

VILLAGE OF LADD Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes August 11, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Village Board of the Village of Ladd was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at the Ladd Village Hall, 121 N. Main Avenue, Ladd, Illinois.

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Frank Cattani called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll call, the following were present: **Trustees:** Patrick Flanagan, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, Molly Thrasher, and Bernie Victor.

Absent: Trustee Brad Nicholson.

Also Present: Village Clerk Rhonda Bezely, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Julie Koch, Village Attorney Patrick Barry, and Village Engineer Adam Ossola. A quorum was present.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Thrasher and seconded by Martin to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2026, regular meeting.

Ayes: Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan. **Nays:** None. **Motion Carried.**

Absent: Nicholson

AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS: A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Victor to authorize the payment of bills totaling \$49,278.26.

Ayes: Nelson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin. **Nays:** None. **Motion Carried.**

Absent: Nicholson

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

COMMITTEES: None.

OLD BUSINESS: MFT Chip Seal Project (Cleveland Street): The Board discussed changing the aggregate for the Cleveland Street project from regular stone (\$55/ton) to steel slag (\$113/ton). Trustee Flanagan raised concerns regarding the potential for the black slag to track onto concrete driveways during high temperatures. It was suggested that sanding/dusting the road could mitigate this issue. A motion was made by Victor and seconded by Nelson to modify the chip seal project to use steel slag with a maximum cost increase over the initial cost not to exceed \$19,000.

Ayes: Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson. **Nays:** None. **Motion Carried.**

Absent: Nicholson

Victor asked if we find that the black transferring onto driveways becomes a problem, are we willing to dust the roadway? It was unanimous that the Village would look into having it dusted if need be.

NEW BUSINESS Engineering Agreement (Safe Routes to School): The Board reviewed a design engineering agreement for the 2025 Safe Routes to School Project (from Summit to Eastern) and

1 block on the LaSalle Avenue school route for a total of \$31,918.00, to be paid via Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds. A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Flanagan to approve the agreement.

Ayes: Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan. **Nays:** None. **Motion Carried.**

Absent: Nicholson

Resolution 1221 (MFT Funds): A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Thrasher to pass Resolution 1221 authorizing MFT funds for the 2025 Safe Routes to School Engineering Agreement.

Ayes: Nelson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin. **Nays:** None. **Motion Carried.**

Absent: Nicholson

Water Tower Lease Addendum: The Board considered a second addendum to the lease with Next Level Technologies for antenna space on the new water tower. The proposed rate is \$300/month for five years. Discussion occurred regarding site security and the refusal to provide the lessee with keys to the tower. A motion was made by Martin and seconded by Victor to approve the addendum effective August 11, 2026.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Thrasher, Victor. **Nays:** Nelson. **Motion Carried.**

Absent: Nicholson

Garbage Rate Increase: The Board discussed increasing garbage rates to address an increase by Republic Services beginning October 1, 2026. To minimize the impact on residents, it was suggested that interest earned from the Garbage Fund CD (\$307,000) be used to offset the deficit. A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Flanagan to increase garbage rates to \$16.00 per month effective October 1, 2026.

Ayes: Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson. **Nays:** None. **Motion Carried.**

Absent: Nicholson

Monthly Rental of Ladd Community Center (LCC): The Board discussed a proposal to rent the LCC to Dan Winner at a rate of \$500/month. The agreement will include a one-year term, a requirement for the tenant to clean the facility to the Village's satisfaction, and a provision to provide a Certificate of Insurance that the Village be listed as an additional insured. It was further noted that the tenant must yield the facility for other Saturday functions with one week's notice. Attorney Barry will draft a formal agreement to be approved at the next meeting.

Water Ordinance Amendment (Fire Suppression): The Ladd School requested an exemption from paying water rates for their fire suppression system and related testing. The Board agreed to support the school system. Attorney Barry will draft an ordinance amending Ordinances 867 and 868 to allow for unmetered fire suppression systems, though the usage will be monitored by a

separate meter (RPZD) installed by the Village. This Ordinance #1222 will be brought for approval at the next meeting on August 25, 2026.

IT Structure and Support: Trustee Victor requested a formal diagram of the Village's IT hardware/software and secure access to system passwords to ensure continuity if the current IT consultant is unavailable. Victor will meet with the consultant to facilitate this documentation.

Village Tree Trimming: President Cattani proposed allocating \$10,000 annually for a professional tree trimming service to address dangerous trees on Village property. Significant discussion followed regarding the use of Village staff and equipment versus outside contractors. It was determined that the Village has the management right to direct employees to perform this work. President Cattani will direct staff to trim a specific low-hanging tree on Elm Street as a trial.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ladd Days: The committee reported a successful event with a final account balance of \$24,518.50 + a pending refund from Euclid Beverage. Plans include putting 80% of the funds into a 6-month CD, retaining 10% in the Ladd Daze account for fundraising, and taking 10% and putting it into the Village's 150th anniversary account. They would also like to give a \$1,000 scholarship. The council thanked them for an excellent job.

VILLAGE CLERK/PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Dangerous Tree (Andy Gaylord):** A dead tree on private property is posing a risk to a neighbor's garage. The Board recommended that Andy contact his insurance company to put the neighbor/property owner on notice.
- **CDBG Grant:** The Board discussed inviting North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) Kevin Lindeman to discuss conducting an income survey required for grant eligibility. A \$50 utility bill credit was suggested as an incentive for residents to complete the survey.
- **Parking/Traffic:** Issues with Main Street parking, wide-load traffic, and double parking near the Post Office were discussed.
- **Dangerous Building:** The furniture store building was identified as a safety hazard due to broken glass. The Board directed the Engineer and Attorney to begin condemnation proceedings in order to file suit.
- **FOIA Requests:** Nine FOIA requests have been received since the last meeting, significantly impacting staff time.
- **Park Equipment:** Ladd Sports will purchase 2 commercial picnic tables for Kennedy Park, and the Village will provide a concrete pad and anchor the equipment.

- **Facade Grant:** A&B Garage completed their project; a payment of \$466.40 was approved.
- **Parking Enforcement:** President Cattani announced that the Village will begin enforcing ordinances against parking on sidewalks (particularly on Cleveland Street) and diagonal parking where cars are over the sidewalks.
- **President Cattani** asked Attorney Barry if he's heard anything from the Walshs' attorney regarding acquisition of the dump property. Barry has had no response as of yet. He will continue to reach out to get this taken care of.
- **Weeds/Tall Grass** Trustee Flanagan asked if the owner of 3479 E Spring Creek Drive is being fined for his tall grass and condition of his yard.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Flanagan and seconded by Thrasher to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson. **Nays:** None. **Motion Carried.**

Absent: Nicholson

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk