

MUNICIPAL MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF LADD

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 22, 2026 | 6:30 PM

Village Hall, Village of Ladd, Illinois

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 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present: Village President Frank Cattani, Village Clerk Rhonda Bezely, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Julie Koch, Police Chief Jacob Frund, Administrative Assistant Sammi Sarosinski, and Village Attorney Patrick Barry.

With six Trustees present, a quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 8, 2026, regular meeting were presented for approval.

Trustee Flanagan moved to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2026, regular meeting as presented. Trustee Nelson seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, and Flanagan.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The warrant list totaling \$226,009.00 was presented for authorization.

Trustee Nelson moved to authorize payment of bills totaling \$226,009.00. Trustee Nicholson seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, and Martin.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Trustee Thrasher moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for August 2026. Trustee Martin seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, and Nelson.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Village Clerk Rhonda Bezely shared a thank-you card received from Bridget and Jim Walsh expressing appreciation for the card and gift sent in memory of their father, James Walsh.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

7. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

Trustee Reports

Trustee Flanagan announced that Ladd Daze will hold a second Bingo fundraiser on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at the Ladd Moose Lodge beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Trustee Thrasher announced that the Halloween Parade will be held Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. The Hocus Pocus Hags will perform. The parade lineup will begin at 12:45 p.m. in the North Central Bank parking lot.

Village Engineer

Village Engineer Adam Ossola of Chamlin & Associates was unable to attend.

Police Chief

Police Chief Jacob Frund reported that the Village's new 2026 Dodge Ram police vehicle was expected to be delivered during the week.

Chief Frund discussed options for disposal of the current police vehicle. Princeton Chevrolet offered to decommission the vehicle, determine its value, and make an offer to the Village. Search and Rescue had also expressed interest in purchasing the vehicle at an acceptable price. Chief Frund requested direction from the Board as to how to proceed. Trustee Nelson asked about the mileage on the vehicle. Chief Frund stated that it has

Continued 9-22-2026

approximately 125,000 to 128,000 miles and noted that police vehicles are often evaluated based in part upon engine hours.

Trustee Nicholson moved to authorize Chief Frund to investigate disposal of the current Ladd Police Department vehicle through either Search and Rescue or Princeton Chevrolet and to proceed with the option determined to be most advantageous to the Village. Trustee Flanagan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, and Nicholson.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Nelson asked Chief Frund about the CodeRED notification issued on Sunday. Chief Frund stated that an unhoused individual had been observed near the railroad tracks on East Cleveland Street. The notification was intended to remind residents to secure sheds, vehicles, and garages.

Village Attorney

Village Attorney Patrick Barry stated that he would follow up with the Walsh family's attorney regarding the status of the Village's efforts to acquire the dump property.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Veteran's Park Fence

Resident Katelyn Buettner addressed the Board and presented information supporting installation of approximately 215 feet of black metal fencing along the south side of Veteran's Park. Buettner stated that the proposed fencing would provide an additional safety measure for children using the park.

Buettner also discussed the condition of the existing playground equipment and encouraged the Board to consider future upgrades. She noted that much of the equipment is metal and can become extremely hot during warm weather, particularly the slides, creating a potential burn hazard. Buettner stated that some parents with young children avoid using Veteran's Park because of concerns regarding the temperature and condition of the equipment.

Discussion followed regarding the proposed fencing, playground equipment, and overall park safety. Trustees indicated that child safety should remain an important consideration when evaluating future park improvements.

Several Trustees expressed a desire for a more detailed drawing showing the exact

Continued 9-22-2026

proposed fence location. Trustee Nelson asked whether the Fire Department would have concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed fence to a fire hydrant.

Trustee Nicholson asked whether the Village had posted a survey on its Facebook page and later removed it. Clerk Bezely stated that the Village had not posted or removed such a survey after confirming with other Village office staff.

Trustee Martin moved to accept the quote from All Type of Fence, Inc. in the amount of \$8,789.00 for approximately 215 feet of fencing, with an additional four-foot opening to be located west of the pea gravel at the edge of the grass and positioned to avoid the lilac bush. Trustee Thrasher seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Thrasher, Flanagan, Martin, and Nelson.

Nays: Trustees Victor and Nicholson.

Motion carried, 4-2.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat Hours

Trustee Thrasher moved to establish Village of Ladd Trick-or-Treat hours from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2026. Trustee Flanagan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Martin, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, and Flanagan.

Nays: Trustee Nelson.

Motion carried, 5-1.

NCICG Grant Funding Options

Kevin Lindeman of the North Central Illinois Council of Governments addressed the Board and provided a handout outlining steps the Village should complete in preparation for the next Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant application period.

Lindeman recommended delaying any income survey until spring 2027 because income surveys are currently valid for only 12 months. He explained that the survey would be limited to the area benefiting from the proposed project.

Trustee Nelson asked whether all necessary easements had been obtained from landowners west of Ladd extending toward Adam's Creek. President Cattani stated that he hand-delivered the easement documents approximately one year ago but had not received responses. The Board discussed the need to contact the property owners again to obtain the necessary signed easements.

Lindeman stated that he had recently spoken with Engineer Adam Ossola regarding the project and the possibility of utilizing an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency loan,

Continued 9-22-2026

potentially with loan forgiveness. He explained that the Village needs to complete sufficient project design work in order to apply for an IEPA loan, which could then serve as matching funds for a Community Development Block Grant.

Lindeman noted that the Village may need to expend funds in advance to complete the necessary design work. He also recommended reviewing water and sewer rates, as appropriate rate levels may be required as part of the IEPA loan process. He stated that the amount of potential loan forgiveness is generally not known until the loan is awarded.

Lindeman advised that no railroad permits would be necessary for the proposed project on the west side of the Village. A potential project on the east side could require railroad approval because the project may involve boring beneath the railroad tracks.

Trustee Flanagan discussed the possibility of offering a utility bill credit or other monetary incentive to encourage residents to promptly return income surveys to meet the required response rate.

Trustee Victor asked whether completed income surveys would be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. It was the understanding expressed during the discussion that the surveys may be subject to FOIA.

Electric Pump Quote – Wastewater Treatment Plant Piping

President Cattani explained that a quote from Electric Pump was provided for replacement of piping on two of the Village's four wastewater treatment plant pumps. The existing piping was done in 1989 and is aging, while the pumps themselves are operating properly and were purchased in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

President Cattani stated that the Village intends to replace piping on two pumps this year and may replace the remaining two next year.

The Board discussed obtaining an additional quote. President Cattani noted that Public Works Superintendent Doug Englehaupt had indicated that he was not aware of another contractor to contact for comparable work.

Trustee Victor moved to approve the Electric Pump quote in the amount of \$61,040.00, together with necessary vacuum truck services required to facilitate installation, for a total cost not to exceed \$70,000.00. Trustee Nicholson seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, and Nicholson.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Continued 9-22-2026

Fiscal Year 2026 Audit

Kim Bird of Hopkins & Associates, CPAs, presented a report regarding the financial condition of the Village of Ladd and reviewed changes in Village funds from the prior fiscal year through Fiscal Year 2026.

Bird provided the Board with an easy-to-read summary showing changes in individual funds from year to year. She noted that Fiscal Year 2026 included fewer infrastructure improvements than some prior years and explained various columns and balances contained within the report.

Bird stated that, overall, the Village's financial condition was relatively healthy.

Bird also discussed restricted property tax levy funds, including IMRF, Social Security, and Tort Liability. She advised the Board that the Village may be levying more than necessary into certain restricted funds and explained that these monies may only be used for legally authorized purposes.

Bird suggested that the Village review future levy amounts if accumulated balances cannot reasonably be expended. She also discussed the possibility of establishing a risk management plan or program that could identify eligible uses of Tort Liability funds.

Trustee Martin asked whether Tort Liability funds could potentially be used toward replacement of outdated playground equipment presenting safety concerns.

Trustee Flanagan moved to accept the Fiscal Year 2026 Audit prepared by Hopkins & Associates, CPAs. Trustee Victor seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, and Thrasher.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Donation Request from Hall Booster Organization

No action was taken

Ad in Holiday Life Magazine

The Board discussed the Village's annual holiday activities advertisement.

Trustee Thrasher moved to approve a one-eighth-page, full-color advertisement at a cost of \$202.00. Trustee Martin seconded the motion.

Continued 9-22-2026

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher.

Nays: Victor.

Motion carried 5-1.

9. VILLAGE CLERK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Bezely reported the following:

- A sympathy card had been sent to Mayor Kowalski following a Facebook post that appeared to indicate the recent passing of his father. It was later learned that his father had passed away several years earlier.
 - Two Freedom of Information Act requests had been received since the previous Board meeting.
 - The regular Board meeting scheduled for December 22, 2026, was discussed. Board members indicated that the date did not present a conflict and agreed to leave the meeting as scheduled.
 - A four-drawer file cabinet and a large metal storage cabinet are no longer needed due to recent donations from North Central Bank. Anyone interested in either item may contact the Clerk's Office.
 - Trustee Victor asked President Cattani what decision had previously been made regarding the older Public Works pickup truck following the purchase of a replacement vehicle. President Cattani recalled that the truck was to be retained; however, several Trustees recalled that it may have been intended for sale. Clerk Bezely stated that she would review prior meeting minutes and recordings to confirm the Board's previous direction.
 - The Clerk's Office received a compliment from a resident who recently rented the Ladd Community Center. The resident stated that the facility looked significantly improved compared with previous rentals and asked that the Village be informed.
 - Ribbon-cutting ceremonies will be held Wednesday, October 7, 2026, for two new Ladd businesses. A ribbon-cutting for Thrifty 3 Resale will be held at 11:00 a.m., and a ribbon-cutting for Spicy Nicy Jamaican Jerk Hut will be held at 5:30 p.m. IVAC representatives will attempt to attend. The Village will provide cake and punch, and the public is invited to support the new businesses.
 - Clerk Bezely noted that there will be three weeks between regular Board meetings.
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Continued 9-22-2026

Trustee Victor asked for clarification on what the board had decided to do with the old pickup truck when the new public works truck was purchased. President Cattani stated that it was decided to keep the old vehicle for summer help to drive. Bezely requested to look up the minutes from the meeting where this was stated. Bezely mentioned she thought that the board stated it was to be sold. Victor stated that he's fine with what we're doing but felt that the council should know.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Flanagan moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Trustee Nicholson seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Bezely
Village Clerk
