

June 9, 2026 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board held a regular session on Tuesday, June 9, 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: Engineer, Adam Ossola; Administrative Assistant, Sammi Sarosinski; Village Clerk, Rhonda Bezely, Atty. Patrick Barry, and Building Inspector, Barry Flanagan

Approval of Minutes and Financial Transactions

Trustee Thrasher motioned, seconded by Trustee Flanagan, to approve the minutes of the May 26, 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 \$56,041.23.

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

Correspondence

The board reviewed three thank-you notes:

- Gateway and IVCIL for recent donations.
- A personal note from Rhonda Bezely for a sympathy gift for her father's passing.
- A note from Deb Lorenzi thanking Village trustee Dan Nelson and also John Kohr for yard work and advocacy.

Public Comments

- **Donna Blomquist (Hennepin):** Expressed opposition to the proposed Marquis Energy expansion within the Bureau-Putnam Enterprise Zone. She raised concerns regarding industrial over-development of agricultural land and the fact that the zone is nearing its state-mandated 20-square-mile cap, which could limit future development opportunities for other communities.
- **Brittany Blomquist (Hennepin):** Echoed Donna's concerns, specifically highlighting the potential negative economic impact on the Putnam County school district due to tax breaks given to large corporations.

Committee and Department Reports

Trustee Nelson reported on the following:

- Thistle spraying was completed at the community center.
- Repairs are needed on Iowa Ave (near Locust) due to water line patches acting as speed bumps, which pose a risk to snow plows.
- Kennedy Park Baseball Field Updates: Scrap metal was removed by Gary Pikula.
- Ax Church has worked in the concession stand. We received new cabinets and a sealed/epoxied floor. Bathroom walls were painted. They are scheduled to return on Wednesday to epoxy the bathroom floors.

Engineer Adam Ossola reported on the **MFT/STU project** on East Cleveland Street. The Cleveland Street STU project (curbs and storm sewers) is slated to begin next week. Tar and chip work is expected in mid-July. J.U.L.I.E. flags were discussed. Residents are advised to cut grass around marking flags, but not to move them.

Police Sammi Sarosinski reported the donation of an **electric police bike** from Princeton Chevrolet GMC, valued at approximately \$5,000. It was a promotion with the purchase of our new Police Truck.

OLD BUSINESS: Water Tower Lease: Attorney Pat Barry explained to the council that he has been unable to reach Robert Edlebech regarding the lease agreement with **Next Level Technologies**. The lease for the antenna on the water tower expires on August 9. The Village is awaiting the lessee's response regarding renewal. Issues were discussed concerning weekend access and the potential to charge for staff time required to provide entry.

Palmeri Park: The Village is currently waiting on a title commitment; the contract has been signed.

NEW BUSINESS: CD Reinvestments: Trustees discussed how long they want to reinvest all CDs. It was suggested that the water debt service fund add \$50,000.00 to the CD. Trustee Martin motioned to reinvest all CDs upon maturity for 9 months at 3.79% APY and add \$50,000.00 to the water debt service CD. Trustee Thrasher seconded the motion. Detailed information appears below:

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

- **Water Debt Service:** The board voted to add \$50,000 to the existing CD and reinvest for 9 months at 3.79% APY.
- **Electric Fund:** The board voted to reinvest for 9 months at 3.79% APY.
- **TORT Fund:** The board voted to reinvest for 9 months at 3.79% APY.
- **125th/150th Anniversary Fund:** The board voted to reinvest for 9 months at 3.79% APY.

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Motor Fuel Tax (MFT): The board decided to keep approximately \$100,000 in the checking account for the MFT/STU project and reinvest the maturing CD of \$138,854.33 for 9 months at 3.79% APY on June 27, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS: Donation to Snow n Mo: Bill Stewert of Snow n Mo has been voluntarily maintaining the landscaping at the Veterans Monument for the last several years. The council felt it would be appropriate to donate to his business for his generosity. Trustee Nicholson motioned to donate \$250.00 as thanks for the work he's done at the monument. Trustee Victor seconded the motion.
Ayes: Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson – Motion carried (6).

NEW BUSINESS: Discuss quotes from Underhile Utility Construction and Ficek Electric to bore in conduit from 829 E Cleveland Street to 1001 E Cleveland Street. Underhile was the only quote that was received by tonight's meeting; therefore, a decision was made to table this until the June 23, 2026, meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Pass Amendment to the Bureau Putnam Area (2017) Enterprise Zone for the Marquis Expansion in Hennepin. After hearing the public comments, the council felt more information was needed, so it was decided to table this until the June 23, 2026, meeting. At that time, a representative from Marquis Energy will be present to answer questions along with NCICG's James Durdin.

NEW BUSINESS: Conduit Boring Quotes: Quotes for boring conduit on Cleveland Street from Underhile Utility Construction and Ficek Electric were **tabled** pending obtaining a quote from Ficek. We will discuss at the 6/23/2026 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Bureau-Putnam Area Transit Donation: The request was **tabled** pending information on how new state transit laws may impact the organization's funding.

NEW BUSINESS: Ax Church (Hope Week) Donation: The board discussed the extensive volunteer work performed by the church (floors, cabinets, and painting). Trustee Martin motioned to donate \$1,000 to Ax Church with a second by Trustee Nelson.

Ayes: Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher – Motion carried 6-0

Announcements

Weed Abatement: Elm City Lawn LLC has replaced True Green by Ring Lawn Care for village weed abatement services. Issues arose, and Ring made this change.

Main Avenue Trees: A new maintenance plan was discussed involving weed removal, barriers, and brown mulch to improve aesthetics.

Legislative Meeting: State Representative Amy "Murri" Briel is scheduled to meet with President Cattani on Thursday at 10:00 AM in the Village Hall.

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- **Park Safety:** Discussion held regarding the need for a barrier or fencing at War Memorial Park to prevent children from running into Cleveland Street when playing ball.
- **Sister City:** The Village of Fanano (Italy) has officially committed to a visit in September to celebrate the sister city resolution. They will update us as information becomes available.

Executive Session

Motion by Trustee Nicholson to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters (5 ILCS 120/2 C1) seconded by Trustee Victor. Motion approved via roll call.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor - Motion carried 6-0

Adjournment

The board exited the regular session to enter the executive session at 7:25 pm.

Regular Session Return - Roll Call and Attendance

After returning to the regular session at 7:42 pm, President Cattani requested that the roll call be taken.

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

In Attendance: Village Clerk, Rhonda Bezely, Atty. Patrick Barry.

NEW BUSINESS: Set Wage as of 7/1/2026 for Deputy Clerk/UB Clerk & Administrative Assistant:

Trustee Nicholson motioned to give a 4% raise to the Deputy Clerk/Utility Billing Clerk as of 7/1/2026, as well as a 4% raise for the Administrative Assistant in the Clerk's Office as of 7/1/2026, with a second by Trustee Flanagan.

Ayes: Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson – Motion carried 6-0

Adjournment

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda J. Bezely
Village Clerk