

## OCTOBER 28, 2025 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, in the Ladd Village Hall at 121 N. Main Avenue. Village President Frank Cattani called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

**Roll Call:** Present: Trustees Patrick Flanagan, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, Brad Nicholson, Molly Thrasher, and Bernie Victor (6)

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

Nicholson motioned/Martin seconded to accept the October 14, 2025, regular meeting & special meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor - Motion carried.

Nelson motioned/Thrasher seconded, to authorize payment of the bills of \$169,392.29

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor - Motion carried.

Victor motioned/Flanagan seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2025.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor - Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** A thank-you note was read from Project Success for the donation to the Hall Township Food Pantry for Holiday Meals

**Public Comment:** None

**Committee Report:** Thrasher reported the **Halloween Parade** was very nice. The Hocus Pocus Hags requested that the \$250.00 we pay them be donated to the Ladd PTO.

Nelson and Victor reported that the tree and sidewalk on the Iowa Ave side of 419 E. Locust Street will be removed by the public works department. Cattani sprayed fluorescent paint on the amount of sidewalk that needs to be removed and replaced so Englehaupt can schedule this work. President Cattani would like to see the \$10,000.00 allocated for sidewalks spent 50% on the West side of Town and 50% on the East side of Town. Nicholson feels we may want to just replace the most dangerous sidewalks no matter where they are located in town.

**Village Engineer: New Business: Consider Pay Estimate and Change Order for Main Avenue**

**Sidewalks:** Ossola stated the Main Avenue sidewalk project got patches done this week and will finish up the dirt work on Friday of this week. Ossola explained that he has prepared a pay request for work that is complete on the Main Avenue sidewalk project \$81,056.77. He also said that Change Order #1 is to adjust quantities of items that have changed, which resulted in a net deduction of -\$4,505.30. This credit amount will remain on the project until final billing is submitted. If there is money left over, we can plan to do another block to use the rest of the money. Once all the patching is completed, we will know better what amount of money may be left, and we can select another section of sidewalk to replace.

Victor motioned/Martin seconded to approve the partial pay application for \$81,056.77 with a change order, which is a net deduction of -\$4,505.30 for the Ladd Main Avenue sidewalk project.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor – Motion carried.

**General Superintendent:** Not in Attendance

**Police Chief:** Chief Frund would like to request closure of Route 89 next year for the Halloween walk and parade. There are quite a few children, and processing down Route 89 without it being shut down is not a good idea. Chief Frund updated the council on issues he's been having with the squad cars. The 2020 squad was just a battery issue. He mentioned that in the future, a new squad car will need to be purchased. The Step Grant is underway, and it provides a new Lidar, which is the latest in traffic enforcement. Frund also mentioned that police calls have increased lately. Frund asked how much force he should use to get the arbor vitae trees at 407 N. Chicago Ave. cut back so they do not block the alley. A fire truck or other Village truck can make it down this alley due to the major overgrowth of these trees. Cattani stated this needs to be resolved. Frund will send a letter and follow-up to make sure this work gets done immediately.

**Building Inspector:** Flanagan requested clarification on a couple of building permits. He explained to Atty. Barry, the situations. The first one was about a permit requiring three variances. Barry explained the situation. It was determined that only 1 variance fee would be required, with all 3 reductions in setbacks should be explained on the one variance form, and only one \$300.00 fee will be required. Flanagan still needed to compute the percentage of allowable land usage. He clarified that an inground pool is not considered a buildable area. Another scenario is a resident who wants to replace their existing fence, and their neighbor's fencing has trees and weeds pushing through theirs and is falling on their fence. Also, there is a lot of garbage pushing up against it. We may need to get building permits on all projects, even if they're maintenance, due to the people at 237 S. Main Avenue replacing their fence. The existing fence was right on the property line, and the new fence should have been made to follow the 2 ft. setback unless the old poles were used. The last scenario was a resident who didn't know their property lines. They were told to get a survey since property lines are not known. Koch mentioned a situation where a resident wants to put a shed in her backyard. She doesn't know her exact property lines. The guys were asked to search for the property pins, and they said she needs a survey. Property surveys are quite expensive. Flanagan will take a look at the situation. Cement driveways can be placed right on the property line. If the residents know the exact property line, no permit is needed. Atty. Barry is going to check the code regarding the concrete driveway and where it can be placed.

**Village Attorney: 6-Month Review of Executive Session Minutes:** Atty. Barry recommended making two of the four executive session minutes public and explained why the other two need to remain private. Nicholson motioned/Nelson seconded, releasing the 7/9/2024 and 6/2/2025 executive session minutes for public inspection, and keeping the 9/23/2025 and 10/14/2025 minutes private.

Ayes: Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor – Motion carried.

Abstain: Flanagan (he was not on the board at this time)

**Old Business: Formal Approval of Agreement for Application Services for Illinois Safe Routes to School 2025 Non-Infrastructure Project on Behalf of the Village of Ladd:** We provided the agreement to the council for review and formal approval. Discussion and consensus obtained to approve President Cattani and Clerk Bezely to sign the document on 9/23/25, but it was unable to be added to the agenda due to the 48-hour posting requirement. Then, at the meeting on 10/14/2025, no

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action was taken until we confirmed what this was for sure. Therefore, tonight's meeting obtained the approval needed to comply.

Martin motioned/Thrasher seconded to approve President Cattani and Clerk Bezely to sign the agreement for Application Services for Illinois Safe Routes to School 2025 Non-Infrastructure Project on behalf of the Village of Ladd.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor – Motion carried.

### **New Business: Discuss and Select Payment Option for IMLRMA Insurance Renewal for 2026**

**Coverage:** There is a 5.5% increase in this year's premium. The council would not like their personal emails given out to IML. The council was told that in the past, Option #1 was chosen due to cost savings. Victor motioned/Martin seconded to select payment option #1 \$63,417.94, for the IMLRMA 2026 Liability Insurance Coverage.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor – Motion carried.

**New Business: Reimburse Clerk for Travel & Meal at Training:** Documentation was provided for travel and a receipt for one meal from the Municipal Clerks of Illinois week-long institute.

Thrasher motioned/Victor seconded to reimburse Bezely \$135.47 for travel and meals from the October 5-10, 2025 Municipal Clerks of Illinois Institute in Bloomington, Illinois.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor – Motion carried.

At 7:06 pm Martin motioned/Victor seconded to adjourn the regular session and enter into **executive session** under the exemption 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21): Review of Closed Session Minutes & 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5): *The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held to discuss whether a particular parcel should be acquired.*

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor - Motion carried.

Upon returning to regular session at 7:19 pm, roll call was taken:

**Roll Call:** Present: Trustees Patrick Flanagan, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, Brad Nicholson, Molly Thrasher, Bernie Victor (6)

**In attendance:** Clerk, Rhonda Bezely; Deputy Clerk, Julie Koch; Atty. Pat Barry,

**Executive Session Actions Upon Return:** Nicholson motioned/Nelson seconded to approve the executive session meeting minutes as presented for 6-2-2025, 9-23-2025, and 10-14-2025.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor – Motion carried.

**Announcements:** **IML Review Magazine:** Bezely told the council that the October 2025 IML Review Magazine had a 2026 Legislative Proposal submission on page 6. If any trustee would like to submit their ideas, this gives us a voice in how the IML advocates for municipalities. **Anti-Virus EDR:** The Village purchased EDR (End Point Detection & Response) anti-virus through Connecting Point in October 2024. This has caused many issues with our IT whenever he needs to make changes to the server or any computer. We need to contact Connecting Point, ask them to disable the anti-virus, and then they often require the server to be restarted for this change to take effect. We end up having to call back and forth several times to try to accommodate our IT and CPCC. Our IT, Mark, offers the same antivirus EDR, which would allow him to disable things as needed and not have so much back and forth. The purchase price for anti-virus on 10 computers for a 3-year term through Mark would actually be less than what we paid with

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Connecting Point. **Server Storage:** IT had to rebuild the server due to storage issues. Additional storage has been ordered and will be installed at the beginning of November. The cost to add storage is \$1,540.00. Victor is going to meet with our IT and get a “picture” of how our system is structured and set up. A block diagram is going to be requested by our IT for our computer system.

Nicholson and Victor took a trip to Lonestar, IL, to look at their new Village Hall. It is a beautiful, brand-new facility that was 100% paid for with COVID money. Discussion ensued. Victor stated that if we agreed to an efficient but smaller Village Hall, not the Taj Mahal, we may be able to obtain that. Bezely stated we weren't asking for the Taj Mahal; we need to update the building that the council wants us to move into, which was built in the 60s. Bezely stated she would like to stay where they are, right on Main Avenue. Bezely will check with Bureau County regarding COVID money.

10/33 Ambulance still needs to get the word out about requesting 10/33 Ambulance for all transfers. Thrasher recently had an encounter where she did not request 10/33, and Stark County came to make the transfer for Thrasher. She was upset that she forgot, but in a crisis, no one thinks.

Martin motioned/Nelson seconded to adjourn.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor - Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk