

## Village of Ladd Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes July 28, 2026

**Call to Order:** President Cattani called the regular meeting of the Village of Ladd Board of Trustees to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Roll Call:** The following Trustees were present: Patrick Flanigan, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, Brad Nicholson, Molly Thrasher, and Bernie Victor. A quorum was present.

**In Attendance:** Engineer, Adam Ossola; Village Clerk, Rhonda Bezely; Village Attorney, Patrick Barry, and Building Inspector, Barry Flanagan.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Trustee Flanagan and seconded by Trustee Nicholson to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2026, regular meeting as presented. **Motion carried.**

### Bills and Treasurer's Report

- **Payment of Bills:** A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, and seconded by Trustee Thrasher to authorize the payment of bills totaling **\$174,772.30. Motion carried.**
- **Treasurer's Report:** A motion was made by Trustee Thrasher, and seconded by Trustee Martin. **Motion carried.**

**Correspondence:** The Village received a thank-you note from BPART for a donation supporting public transportation.

### Public Comments

- **Sherry Mowick (Hamilton):** Expressed opposition to the proposed enterprise zone expansion, citing concerns over real estate taxes and potential future data centers.
- **Sue Furantini (Ladd):** Opposed the enterprise zone expansion, noting the financial strain on schools and lack of new business development despite existing incentives.
- **Britney Bloomquist (Hennepin):** Questioned the public benefit of expanding the enterprise zone without a specific project identified and urged the board to prioritize regional flexibility and accountability.

### Committee Reports

- **Trees:** A half-dead tree at 303 East LaSalle Avenue was discussed. Per Village policy, the board decided not to take action as the tree still has greenery; the homeowner may trim it at their own expense. Inspector Flanagan reported a dead tree in the alley across from the park near Andy Gaylord's new garage.

## Engineer's Report

**Safe Routes to School 2025:** Adam reported that the engineering agreement for the project is still in progress. The board discussed funding for the estimated \$30,000–\$35,000 engineering cost and decided to utilize the **Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) fund**.

## Police Chief Report

- Chief Frund reported that recent police matters have been solved.

## Attorney's Report

- **Slag Pile Property:** Attorney Barry reviewed title work for the former slag pile acquisition, noting historical reclamation work and various easements. The Village will pay title fees (\$879) and recording fees (\$71) to close on the property. He mentioned the Village may have fencing requirements as outlined in the documents sent to Atty. Barry for the Village. Trustee Nicholson and Trustee Nelson made a motion, seconded to proceed with the purchase acquisition and authorize Frank and Rhonda to sign documents. **Motion carried.**

## Old Business

- **Enterprise Zone Amendment:** The board discussed amending the 2017 Enterprise Zone for Marquis Energy. Representatives from Marquis Energy, Drew Schumpf and the North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG), Kevin Lindeman, addressed questions regarding tax abatements, school impacts, and potential residential provisions. Trustee Victor questioned if the expansion was approved, would there still be zoning that must be approved based on what is being built/brought in to the property. Atty. Barry said that was correct. A motion was made by Trustee Martin and seconded by Trustee Nicholson to approve the enterprise zone expansion.  
**Roll Call: Thrasher – yes, Victor – yes, Flanagan – yes, Martin – yes, Nelson – yes, Nicholson – yes. Motion carried (6-0)**

## New Business

- **Axe Church/Hope Week:** Mark Schneider reported on Hope Week 2026 projects, including renovations at Kennedy Park and the concession stand. He thanked the Village for its partnership.
- **Zoning Board Recommendation:** Inspector Flanagan reported that Petitioner Marc Miller withdrew his request. He plans to reconsider his ideas and return to the Village with a revised plan.
- **Handicap Parking:** A request was made for a handicap parking spot at 121 North Main Avenue. The board discussed logistics with the state (IDOT) regarding curb access and

obtaining approval. A motion was made by Trustee Victor and seconded by Trustee Thrasher to begin the process of designating the spot. **Motion carried.**

- **Travel Reimbursement:** A motion was made by Trustee Nelson and seconded by Trustee Victor to approve a \$107.30 travel reimbursement for Clerk Bezely for a Municipal Clerks of Illinois workshop in Moline. **Motion carried.**
- **Sump Pump Ordinance:** The board discussed complaints regarding sump pump discharge onto neighboring properties. Attorney Barry advised that such disputes are generally civil matters. No change to the existing Municipal code was made.
- **Ad Request:** The board declined to purchase a football preview ad in the Bureau County Republican, opting to save funds for infrastructure.
- **Facade Grant:** A motion was made by Trustee Nelson and seconded by Trustee Flanagan to approve a **\$400 facade grant** for A&B Garage. **Motion carried.**

### **Announcements and General Discussion**

- **Donations:** Ring Lawn Care donated mowing services for Village parks before Ladd Days.
- **FOIA Requests:** The Clerk reported a significant increase in FOIA requests and discussed the potential need for legislative lobbying through the Municipal Clerks of Illinois.
- **Public Meeting:** A meeting regarding the **Safe Routes to School 2025 project** is scheduled for **Friday, July 31, at 5:30 PM in the Village Hall.**
- **Community Center Rental:** The board discussed a request from Dan Winner for rental of the Community Center to hold karate classes. Legal and tax implications regarding private business use of the municipal building were noted; Attorney Barry will investigate.
- **Italian Delegation:** Discussion was held regarding the upcoming visit from the Fanano, Italy delegation in September, including meal planning and entertainment.
- **Chairs:** Trustee Victor requested replacement of his chair in the Village Council Chambers. Several chairs are broken and need to be replaced.
- **Sewer Infrastructure:** Trustee Victor raised concerns regarding ongoing sewer issues and basement backups. The board reviewed the history of a \$3 million sewer separation project and the difficulties in obtaining funding and necessary easements from landowners. The committee members for water/wastewater are Trustee Flanagan and Trustee Victor.
- **Property Development:** There is ongoing interest from Randy Tomaszewski regarding his property near Spring Creek; the Village is waiting for utility requirements to move forward and prepare annexation of this property.

**Continued 2026-07-28**

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Trustee Flanagan and seconded by Trustee Nicholson to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda Bezely – Ladd Village Clerk