15,000.00 advancement. The council felt there was not an advantage to the cash advance; therefore they will plan to pay for the project and then be reimbursed by DCEO.

Old Business: Future Location of Village Hall & Clerk's Office: Ossola distributed a drawing of the proposed Village Clerk's Office, Village Hall, and Police Department. Discussion and ideas for several areas ensued. Everyone felt it was very nice. Ossola will put together a cost estimate on this design since the council approved the layout.

Nelson questioned the paper in his packet regarding Disaster Training. Bezely stated that this was sent out to inform the elected and appointed officials that they are required to take this training. This will be very important if we experience a disaster in Ladd. Frund explained that he would be handling the Disaster Plan for the Village of Ladd. We belong to ILLEAS and in a disaster, they will bring in trailers, and equipment to assist Ladd in whatever may be needed.

General Superintendent: Not in attendance

Police Chief: Frund reported several traffic stops and a hit-and-run recently. Frund got to use the new online accident reporting system. Margherio asked how the weekend night staffing is. Frund stated they are all covered. The only difficulty is when Bureau County Officers are mandated they

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have to call off in Ladd in which Frund picks up the shift. The flock camera is what alerts the majority of the tickets to be written. This camera is instrumental in most of Ladd's tickets that are issued. Frund stated that a couple more cameras would be ideal. One to the north as people come into Ladd and then one at the east entry into Ladd off of Plank Road. This has produced approximately 20 tickets in the last couple of weeks. Frund stated that costs to purchase Flock cameras are forecasted to increase by approximately \$5,000.00 next year. Nelson requested the possible purchase of additional Flock Cameras be placed on the agenda for our next council meeting on December 12, 2023. The Flock Camera cost \$2,850.00 in June of 2022. The annual service contract is \$2,500.00.

Building Inspector: Flanagan was in attendance to assist with the building permit for 201 S. Main Avenue. Flanagan thought there was an ordinance stating that building fronts had stipulations. Atty. Barry didn't feel that there was anything in the code. The council can request that the front is two different materials or colors.

Ruggerio motioned/Thrasher second to Approve the Building Permit and Waive All Fees: Building permit, water tap, and meter fee, and electric service fee for 201 S. Main Avenue Subject to the Council's Final Approval of Design Choices.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher - Motion carried 6-0

Mario Data submitted an application for a Façade Grant on his building. This needs to happen within 90 days of approval. We will renew the Grant if the weather doesn't permit meeting the 90-day requirement.

Margherio motioned/Nelson second to Approve the Façade Grant of \$500.00 for 201 S. Main Avenue.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher - Motion carried 6-0

Village Attorney: New Business: FY24 Levy: Atty. Barry explained the 5% increase to the Levy which comes out to an increase of \$21,004.00 and how funds with caps were increased their maximum allowance and then the other funds were increased based on discussing each fund with Bezely and Koch. Atty. Barry explained the process to the council.

Nelson motioned/Martin second to Pass an Ordinance for the Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2023, and ending April 30, 2024, for the Village of Ladd, Bureau County, IL.

Ayes: Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Margherio, Martin, Ruggerio, and President Cattani - Motion carried 7-0

Atty. Barry informed the council that the IMEA is having an informational meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Uptown at 5:30 pm Cocktails and Horsd'ouvers and the business meeting starts at 6:30 pm. All council members agreed to attend. There will be a lot of information presented along with the IMEA discussing our contract expiration date in 2035 in hopes of getting a commitment from the Village to extend this contract.

New Business: 2024 Meeting Dates: Ruggerio asked if the 12/26/2024 meeting could be moved to Friday, 12/27/24 which did not work for the Attorney or several council members.

Nicholson motioned/Thrasher second to Approve the 2024 Meeting Dates as presented

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher - Motion carried 5-1

Nays: Ruggerio

Employee Holiday Bonuses: The council discussed increasing bonuses to \$125 so employees get approximately \$100 after taxes since the bonuses are added to employee's pay.

Nelson motioned/Martin second to give employees Corsolini, Data, Englehaupt, Liebe, Frund, Koch, Sarosinski, and Templeton a \$125.00 Holiday Bonus this year.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Ruggerio, Thrasher - Motion carried 6-0

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Announcements: Nicholson asked if we have a pole attachment agreement with Comcast and Bezely stated yes, they pay \$3,600.00 annually to attach to our 300 poles. Nicholson stated that he would still be very interested in attracting a fiberoptic broadband company and thought it may be more financially attractive if a company could attach to our poles. Bezely stated that she hopes to reach out to Stratus and Surf in January 2024 to see if she can convince them to attend a meeting to discuss bringing fiber to Ladd.

IML PUBLICATIONS: Bezely asked if the council had any interest in any of the publications she included an order form in their packets. WEBSITE: Bezely mentioned possible cost savings on website hosting and help through a different vendor next year. DISASTER PLAN: Bezely explained the insert in packets regarding disaster planning and informed the board that as elected officials they are to complete training through <https://ema.bureaucounty-il.gov/nims/> FEMA ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-700 and ICS-800. OSF PERU BREAKFAST: Bezely told the council that she and President Cattani attended the breakfast sponsored by OSF regarding the Peru Hospital. She stated they attended in support of 10/33 Ambulance. They were recently asked to send a letter of support to AJ Querciagrossa CEO of OSF explaining how revenue loss has been substantial due to OSF contracting with Stark County EMS; therefore, 10/33 Ambulance does not get called to transfer patients like they used to when St. Margaret's and IVCH were operating. Bezely explained what they found out today. She also mentioned possible scenarios to help 10/33 Ambulance based on a discussion with the owner of Stark County EMS. He has reached out to Bob Hoscheid director of 10/33 in hopes of a conversation to try to navigate this issue. GARBAGE CARTS: The council asked if residents are happy with the 65-gallon carts. I told her no, people have called and said they are no smaller than the other ones which is unfortunate. It was not easy, the way that Republic went about cart delivery. Several businesses in Ladd have moved away from Republic for their dumpster service. DECEMBER PUBLIC MEETING: NCICG will be attending our December 12, 2023 meeting. A Public Meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. We will be notifying 32 residents who submitted surveys for the Housing Program Grant in hopes that we get 10 people to attend. We will attempt to reach out to residents to make sure we get at least 10 people to attend.

Thrasher motioned/Margherio second to adjourn.

Ayes: Margherio, Martin, Nicholson, Nelson, Ruggerio, Thrasher - Motion carried 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk