

May 12, 2026 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board held a regular session on Tuesday, May 12, 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 Jan Martin, Patrick Flanagan, Dan Nelson, Brad Nicholson, Molly Thrasher, and Bernie Victor (6)

In Attendance: Engineer, Adam Ossola; Administrative Assistant, Sammi Sarosinski; Village Clerk, Rhonda Bezely, Atty. Patrick Barry

Approval of Minutes and Financial Transactions

Trustee Thrasher motioned, seconded by Trustee Martin, to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2026, regular meeting as presented.

Ayes: Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan – Motion carried (6)

Trustee Nelson motioned, seconded by Trustee Nicholson, to authorize payment of bills totaling \$81,271.41.

Ayes: Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin – Motion carried (6)

Correspondence and Public Comments

A thank you card was read from the Pat Barry Family for the sympathy gift sent when his mother passed away.

Committee and Department Reports

Trustee Nelson reported that the trees at 234 N Peru Ave have dead limbs on 2 of the trees, but the trees are otherwise in good shape. There is also a tree at 234 E Elm Street, next to her driveway, that is totally dead and needs to be taken down.

Engineer Adam Ossola reported on the **MFT/STU project** on East Cleveland Street, having a mid-June start date after the pre-construction meeting. The **CDGB grant** guidelines have recently been published for applying for funding. They are due by the end of August. We would need to have all the estimates put together by June in order to be ready to apply. There is no match required for construction costs. The grant range can be anywhere between \$300,000.00 and \$1.5 million to cover the construction part. It doesn't cover anything to do with engineering. Neither Design nor Construction Engineering is covered, so this would kind of be your match. They do encourage some kind of money contributed for the project, and this provides applicants with additional points to assist in the application scoring process. Ossola mentioned at the last meeting that the Village would need to do a low-income survey. There was a map distributed to the council showing an area of Ladd that, through Census records, is considered low-income. So, if we can keep a project in the blue box, we wouldn't need to have a low-

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income survey was performed. If we want to apply for a project area outside of the blue box, we would have to have NCICG do a low-income survey of the area we are considering for a project. They would therefore be doing the application.

President Cattani announced that the Village was awarded the **Safe Routes to School Grant for 2025**. This is scheduled to take place in mid June- 2027. There may be a kickoff meeting with the State, possibly later this year. Then, the plan preparation, which would need to be approved toward the end of this year, will be made to make a spring bid letting. President Cattani would like to make sure we get to the railroad tracks so we can get the permitting going in an effort to apply in 2 years to get across the railroad tracks.

Atty. Pat Barry reported that the **IMEA** emailed that they will be giving out additional money for **electric vehicle charging stations**. Approximately \$7,000 - \$8,000 is in the electric vehicle charging station grant money, but it can be transferred to the energy efficiency funds if there is no plan to install electric vehicle charging stations. As our board representative, Pat Barry will instruct IMEA to move these funds to the EEF account.

OLD BUSINESS: Updated Discussion on Acquiring Slag Pile from Walsh Family: Several residents were in attendance to hear information that past employees of Ladd Construction knew about and to discuss the situation in relation to a Brownfield Grant and any potential responsibility that could fall on the taxpayers in Ladd. Cattani spoke about a Brownfield grant that will pay for 100% of the clean-up. Discussion ensued. Clerk Bezely read a letter from Curtis & Tammy Pinter, who were not able to attend the meeting. They felt the acquisition of the slag pile was a wonderful gift, but requested that research be done to ensure this would not cost the taxpayers due to toxins being buried. Cattani stated that no matter if this area is contaminated or not, we wouldn't need to do anything with this property anytime soon. He feels this is a great opportunity to be given 40 acres of property for nothing. Mary Ann Hocking asked if the Walsh family had given a deadline as to when they needed to know if the Village was comfortable accepting the property. Cattani didn't know of a deadline but felt they could sell these 40 acres at any time. Atty. Barry said the Walsh family expected a decision after the last meeting; they're anxiously awaiting tonight's outcome. Cattani stated there is a person interested in this property, and Atty. Barry stated the family would prefer to donate it to the Village of Ladd. Several more questions were asked. Sarosinski was asked if the cleanup would be 100% covered by the Brownfield Grant or if there would be a match. Sarosinski stated that she has learned that there is no match, and that clean up would be covered 100%. Phil Hocking reported a lot of diesel fuel spills, contamination, and buried also. It is all covered with slag. Walsh was offered cleanup of the property for approximately \$400,000.00 before the reclamation and declined it. Bill Cattani stated he watched the reclamation every day. They did not bury anything. There are 3 feet of dirt and clay on top of the entire slag pile. Phil didn't agree with Bill. Neil Petzel stated that they must have met state regulations for the reclamation. The contamination is located east of the slag pile. The Brownfield grant will likely not cover engineering. Once a decision is made tonight, Atty. Barry explained that a legal description will be supplied by the title

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company, and he will learn if there are any liens or if there are any concerns? If he has any concerns, he will discuss this with the council, and they can terminate the acquisition at any time. Once acquired, we will just leave the property as it currently is. Perhaps a pollinator garden could be planted. Bill Cattani stated that he feels the Village would be foolish to let this opportunity go by. Neil and Trevor Petzel were in the audience, and they had requested that the Village buy the “dump” several years ago. They attended tonight’s meeting to let the council know they would be happy to lead a pollinator garden. The Petzel’s feel this would be a great attraction for Ladd. There are several grants available to assist with this idea. Petzel explained things to the council in detail. After hearing pros and cons from the audience and the council, President Cattani asked if the council was comfortable taking it to a vote to acquire approximately 40 acres of property.

OLD BUSINESS: Authorize Village President, Frank Cattani, to sign a contract for the acquisition of the slag pile & property “as is” and agree to name the “park” after property owner, Dominic P. Palmeri:

Trustee Victor motioned to Authorize Village President, Frank Cattani to sign a contract for the acquisition of the slag pile and property “as is” and agree to name the park after property owner Dominic P. Palmeri and Trustee Nicholson seconded the motion.

Ayes: Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson – Motion carried (6)

It was originally hoped we would set off the **fireworks for Ladd Daze & America’s 250th Birthday** from the slag pile, but that is no longer the case. We can work toward making this possible in the future once the acquisition is complete.

OLD BUSINESS: Updated information on TEST Quotes for WWTP, Water Plant, and Lift Station

Equipment installation and programming: Englehaupt provided an explanation to the council regarding security and remote access to this new equipment. He stated that he will utilize his Village-provided cell phone to remotely access the equipment at these 3 locations, but the other employees would not be comfortable using their private devices to perform these duties because of potential complications from FOIA. Victor asked that we not get this installation done until the fiber from Conxxus is in place. Trustee Victor motioned to accept TEST Quote -PLC for the Water Treatment plant for \$6,234.53 and TEST Quote 1051-PLC for Martin’s Addition Lift Station and the Waste Water Treatment Plant for \$26,448.84. Trustee Nicholson seconded these motions.

Ayes: Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson – Motion carried (6)

NEW BUSINESS: Approve Poppy Day: Trustee Nelson motioned to approve Harold E. Russell American Legion Post 938’s request to hold Poppy Day Fundraiser on Saturday, May 23, 2026, from 6 am – 12 pm, and Trustee Thrasher seconded the motion.

Ayes: Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher – Motion carried (6)

NEW BUSINESS: Summer Fun Guide Ad – Shaw Media News Tribune: The 2025 ad was \$541.00, and it was a ½ page full color ad highlighting all of the Village’s events for the year. Sarosinski has already created the ad that the Village will be using for 2026. Trustee Victor motioned to purchase a 2026

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Summer Fun Guide Ad from Shaw Media for the News Tribune for a ½ page full color ad for \$446.00.

Trustee Flanagan seconded the motion.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor – Motion carried (6)

NEW BUSINESS: Hire NCICG to perform a low-income survey in preparation for grants on a section of the west side of town: Due to the information that Ossola provided the council, no action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS: Consider Quote for Repair of Salt Shed: Pictures were discussed, and a quote from Pinter General Contracting was reviewed and discussed. Englehaupt provided dates of when the salt shed was built in the 1980's by Jim & Mark Lucas. It shows signs of age and rot. Trustee Martin motioned, and Trustee Thrasher seconded to hire Pinter General Construction to make repairs to the existing salt shed for \$11,669.00.

Ayes: Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor – Motion carried (6)

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion about adding a \$50 cleaning fee on the rental application for the Ladd Community Center: Bezely asked the council if they felt it would be a good idea to add a \$50 Professional Cleaning Fee onto the rental application. The cost to clean the Community Center after rental is increasing, and we've never increased the price to rent the facility. Trustee Flanagan motioned to move forward with adding a \$50.00 Professional Cleaning Fee to the rental application for the Ladd Community Center. Trustee Nicholson seconded the motion.

Ayes: Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin – Motion carried (6)

Village President, Cattani complimented Sarosinski and Flanagan on what a great job they did on the **Mother's Day Bingo**. The event brought in around \$5,000.00. Cattani suggested that we continue the Bingo in an effort to get the Community Center fund out of the red. We will revisit this after Ladd Daze.

NEW BUSINESS: Discuss and approve \$10,000.00 in sidewalk replacements within the Village for 2026: Village President Cattani told the council he would like to spend \$5,000.00 on existing sidewalks that are bad on the east side of the Village and \$5,000.00 on existing sidewalks that are bad on the west side of the Village. The block on West Cedar from Main Ave to Bureau Ave will be replaced on the west side, and Cattani is still looking for a sidewalk on the east side to replace it. We have a replacement price of \$10/sq ft. from Randy Tomaszewski. Roughly 125 feet on each side of the Village is all we will be able to replace for \$10,000. Trustee Victor motioned to approve over \$10,000.00 in sidewalk replacement for 2026, and Trustee Nelson seconded the motion.

Ayes: Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson – Motion carried (6)

NEW BUSINESS: Donation Request from Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living: Martin explained how this company loans people walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, lifts, hearing impaired telephones, remotes for the elderly, etc., at no cost to the people. Many people in the Village utilize their services. Trustee Martin motioned to donate \$50.00 to Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living, and Trustee Thrasher seconded the motion.

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Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher – Motion passed (5)

Nays: Victor

Announcements and Future Initiatives

- Bezely stated the Community Center floors were cleaned and waxed. They look amazing. The cost was \$3,318.18, which included a case of floor cleaner. Floors haven't been done in over 9 years.
- Bezely mentioned that Mike Edgcomb questioned getting the Village Hall floors scrubbed and waxed. Since the floor is in such bad shape with broken floor tiles, etc., he wondered if the council would consider putting a commercial floor over the top? The council does not want to do that at this time, so we will move forward with the scrubbing and waxing.
- The Village of Ladd was awarded the Safe Routes to School Grant for 2025! We will receive \$250,000.00 to continue the new sidewalks on East Cleveland Street. Ladd was also awarded the non-infrastructure grant for Safe Routes to School for 2025! \$23,300.00 will be coming to Ladd to hold a Traffic Garden. This money is also going to fund a trailer to keep all the bikes and supplies for the bike rodeo. The trailer will likely be placed by the police garage.
- Clerk's office is getting calls asking if the Village will be hiring summer help. The council asked Bezely to put something on Facebook advertising the openings. Nicholson suggested starting the summer help 1 hour after public works and have them quit 1 hour before the public works; therefore, hours would be 8 a – 2:30 pm. It was asked if we were looking for new kids to hire, and not just to hire back previous employees. Everyone should be given a chance to be hired and get the experience of working for the Village. A staggered work-week was mentioned. We should stay within the budget that was originally laid out last year. The number 3 can be difficult, so 4 was considered. Accepting applications for summer help. Pick up your application at the Ladd Village Hall and return it with your resume. Pay will be the same as last year. Deadline for applications is May 26, 2026, by 4:30 pm.
- Trustee Nelson asked if we got the stickers in yet for the Village equipment. Bezely is working with Sheetwise Printing to get these done.
- Trustee Nicholson stated that south of his house, between Nicholson and Foster there is an area that had potholing, but there is a hole 6-8 inches from the sidewalk that is approximately 1 foot deep. This hole needs to be filled in.
- Trustee Martin asked about the housing grant the Village was awarded a couple of years ago. Bezely stated that 2 homes have been completed and 1 is being done currently. The homeowners have been very happy with this work.
- President Cattani had someone mention a couple of cracks in the sidewalk that were done in front of the American Legion. Ossola will take a look at this area. It was also asked about when Smith's parking pad will be done.

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Adjournment

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

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor – Motion carried (6)

The meeting adjourned at 7:53.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda J. Bezely

Village Clerk