

January 27, 2026 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, January 27, 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 Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Roll Call and Attendance

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

In Attendance: Clerk Rhonda Bezely; Administrative Assistant Samantha Sarosinski; Attorney Pat Barry

Approval of Minutes and Financial Transactions

Trustee Martin motioned, seconded by Trustee Nicholson, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2026, regular meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Nelson motioned, seconded by Trustee Thrasher, to authorize payment of bills totaling \$115,031.54.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report for December 2025 was reviewed. Trustee Flanagan motioned, seconded by Trustee Nicholson, to accept the report.

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence and Public Comments

No correspondence or public comments were presented.

Committee and Department Reports

No committee or department reports were presented.

Officer Sarosinski reported that she and Chief Frund are attending School Resource Officer (SRO) training in Peoria, Illinois, for the week. The State of Illinois strongly recommends this training if a police department provides services within schools. Ladd School has expressed interest in having an SRO in the future when the budget allows.

Engineer Adam Ossola was unable to attend the meeting.

Old Business - No-Wire Automatic Lawn Mower

Trustees Nelson and Victor requested that this item be tabled pending additional research. The Clerk will place the item back on the agenda once the research is completed.

Old Business - Ladd Cemetery Update

Clerk Bezely contacted Caselle Connect regarding pricing and a demonstration of their Cemetery

Continued 1-27-2026

Management Module. Initially believed to be a one-time cost of \$150.00, further review revealed the cost to be \$150.00 per month, totaling \$1,800.00 annually. While the demonstration was well-received, the cost was deemed too high.

Administrative Assistant Sarosinski researched alternative software and reviewed a demonstration with Clerk Bezely. The software was found to be user-friendly and capable of capturing the necessary cemetery records. Two options were presented:

1. A one-time fee of \$250.00 with no updates or support; or
2. An annual fee of \$125.00 with updates, support, and cloud backup.

The software stores burial records, tracks plot ownership, generates cemetery maps, allows customizable fields (including military service, Cherry Mine Disaster, or religious designation), stores notes and historical information, and offers customizable reporting. A website map link option is also available for public access. Contracts are year-to-year, and all data is exportable if discontinued. Trustee Victor suggested entering a small sample of cemetery records to evaluate usability and time requirements. President Cattani informed the Board that Biccochi is willing to continue managing the Ladd Cemetery for an additional five years, allowing the Village to retain the annuities without penalty. Attorney Barry confirmed that the Village would not legally assume ownership until the annuities mature, which he recommended as the best course of action. Trustee Victor noted this approach allows time to implement recordkeeping systems and gradually transition management responsibilities. The Board agreed that cemetery plot prices should be increased and expressed appreciation for Biccochi's years of service to the Village.

Trustee Martin motioned, seconded by Trustee Thrasher, to purchase Crypt Keeper Cemetery Software, Option #2, at \$125.00 annually.

Motion carried unanimously.

New Business - Itron Maintenance Agreement (4/1/2026–3/31/2027)

The annual Itron maintenance agreement was discussed. Clerk Bezely expressed concerns regarding the continued lack of ability to read individual meters using the Panasonic handheld device, noting the Village is still relying on the FC300, which reached end-of-life and end-of-support on December 31, 2021. Trustee Victor requested that the Village contact Itron for clarification before approving the agreement. The item will be placed on the next agenda under Old Business, and Clerk Bezely will obtain the requested information.

New Business - Resolution #1204 – Commemoration of America's 250th Anniversary

Trustee Victor inquired about the resolution and whether any funding had been committed. Attorney Barry and Clerk Bezely explained the resolution and confirmed that no funds have been allocated at this time.

Administrative Assistant Sarosinski expressed interest in reviving Ladd Daze as part of the celebration. Discussion followed regarding possible dates, with July 10–11 or July 17–18 being

Continued 01-27-2026

considered. Fireworks were noted as costly, though fundraising options were discussed. The July 17–18 weekend would coincide with the Big Truck Show, potentially increasing attendance. Clerk Bezely noted that planning efforts would require additional staff hours, which the Board agreed was acceptable. Trustee Thrasher emphasized the importance of forming a committee promptly.

Trustee Nicholson motioned, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to adopt Resolution #1204.

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Future Initiatives

- Clerk Bezely reported that all three **liquor license renewals** have been paid, processed, and distributed. Most establishments utilize the one-year renewal option in July.
- **Habitat for Humanity subdivision** new information was presented. Jessica Brayfield met with the USDA, which agreed to provide a low-interest loan to acquire property for a potential subdivision. The Board requested that Ms. Brayfield attend a future meeting to provide further details, noting that numerous questions must be addressed before considering participation in a six-home subdivision.
- **2026 Ford F-250 pickup truck for the Public Works Department** is expected to be delivered in approximately one month.
- February 10, 2026, we will have the **Grass Cutting Bid Opening** at our regular meeting at 6:30 pm. Bids are due at 6:15 pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Trustee Flanagan motioned, seconded by Trustee Nicholson, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at **7:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Bezely
Village Clerk