

July 14, 2026 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board held a regular session on Tuesday, July 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 Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Roll Call and Attendance

Present: Trustees Patrick Flanagan, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, Brad Nicholson, and Molly Thrasher (5)

Absent: Bernie Victor

In Attendance: Engineer, Adam Ossola; Village Clerk, Rhonda Bezely; Deputy Village Clerk, Julie Koch; and Atty. Patrick Barry

Approval of Minutes and Financial Transactions

Trustee Nicholson motioned, seconded by Trustee Flanagan, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2026, regular meeting as presented.

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

Absent: Victor

Trustee Nelson motioned, seconded by Trustee Martin, to authorize payment of bills totaling \$75,856.02.

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

Absent: Victor

Public Comments

None

Committee and Department Reports

Trustee Nelson reported on two trees.

#1 – Goetz, Delina reported a tree on the corner of E Pine and Lincoln on the Village right-of-way is dead, and she requests removal. She also requests that a large branch hanging over her backyard fence be removed, along with any dead branches on another tree on the Village right-of-way. Nelson felt that public works can move forward in completing these tasks.

#2 - **NEW BUSINESS**: **Trees on Village Right-of-Way**: Stephanie Grivetti addressed the Village Board to request financial assistance for the maintenance of two large sycamore trees located within the Village right-of-way in front of her residence.

Ms. Grivetti stated that she has contacted the Village several times since 2024 regarding the condition and maintenance of the trees. Each time, her concerns were referred to the Tree Committee for review. She believes the Village should assume responsibility for trimming the trees and assisting with the ongoing maintenance, including the removal of fallen branches and bark.

Ms. Grivetti explained that she has personally paid for tree maintenance over the years, estimating her

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total expense at approximately \$8,000. Most recently, she hired Shearer Tree Service to trim the trees at a cost of \$1,200 and requested that the Village consider reimbursing her for that expense.

Ms. Grivetti stated that she does not want the trees removed, noting that she is a conservationist and wishes to preserve them. However, she expressed concern that the trees' root system has displaced the sidewalk, creating what she believes to be a significant tripping hazard. She also voiced concerns about the possibility of large branches falling and injuring someone. She noted that several neighbors have told her they avoid walking on her block because of the trees & condition of the sidewalk. Discussion followed. Board members discussed the possibility of removing the damaged sidewalk and replacing it with a new sidewalk that would curve around the tree roots to preserve the trees while improving pedestrian safety. Ms. Grivetti also stated that the Villages of LaMoille and Princeton maintain and trim trees located within their public rights-of-way. She encouraged the Village of Ladd to consider providing a similar level of maintenance for residents with trees located on Village property. Ms. Grivetti would like the Village to maintain the trees from now on. She feels she has been very generous taking care of these trees. The council stated that they need her to come to a meeting before hiring a tree company to trim them. This will allow the council to decide if they want to help with the cost.

Engineer Adam Ossola reported that he has been in contact with Gillan regarding the grass seeding that remains to be completed as part of the 2023 Safe Routes to School project. Gillan advised that current temperatures are too hot for successful seeding and plans to return in the fall to complete the work. Ossola also addressed concerns regarding rocks on Bob Wales' property. He stated that he personally inspected the area and removed rocks. Mr. Wales had previously driven his Kubota over the area to ensure no large rocks remained that could damage his mower. Mr. Ossola explained that the backfill material originated from the sidewalk construction. Because the site was formerly a gas station, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) directed that the excavated soil remain on-site. As a result, the same material that was removed during construction was used to backfill the newly installed sidewalk.

Trustee Martin asked about the status of Mr. **Smith's parking pad**. Mr. Ossola reported that Mr. Smith has chosen to obtain quotes from other contractors in hopes of finding a more cost-effective option. He is currently waiting for pricing from a contractor in Princeton who performs this type of work on the side.

Village President Frank Cattani stated that he has instructed Mr. Smith that he may no longer block the Village sidewalk with parked vehicles and must instead park on the roadway until the parking pad is completed. President Cattani added that once Mr. Smith's situation has been resolved, he intends to address other properties where vehicles are obstructing Village sidewalks. Trustee Nicholson suggested that Mr. Smith be instructed to submit a paid receipt upon completion of the parking pad, at which time the Village would reimburse him \$1,000.00.

Ossola reported on the **Cleveland Street curb repairs**. There's been a hiccup on the storm sewer that was put in going across Cleveland just west of the railroad tracks. This ties into inlets to an existing storm

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sewer that outlets into the railroad's ditch. Initially, Ossola planned to set the top of the manhole rim up so that if the line surcharges and builds pressure, it wouldn't have as much of a chance to outlet into the yards. The resident wasn't fond of this sticking up or having intrusion into the yard. The contractor proposed to keep the rim as flush to the ground as possible. There appears to be some debris buildup in the existing pipe, and the ditch by the road has sediment that has accumulated so that it is not draining out as well as it could, and raising the rim up could help the situation. Ossola wanted direction from the council as to what to do. We could put a plate over the hole and bury the manhole, but we'd rather have access to this manhole. Ossola feels fairly confident that raising this a bit will help a lot. The council expressed that the Village should do what is best for the situation. The pipe needs to be scheduled for cleaning and the rim raised.

Chip Seal on East Cleveland: President Cattani discussed the planned road improvements for East Cleveland Street from Main Avenue to the railroad tracks. He explained that the project was bid as a chip seal (tar and chip) project. While the Village would prefer to pave the roadway with asphalt, the cost is currently prohibitive. President Cattani reported that Village representatives recently visited a roadway in Selby Township where a carbide aggregate surface treatment had been used. Based on their observations, the carbide treatment is expected to last significantly longer (approximately 10 times longer) than a traditional tar and chip surface. He also noted that the Village of Bureau Junction has successfully used the same product. Engineer Adam Ossola stated that he is awaiting pricing for the carbide aggregate treatment to determine the additional cost compared to the originally planned tar and chip application. It was also noted that, unlike traditional tar and chip roads, the carbide-treated roads observed did not exhibit asphalt bleeding during periods of hot weather. Ossola stated it is approximately \$10,000.00 more than chip seal, but again, is waiting on a quote. Trustee Nelson stated that if other Villages and Townships are using this, it must be somewhat cost-effective, if not by purchase by wear and tear. The chip seal project came in quite a bit under what was estimated, so there is room to allow for the steel slag. Atty. Barry suggested the council move forward with a motion to instruct Adam to make these changes to his request so we can keep the project moving. Trustee Nelson motioned to authorize the Village President to sign a change order to change from aggregate to Steel slag not to exceed \$15,000.00; Trustee Martin seconded the motion.

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

Absent: Victor

2025 Safe Routes to School Project on East Cleveland Street. No kickoff meeting will be done by IDOT. They feel that the Village of Ladd, along with Chamlin Engineering, will be able to start the process. We had calls on curb repairs in this block that will be getting new sidewalk and driveway access. The curb repairs will be made if needed at that time.

NEW BUSINESS: Spray Patch: Engineer Adam Ossola explained the spray patch quote to the council. A resolution is needed to move forward with 3 days of spray patching to be paid for out of the Motor Fuel Tax Fund. Ideally, this spray patch will be done prior to the steel slag getting done. It often

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takes IDOT. Trustee Martin moved to Pass Resolution #1220 Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the purpose of maintaining streets and highways under the applicable provisions of the Illinois Highway Code and also approve the quote for spray patch with Ace In The Hole for \$20,508.00.

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

Absent: Victor

Trustee Nelson asked if everyone is aware that people are going around town trying to break into cars. Nelson stated that a ring camera caught a girl pulling on vehicle door handles and 3 guys watching the girl to see if she got in. This was at 1:30 am. Nelson wondered if cameras could be checked to see who is coming into town between 1-3 am.

NEW BUSINESS: FY26/27 Appropriations: Attorney Pat Barry reviewed the increases on the appropriations and explained that any monies spent by the Village, whether a grant or being paid out of Village funds, must be appropriated. Upon completion of review of all funds, with no questions, Trustee Nicholson motioned to pass Appropriation Ordinance #1219 Providing for the Annual Appropriations of Sums of Money for the Necessary Expenditures of the Village of Ladd, Bureau County, Illinois for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year, and Trustee Flanagan seconded the motion.

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

Absent: Victor

Slag Pile Acquisition Atty. Barry finally heard back from the Walsh family attorney yesterday. They sent a 21-page commitment to ensure title. Barry will review this document before the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Directional boring on E Cleveland Street: Underhile Utility Construction and Ficek Electric submitted bids to bore in conduit from 829 E Cleveland to 1001 E Cleveland. No bid was received from Mason Directional Drilling. Trustee Nelson questioned if solar lighting would be a less costly alternative. Because Underhile's quote was dated May 27, 2026, it was decided to move forward with awarding this bid. Trustee Flanagan motioned to hire Underhile Utility Construction to bore in conduit from 829 E Cleveland to 1001 E Cleveland for \$12,450.00, subject to Frank speaking with Doug to see if there is a less expensive option, and Trustee Thrasher seconded the motion.

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

Absent: Victor

Announcements

- Frank told the council that Omnitrax is coming to dig the railroad ditch over by Bob Beiers' home on N Central in an effort to open up the path for water to flow out to
- This will alleviate the standing water, mosquitoes, and smell.
- Republic Services would not allow residents who had water backup and sewer backup to put out extra garbage. The council was disappointed and will consider this when selecting their next garbage contract.

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- A letter from Dawn Neubaum was distributed to the council members for consideration regarding the Bureau Putnam Enterprise Zone expansion. This will be placed on the agenda for 7-28-2026.
- Bids were obtained for the epoxying of the floor in the Kennedy Park restrooms. The council felt the cost was way more than they expected. They were not in favor of putting this on the next agenda.

Trustee Thrasher asked President Cattani what will be done about Stephanie Grivetti's sidewalk, and Cattani stated he will drive by and take a look at it, then determine a plan.

Adjournment

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

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

Absent: Victor

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda J. Bezely

Village Clerk