

November 13, 2025 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Due to Veterans' Day, the Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Thursday, November 13, 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: General Superintendent, Doug Englehaupt; Engineer, Adam Ossola; Atty. Pat Barry, Deputy Clerk, Julie Koch, and Clerk, Rhonda Bezely.

Nicholson motioned/Martin seconded to accept the October 28, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented.

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

Nelson motioned/Thrasher seconded to authorize payment of the bills of \$144,395.56

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

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports: Nelson updated the council on the tree removal at 419 E. Locust St. and sidewalk replacement. There was also sidewalk removed and replaced at 234 N. Bureau Ave. along with tree roots cut back a considerable amount to allow for forming the new sidewalk. Another small section was done on Chestnut St. from the alley behind Softails to the west that was bad. This was all part of the **\$10,000.00 allocated to sidewalk improvements for 2025**. Cruz concrete completed this work and everything looks good. Furthermore, Thrasher reported that a donation check for \$250.00 was presented to the **Ladd PTO** from the Hocus Pocus Hags, who donated their earnings from a performance at the Halloween Parade. This contribution supports local educational activities and community events, highlighting the community's ongoing support for youth programs and local traditions.

Village Engineer: Ossola updated the council on the Safe Routes to School Project 2023. The only thing left are the radar speed signs that will hang under the speed limit signs on route 89. Per State & Federal Rules the signs will not flash or do more than show the drivers what their speed actually is. Ossola stated that the Main Avenue Sidewalk grant had approximately \$8,500.00 left so a section of Main Avenue sidewalk by the American Legion was determined to use up the rest of the \$150,000.00 grant. Ossola spoke with Gillan Construction and he intends to get this done shortly after Thanksgiving. The railing by Special Effects should be fabricated in about a week and Gillan should be getting them installed around Thanksgiving. Victor asked if it's true that you can't put a handicapped parking space on a State Highway. Ossola stated that you can put a handicapped parking spot on a State Highway. A handicapped parking space in front of Special Effects Salon would be helpful since many older ladies get their hair done. We will place this on the next agenda for consideration.

Continued 11-13-2025

Superintendent's Report: Nothing to Report

Police Chief: Not in Attendance

Building Inspector: Not in Attendance

Village Attorney: Nothing to Report

New Business: RFP for Grass Cutting: The current contract for grass cutting expires after the season this year. Bezely and Englehaupt discussed combining the grass cutting and the weed abatement on the same contract. This would eliminate the question of who takes care of what i.e. the fence line around the baseball fields, etc. The council felt this would be a great idea. A request for proposal was provided to the council for review and discussion. It was mentioned that we will add that bidders must attach a copy of their current licensing from the IL Department of Agriculture. Once a company is selected, then a Certificate of Insurance with coverage highlighted in the Example along with the Village of Ladd being listed as additional insured. Bezely asked them to mark changes in red and she will place this on the next agenda under old business.

New Business: Discuss Updating the Village of Ladd Code: Bezely explained that at her recent institute she looked at the Village code on her iPhone and came across many very antiquated results. She was advised to speak with the Council to consider an update of our Village Code. There were a couple speakers who felt updating the code would make searching much simpler. We have a lot of old ordinances that need to be removed by the Council. Atty. Barry stated that this is a very overwhelming task and that it is quite expensive. Bezely has her admin assistant doing this research so she can explain things in detail to the council along with pricing. Cattani explains many of the old ordinances that have been codified are very old and need to be removed. Discussion ensued. We will bring the information to the next meeting on December 9, 2025 for further discussion and more specific examples of these concerns. The Village does not have their code available online because of how antiquated and overwhelming it can be to find something specific.

Announcement: A call was made to Bureau County Administration to inquire about **Covid money** that may be left or available. It was all allocated in September 2024. Jay Hammel gave a price of \$1500.00 to install 2 **new bathroom doors with closures** at War Memorial Park that the Village will order. The **parking pad at 732 E. Cleveland** is slated to be poured in 2025 as soon as Gillan Construction can get to it. Tom Yaklich who recently went on the **Honor Flight** stopped by to say thank you very much for the card with the kind words and thanks the Village Council sent to him. A resident requested that a yield sign be replaced with a stop sign in the north-south direction on the corner of **Pine and LaSalle**. President Cattani doesn't feel this is necessary so no further action will be taken. **SURF internet** will be coming to Ladd in January 2026. Email from Atty. Pat Barry regarding the **IMEA increase in delivery costs** was discussed in great detail. This will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion along with more information to help in determining how this should be distributed in our rate structure. Bezely was recently at **War Memorial Park** with her granddaughter and couldn't believe how run down and broken a lot of our park equipment is. She urged the Council to go look at this park equipment. She asked to please take a look and prepare to apply for the OSLAD

Continued 11-13-2025

grant in 2026. The **Network Server got the storage** that was necessary added this week for \$1,540.00. A new law on **Statewide Building Codes that went into effect 1/1/2025**. A discussion on looking into an intergovernmental agreement with another Municipality was brought up. Bezely mentioned this would be for Commercial or Industrial construction if Ladd is lucky enough to get a couple. It was discussed further and decided it would be a better situation to ask Barry Flanagan to do this since he is so much more familiar with our code. He can get plumbing inspectors, or electric inspectors to come in if that detail is needed. All questions and concerns will be brought to the council.

Nicholson motioned/Thrasher seconded to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk