

December 23, 2025 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board convened for its regular session on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at the Ladd Village Hall located at 121 N. Main Avenue. The meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m., presided over by Village President Pro Tem, Dan Nelson, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Roll Call and Attendance

- **Present:** Trustees Patrick Flanagan, Dan Nelson, Brad Nicholson, Molly Thrasher, and Bernie Victor (total of 5)
- **Absent:** Trustee Jan Martin (1) and Village President Frank Cattani

In attendance were Clerk Rhonda Bezely, Engineer Adam Ossola, and Attorney Pat Barry.

Trustee Victor motioned, seconded by Trustee Thrasher, to appoint Dan Nelson as Village President Pro Tem for tonight's meeting in President Cattani's absence. The motion was carried unanimously, with all trustees present voting in favor.

Approval of Minutes and Financial Transactions

Trustee Nicholson motioned, seconded by Trustee Thrasher, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025, regular meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, with all trustees present voting in favor.

Subsequently, the Board authorized payment of bills totaling \$118,530.30, with a motion by Trustee Flanagan seconded by Trustee Victor. The motion was carried unanimously, with all trustees present voting in favor.

The Treasurer's Report for November 2025 was reviewed and accepted following a motion by Trustee Nicholson, seconded by Trustee Thrasher, which also passed unanimously.

Correspondence and Public Comments

No correspondence or public comments were received or presented during this session.

Committee and Department Reports

No committee or department reports were presented during this session.

Engineering and New Business

Final Pay Request and Change Order for Main Avenue Sidewalk Project

Engineer Ossola provided the final payment request and change order #3 for the Main Avenue Sidewalk project. Ossola explained the change order and the final pay request in detail to the council. He also reported that the completion date was changed to reflect the actual date, Gillan

Construction finished. Trustee Victor made a motion to approve the Change Order #3 and Final Payment Request for the Main Avenue Sidewalk Project submitted by Gillan Construction, with a total increase of \$6,513.50, with a total final cost being \$121,825.00, which leaves the remaining amount to be paid at \$40,768.23, seconded by Trustee Thrasher. The motion was carried unanimously, with all trustees present voting in favor.

Motor Fuel Tax Fund CD Renewal Strategy

President Pro Tem Nelson explained that the Motor Fuel Tax Fund CD will mature on December 27, 2025. Ossola was asked if the Board could safely reinvest this CD for 6 months, as a Surface Transportation Urban Project will be bidding and taking place in FY26. Bezely thought we should have enough time to invest this money for another 6 months before needing the money to pay for the STU project. Ossola was told the MFT checking balance is currently \$68,278.30, which would take care of the 20% match and the engineering of \$118,000.00 out of the MFT account necessary to move forward with the STU \$200,000.00 Project. Victor motioned to invest the MFT Funds of \$136,198.94 in a 6-month CD at 3.95% APY with North Central Bank in Ladd Trustee, Flanagan seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously, with all trustees present voting in favor.

Resolution #1202 for the Surface Transportation Urban Project

Ossola explained the reason for the resolution and that IDOT wants the resolution so they can move forward with the bid process. They are tentatively looking at February 27, 2026, for a State Bid letting in Springfield. This \$200,000.00 grant can only be used on Cleveland Street, as it must be a federally eligible area. It goes from Route 89 to the railroad on East Cleveland Street. Ossola stated that we have been talking about this grant since 2020. Nelson asked what the surface would consist of. Ossola stated oil and chip, along with curb repair, on as many bad spots as we can take care of with the money available. A motion was made by Trustee Victor and seconded by Trustee Thrasher to approve Resolution #1202 to utilize STU Funds on East Cleveland Street. The motion was carried unanimously, with all trustees present voting in favor.

General Superintendent, Police Chief, Building Inspector – not in attendance

Two, Two-Hour Parking Spaces in the 300 Block of North Main Avenue

Atty. Barry explained the ordinance to the council. A motion by Trustee Nicholson, seconded by Trustee Thrasher, was to adopt Ordinance 1203, An Ordinance Establishing Two, Two-Hour Parking Spaces on the East Side in the 300 Block of Main Avenue in the Village of Ladd, Bureau County, Illinois. The motion was carried unanimously, with all trustees present voting in favor.

Renewal of Outdoor Warning Siren

The President Pro Tem explained to the Board the maintenance agreement renewal. Nelson told them what we've paid annually for the past 5 years. Questions were asked, and discussion ensued. Trustee Nicholson made a motion to Renew Outdoor Warning Siren Testing for 2026 for our 2 Sirens in the Village of Ladd with Braniff Communications for \$1,710.00 per their bid, which was seconded by Trustee Flanagan. The motion was carried unanimously, with all trustees present voting in favor.

Approve Liquor License for Ladd Fire Department

Trustee Victor made a motion to approve the Liquor License for the Ladd Fire Department's Annual Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, seconded by Trustee Nicholson. The motion was carried unanimously, with all trustees present voting in favor.

Announcements and Future Initiatives

Clerk Bezely reported the **10/33 Ambulance Bill for 2026** was received, and the cost is the same as 2025. It is $\$36 \times 1263 = \$45,468.00 \div 12 = \$3,789.00$ monthly. Clerk Bezely received a call from a resident about the amount of salt on Village streets. The question asked was if the Village ever considered using **sand or brine** to help keep our roads in better shape and put less salt on our vehicles. Brine use is a different application we may not have the equipment to actually use this. Bezely will pose this question to Cattani upon his return. He will discuss with Public Works. Clerk Bezely reported getting 6 **Christmas Cards** for the Village this year from vendors who appreciate our business and from a resident who wrote a touching quote from Fred Claus. Clerk Bezely asked the board if they agreed it is better to save money and not send **Birthday Cards** in 2026 to employees and elected officials. Bezely stated several council members and employees have told her they don't need a card and to save this money. She prefers to send to all or to send none. The council feels, even though very nice, that we can forgo this next year. Clerk Bezely asked if the new setup of the **council chambers** was comfortable for all members. They stated yes, and if a change in the future was needed, we could make that change. Bezely, as a Christmas Walk Committee Member, reports that the **2025 Ladd Christmas Walk** was a success even though temperatures were so cold! Trustee Thrasher mentioned that the **Speed Radar signs** were installed today on Main Avenue just before the crosswalk. The council mentioned leaving on the Main Avenue trees all year long. They look so nice, and it brings a warm, inviting ambiance to the Village. Trustee Victor asked if we have a contract with 10/33 Ambulance and Atty. Barry stated yes, we do. Trustee Thrasher mentioned reminding residents to request 10/33 Ambulance whenever a transfer is needed. Bezely will post on the Village's Facebook. Nicholson will share the post to the Ladd, IL page and repeat the post monthly as a reminder to residents.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Trustee Flanagan motioned, seconded by Trustee Thrasher, to adjourn the meeting. The session concluded at 7:09 p.m., with all trustees present voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk