

# MUNICIPAL MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF LADD

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 | 6:30 PM

Village Hall, Village of Ladd, Illinois

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ladd was called to order by **Village President Frank Cattani** at **6:30 PM**. The assembly recited the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

#### Roll call:

- **Present:** Trustee Patrick Flanagan, Trustee Dan Nelson, Trustee Brad Nicholson, Trustee Molly Thrasher, Trustee Bernie Victor.
- **Absent:** Trustee Jan Martin.
- **Officials & Staff Present:** Village President Frank Cattani, Village Clerk Rhonda Bezely, Police Chief Jacob Frund, Admin Asst Sammi Sarosinski, Village Attorney Colin Barry, Village Engineer Adam Ossola (Chamlin Engineering), and Building Inspector Barry Flanagan.

With **five Trustees present**, a **quorum was established**.

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### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the **August 25, 2026 regular meeting** were presented for approval.

- **Motion: Trustee Nelson** moved to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026 regular meeting as presented.
- **Second: Trustee Nicholson**
- **Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes:** Trustees Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan.

**Nays:** None.

**Absent:** Trustee Martin

**Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.**

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### 3. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The warrant list of bills totaling **\$78,727.06** was presented for authorization.

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- **Motion: Trustee Nelson** moved to authorize payment of bills totaling **\$78,727.60**.
- **Second: Trustee Nicholson.**
- **Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes:** Trustees Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan.

**Nays:** None.

**Absent:** Trustee Martin.

**Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.**

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#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

**Village Clerk Rhonda Bezely** shared a thank-you card received from the **Walsh family** expressing gratitude for the gift sent in memory of **James Walsh**.

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#### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. **Michael Cook (110 S. Peru St.):**

- **Electrical Service Line:** Raised concern regarding a sagging power service wire running from the alley pole across to the neighbor's house that is currently touching his garage roof due to the neighbor having an unstable pole connection. The Board discussed owner responsibility versus Village line maintenance and agreed to work with the neighbor on options or a potential payment arrangement.
- **Basement Sewer Backup:** Reported two instances of basement flooding following heavy rainfall on July 4th and mid-August. Village officials noted ongoing efforts to secure grant funding for storm sewer improvements toward Adams Creek and provided Mr. Cook with sewer backup reporting forms for documentation.
- **Flock Cameras:** Expressed opposition to Flock license plate recognition cameras.

2. **Daniel Buettner (917 E. Cleveland St.):**

- **Park Playground Safety Fence:** Spoke in favor of constructing a protective safety fence along the south and east sides of the playground at War Memorial Park, pointing out that the play area is only 8 feet from the curb along Cleveland Street.

## 6. COMMITTEE & OFFICER REPORTS

- **Trustee Committees: Trustee Nelson** reported no active items regarding trees.
- **Village Engineer (Adam Ossola - Chamlin Engineering):**
  - **Railroad Ditch Drainage Project:** Discussed heavy silting in the ditch south/east of **Cleveland Street** behind Hollinger's yard, which blocks the 48-inch storm sewer outlet. Cleaning requires a railroad permit (\$4,000 application fee for a 60-90 day review, plus an optional \$1,500 fee for expedited turnaround, a 21-day review).
  - **Contractor Retention:** Recommended retaining **Starline Construction** on a time-and-materials basis (not to exceed \$20,000) to clear silt, saplings, and haul spoils away once crop harvesting is finished.
  - **Board Action:**
    - **Motion: Trustee Victor** moved to retain **Starline Construction** for a time-and-materials contract not to exceed **\$20,000** for the railroad ditch improvement project south and east of Cleveland Street, plus up to **\$5,500** for railroad application and expedited processing fees, with construction dates to be determined.
    - **Second: Trustee Nelson.**
    - **Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes:** Trustees Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Nelson.  
**Nays:** None.  
**Absent:** Trustee Martin.  
**Outcome:** Motion carried unanimously.
  - **Cleveland Street Resurfacing Aggregate:** Reported that initial rock samples provided by the vendor were oversized (1-inch stones); **AC Pavement Striping** is identifying an alternate aggregate source.
- **Police Chief (Jacob Frund):**
  - **Property Nuisance / Lawn Overgrowth (110 S. Bureau Ave.):** Reported severe lawn/weed overgrowth and **\$700–\$750** in unpaid violation fines at the vacant Rose Konieczny residence, where utilities have been disconnected since April 15, 2026. No payment has been received on the utility account since January 2026. The Board agreed by consensus to hire contractor Stacie Ring of Ring Lawncare to cut the property and place the cost to do so on the utility account if it is not paid.

- **Traffic Control / Interstate 80 Detour:** Outlined traffic management efforts undertaken during a recent Interstate 80 detour to prevent heavy semi-trucks from crossing the weight-restricted township bridge on East Cleveland St.
  - **Flock Safety Cameras:** Provided informational packets detailing local crime-solving benefits (burglaries, weapon recoveries) and privacy controls. Camera data remains restricted to local surrounding law enforcement agencies. The Board agreed to maintain the current contract status while monitoring legislative updates.
  - **Building Inspector (Barry Flanagan):**
    - **Main Avenue Fence Request (A&B Garage):** Presented a request from A&B Garage to install a 4-foot chain-link dog fence extending to the front property line along Main Avenue. The Board reached a consensus against approval, citing that Village ordinance restricts front yard fencing.
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## 7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

- **Ordinance No. 1222 — Unmetered Water for Fire Suppression Systems:**
  - **Village Attorney Colin Barry** presented Ordinance No. 1222, which exempts commercial/institutional fire suppression systems (such as Ladd Community Consolidated School) from standard water fees during routine system testing and active firefighting, while retaining standard rates for any non-emergency water consumption.
  - **Motion: Trustee Nicholson** moved to pass Ordinance No. 1222, *"An Ordinance Exempting Fire Suppression Systems from Water Charges for the Village of Ladd, Bureau County, Illinois"*.
  - **Second: Trustee Nelson.**
  - **Roll Call Vote:**
    - Ayes:** Trustees Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, President Cattani.
    - Nays:** None.
    - Absent:** Trustee Martin.
    - Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.**
- **FY26 Audit**
  - This was tabled until the 9/22/2026 meeting.

- **East Cleveland Park Safety Fence (TORT Fund):**
  - Discussed funding a playground safety fence on East Cleveland Street in War Memorial Park using monies in the **Tort Fund**. Quotes were noted from **Xcel (\$10,500)** and **Illinois Valley Fence (\$9,500)**. Auditor Kim Bird confirmed via telephone that park safety fencing qualifies as an allowable Tort expenditure.
  - **Board Action:** The Board agreed to **table the item for two weeks** to gather additional vendor quotes (including All Type Fencing in Streator) and discuss expanded Tort Fund uses directly with Auditor Kim Bird at the next meeting.
- **Employee Cell Phone Stipend vs. Dedicated Village Phone:**
  - Reviewed multi-factor authentication (MFA) requirements for cloud software (Caselle) and business usage on personal devices. Attorney Barry and Chief Frund cautioned that personal phones used for Village business are subject to FOIA requests and legal discovery.
  - Board Consensus: Rather than establishing recurring monthly stipends, the Board agreed to purchase a dedicated Village cell phone (via AT&T Mobility/FirstNet) for the Village Clerk's office.
- **Village Clerk Announcements:**
  - **Landscape Waste Operational Plan:** Was distributed via email to provide guidelines for the burn pile for all Trustees. Bezely confirmed that commercial contractors are strictly prohibited from dumping waste at the facility.
  - **Ladd Sports Financial Organization:** Discussed the savings account structure for Ladd Sports. Attorney Barry and the Board recommended that Ladd Sports establish its own independent **Employer Identification Number (EIN)** or non-profit status to separate finances from the Village.
  - **Upcoming Community Events:** Announced the **Patriot Day Ceremony** on Friday, September 11, at 11:00 AM in War Memorial Park, and **Music in the Park** featuring Joey Figgiani on Friday evening from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM (with the Players Club serving food).
  - **Ballpark Improvements:** Trustee Thrasher reported positive feedback on two heavy-duty blue picnic tables purchased by Ladd Sports (\$1,816 total), set on a concrete pad installed by the Village.
  - **Trustee Victor** asked about residents having someone else haul their tree trimmings down to the burn pile, is that allowed? Bezely said letting public works know would be good. Victor then asked if he hires a tree trimming

company to trim his trees that are on the Village right-of-way, can those be brought down to the burn pile. Bezely said that any professional tree trimmings are not allowed. The contractor should have a place to take his trimmings; they are not allowed at our burn pile. Victor stated that if he, as a resident of Ladd, wants to save money from a contractor that is cutting his tree(s) on the Village right-of-way, he feels that should be allowed. Bezely told him he would need to talk to Doug about this.

- **War Memorial Plaque Installation:** Mike Grivetti reached out to Bezely to obtain a 2008 Governor's Hometown Award plaque to be installed on the fence around the Veterans Monument at War Memorial Park. Grivetti paid for this addition to the monument. Tim Bott installed the plaque at the request of Clerk Bezely because Englehaupt didn't feel they could drill into the metal fence spindles.
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## 8. ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion: Trustee Flanagan** moved to adjourn the regular meeting.
- **Second: Trustee Nicholson.**
- **Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes:** Trustees Victor, Flanagan, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher.

**Nays:** None.

**Absent:** Trustee Martin.

**Outcome: Motion carried unanimously; meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.**

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**Respectfully submitted,**

**Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk**

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