
February 10, 2026 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, February 10, 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; Police Chief Jacob Frund; Administrative Assistant Samantha Sarosinski; Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Julie Koch; and Clerk Rhonda Bezely.

Trustee Flanagan motioned, Trustee Nelson seconded, to approve the January 27, 2026, regular meeting minutes as presented.

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

Trustee Nicholson motioned, Trustee Nelson seconded, to authorize payment of bills totaling \$29,635.45.

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

Correspondence: A thank-you note was read from the Voluntary Action Center (Meals on Wheels) for the donation the Village made.

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports: None

Village Engineer: Ossola addressed the village council regarding the upcoming ITEP Grant applications, scheduled to open in August 2026 with a deadline in September 2026. He clarified that the grant requires a 20% match, with the maximum award amounting to \$3 million. The grant can cover Design and Construction Engineering costs, which could facilitate the development of a walking and biking path extending from the railroad tracks on East Cleveland to Spring Creek Drive. Ossola noted that any easements necessary for this project would be split equally between the village and the grant, with a possibility of requiring additional right-of-way on the south side of the road to accommodate the path. He emphasized that these activities could only proceed once the grant is awarded, as the village would need to adhere to federal right-of-way acquisition procedures, including compensating landowners fairly. Ossola suggested that holding a public meeting before applying would be beneficial to gauge resident opposition. Trustee Victor inquired whether Ossola could estimate the amount of property needed and the potential costs involved in acquiring the right-of-way, to assist the council in making an informed decision about moving forward. The village has agreed to fund this preliminary investigation, with Ossola tasked to evaluate these aspects. This approach aims to ensure the village is prepared for the next steps, should the grant be awarded, and to facilitate community engagement and transparency in the planning process.

Superintendent Report: Not in Attendance

Police Chief: *New Business Discuss Part-time Police Wages*

Chief Frund presented data indicating a significant rise in call volumes and traffic stops since his appointment. He reviewed the names and tenure of all part-time officers, emphasizing the quality of

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Ladd's team. Frund expressed concern about losing these officers due to the competitive nature of policing. He requested a \$1.00 hourly raise for all, increasing the part-time wage to \$27.50 and the sergeant's wage to \$28.50. Frund noted that new officers entering the field are less interested in overtime or multiple jobs, which could impact policing dynamics with this new generation. Trustee Martin proposed increasing wages for part-time officers and sergeants as Frund requested, with Trustee Thrasher seconding the motion. The motion received approval from trustees Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, and Flanagan. Additionally, Trustee Victor requested that further details be given in the board packet before the meeting.

Discuss the 2017 Ford Interceptor Police SUV

Chief Frund reported that the police vehicle he currently drives, a 2017 Ford Interceptor, is experiencing multiple mechanical issues, including problems with brakes, rotors, suspension, and cooling systems. Additionally, there are ongoing issues with mounting bushings, with repair estimates ranging from \$2,000 to \$4,000. Frund mentioned that while repairs are possible, the total costs are quite high. The air conditioning system's repair estimate was between \$1,000 and \$5,000. The vehicle was purchased in 2020 for \$16,000. Frund obtained quotes from Piehl Motors, owned by Shawn Harden, a village resident, who also holds the state bid for police vehicles. Harden provided quotes for a 2026 Dodge Ram at \$41,800 and a Dodge Durango at approximately \$42,000. The cost for equipment installation in the new vehicle, including removal of existing equipment from the 2017 model, is estimated at around \$14,500. The new vehicle comes with a three-year bumper-to-bumper warranty and a 100,000-mile powertrain warranty. Frund noted a current three-month waiting period for new vehicle delivery. When asked about replacement costs, Frund estimated around \$50,000. He plans to research options further, including test-driving both vehicles, and will bring pricing and financing details to the next meeting. Bezely will consult with North Central Bank regarding financing options to facilitate comparison at that time. Trustee Victor inquired whether existing equipment could be transferred to the new vehicle, to which Frund responded that radios and cameras might be transferable, but most other equipment likely would not. The council asked Frund for his preference, and he indicated he would evaluate both options before making a decision. He intends to gather additional information and present it at the next meeting. This process aims to ensure the best decision regarding vehicle replacement, considering costs, availability, and equipment transferability, while coordinating financing options to support the purchase. This will be placed on the 2/24/2026 agenda.

Building Inspector: Not in attendance.

Village Attorney: No report.

Old Business

Itron Maintenance Proposal updated information

Overview of Itron Maintenance and Subscription Services

The recent discussion centered around the costs associated with Itron's hardware and software services, as well as the ongoing maintenance and support fees. The hardware costs encompass essential components such as the IMR, Tablet, and Beer Can Radio, with a notable detail that firmware updates for the radio are provided at no additional charge. The maintenance fee for this hardware segment is set at \$207.99, covering routine upkeep and support.

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On the software side, the costs include licensing rights for Itron Mobile and FCS, which are priced at \$1,961.20. These applications are critical for operational management and data collection. Additionally, there is an IMA walk-by subscription fee of \$346.66, which facilitates remote monitoring and management capabilities. Collectively, these fees sum up to \$2,515.85, representing the total expenditure for the 4/1/2026 to 3/31/2027 service period.

During the meeting, Trustee Victor raised concerns regarding contingency plans should the Toughbook device become non-operational. This prompted a discussion about alternative options, emphasizing the need for further investigation. Bezely has been tasked with reaching out to Itron for clarification and will report findings at the subsequent meeting.

Following the discussion, Trustee Victor motioned to approve the renewal of the Itron Maintenance and Subscription Services, amounting to \$2,515.85. The motion was seconded by Trustee Thrasher, and the vote was unanimous, with trustees Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, and Nelson in favor. The motion was officially carried, ensuring continued support and service for the upcoming period.

New Business

Donation Request – Spring Valley Little League Sponsorship for 2026. Trustee Thrasher proposed a \$250 donation; Trustee Martin seconded. The vote resulted in Ayes from Martin and Thrasher, with Nays from Victor, Flanagan, Nelson, and Nicholson, leading to the motion's failure.

Open Grass Cutting & Weed Abatement Bids for 2026, 2027, 2028

By 6:15 pm today, four bids were received for the lawn care services. President Cattani reviewed all sealed bids and shared the submitted information and pricing with the council for evaluation. The bids included:

- Ring Lawncare: \$660.00 for all 10 locations weekly over three years, with no bid for weed abatement.
- TNT Lawncare: \$730.00 for all 10 locations weekly over three years. Weed abatement was bid separately by D&M Landscaping, with costs at \$275.00 for War Memorial Park, \$1,650.00 for Kennedy Park, and \$1,500.00 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Details were on page 3 of the Grass Cutting RFP.
- OBK Lawn & Trees: \$3,290.00 for all 10 locations weekly over three years, with no weed abatement bid.
- Xcel Home Improvement DBA Luke's Lawncare: \$900.00 for all 10 locations weekly over three years, with no weed abatement bid.

Bezely noted that the council was not required to award the bid immediately but could proceed if they felt ready. Ring Lawncare's owner, Stacie Ring, plans to contact True Green, which is willing to subcontract weed abatement through Ring Lawncare. Ring will coordinate with True Green to inspect the areas needing weed abatement and obtain their bid, which will be presented to the council.

Trustee Nicholson motioned to accept Ring Lawncare's bid for the 2026, 2027, and 2028 mowing seasons, seconded by Trustee Martin. The motion was approved with votes from Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, and Thrasher, resulting in a unanimous decision to proceed.

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FY26 Audit Proposal from Hopkins & Associates

The village council reviewed Hopkins & Associates' letter, expressing satisfaction with their audits over recent years. Trustee Victor proposed approving the 2026 fiscal year proposal at \$12,400, seconded by Trustee Nicholson. The motion received approval from trustees Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, and Victor, resulting in a successful decision.

Announcements

Trustee Victor voiced disappointment regarding **House Bill 4459**, proposed by Representative Amy Murri Briel. A discussion followed, during which Trustee Victor emphasized the need for increased communication with municipalities within her jurisdiction to ensure better coordination and understanding. A letter signed by the council was mentioned.

John Kohr visited the Clerk's office to donate funds for a new **flag at Ladd Cemetery**, as the current flag is worn out. Our team will install the new flag once the weather improves, ensuring the cemetery remains respectful and well-maintained.

Grant information from Adam Ossola of Chamlin & Associates. Ossola reached out to Bezely about two grants available to apply for that would benefit infrastructure. Unfortunately, they are geared toward manufacturing and industrial development, and Ossola felt they would likely not be awarded to a town seeking infrastructure to attract a business. I didn't feel the council would want to move forward with any of the current grants available based on Adam's expertise.

New, darker, and zoomed-in Village Maps were hung on the wall. The council felt they were an adequate size for discussing things in the Village. Bezely will try to find frames to accommodate these maps that are reasonably priced.

Chris Brandner requests an entrance to his farm field on the North side of East Cleveland Street, across from Brandon Bickett's house. The concern is that this is a low area that makes visibility difficult. Discussion ensued. Brandner was asked to place stakes in the desired location to show the east and west locations of the entrance. After this was done, Ossola was asked to take a look at this and report back to the council.

Julie Koch informed the council about **Ladd Daze in conjunction with America250**, which is the 250th Birthday of America. This event will be on July 17, 18, and possibly 19th, 2026. They are deciding on what they all want to do. They definitely want to involve the kids. There will be a beer garden and music. The Saturday, July 18, 2026 date is also the Big Truck Show that Phil Hocking has every year. This will take place along with the Big Truck Show.

Trustee Thrasher motioned, Trustee Flanagan seconded, to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Bezely
Village Clerk