
January 13, 2026 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at the Ladd Village Hall, 121 N. Main Avenue. Village President Frank Cattani called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

In Attendance:

Engineer Adam Ossola; Attorney Pat Barry; Administrative Assistant Samantha Sarosinski; Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Julie Koch; and Clerk Rhonda Bezely.

Trustee Thrasher motioned, Trustee Nicholson seconded, to approve the December 23, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented.

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

Trustee Nelson motioned, Trustee Flanagan seconded, to authorize payment of bills totaling \$210,111.55.

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

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports: None

Village Engineer:

No report. The Council had no questions.

Superintendent's Report:

Not in attendance.

Police Chief:

Chief Frund reported that the police vehicle he currently drives, a 2017 Ford Interceptor, is experiencing multiple mechanical issues, including brakes, rotors, suspension, and cooling problems. He stated he would obtain quotes for a replacement vehicle. Trustee Victor asked for an estimated replacement cost, and Chief Frund indicated approximately \$50,000. Chief Frund noted he would research options and stated that Piehl Motors of Princeton, owned by Ladd resident Shawn Harden, holds the state bid for police vehicles and employs a qualified mechanic for installation and maintenance of police equipment. Trustee Nelson asked whether existing equipment could be transferred to a new vehicle. Chief Frund responded that radios and cameras may be transferable, but most other equipment likely would not be.

Building Inspector:

Not in attendance.

Village Attorney:

No report.

Old Business

Ladd Cemetery – Proposed Village Takeover and Management

President Cattani asked Mr. Paul Bicchochi several questions regarding the time required to perform cemetery-related duties. It was noted that the cemetery averages approximately 10–12 burials per year, with an estimated two hours of administrative work per burial. Duties include entering information into the State database and monthly banking transactions.

The Ladd Cemetery contains approximately 3,800 total graves:

- 1,600 plots with burials
- 1,171 plots sold but without burials
- 1,100 plots available for future sale

Mr. Bicchochi stated that all individuals currently involved would remain in their roles should the Village assume management. Plot pricing would increase. He reported that the cemetery's trees date back to 1904 and have not presented significant issues, although one or two may require removal annually.

Mr. Bicchochi would remain in charge of operations. A discussion was held regarding a potential name change if the Village assumes ownership. Attorney Barry outlined the legal steps required for the takeover. It was noted that interest income is transferred annually into the checking account.

Trustee Nicholson asked about annual maintenance costs. Mr. Bicchochi reported grass cutting costs of approximately \$5,000 annually and an additional \$800 per year for landscaping, marker straightening, and related services.

Mr. Bicchochi also reported recent investments of \$100,000 in perpetual funds for five years at 5.8% and \$80,000 invested approximately one year ago for five years at 5.3%, both through North Central Bank Investments. He stated he would consult with Lou Wasilewski regarding the transferability of these funds should the Village assume management and report back at the January 27, 2026, meeting.

Administrative Assistant Sarosinski will enter cemetery information into a program or spreadsheet. Clerk Bezely will contact Caselle Connect to schedule a demonstration of its cemetery management module.

New Business

Donation Request – Voluntary Action Center

Trustee Thrasher spoke in support of the Voluntary Action Center, noting her volunteer work with the Meals on Wheels program. Discussion followed.

Trustee Martin motioned, Trustee Thrasher seconded, to donate \$100.00 to the Voluntary Action Center for 2026.

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

Nays: Victor

Purchase of Public Works Pickup Truck

The Board reviewed and discussed bids for both used and new pickup trucks. It was determined that the quote for a new 2026 Ford F-250 from Sutton Ford represented the best value. The Council agreed the purchase could be paid in full from the clearing account without financing.

Trustee Victor motioned, Trustee Nelson seconded, to authorize up to \$70,000.00 for the purchase of a 2026 Ford F-250 truck quoted by Sutton Commercial and Fleet on December 29, 2025, or a vehicle with identical equipment and pricing.

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

Trustee Victor requested the development of a comprehensive inventory of Village-owned vehicles with projected replacement timelines to assist with long-term budgeting. Trustee Nelson suggested applying a rust-protection coating to the new truck. Discussion followed.

Announcements

Clerk Bezely shared a compliment received from a resident regarding Colton Corsolini's professional and courteous work while replacing a water meter.

Due to the lack of inquiries regarding EV charging stations, \$2,000.00 in IMEA EV Charging Station funds were reallocated to the Energy Efficiency Funds Program. These funds must be used by 2028.

Habitat for Humanity is exploring a six-home subdivision project to address local housing needs. Habitat's Executive Director, Jessica, reported that the USDA offers grants and loans to support housing development, including grants for land acquisition. Clerk Bezely presented two potential locations for consideration, and the Council suggested additional sites. Concerns were expressed regarding potential public reaction due to challenges with the previous Habitat home. If the Village proceeds, Council-defined parameters would be established.

Trustee Martin motioned, Trustee Flanagan seconded, to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Bezely
Village Clerk
