VILLAGE OF LADD, ILLINOIS

REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 | 6:30 PM | Ladd Village Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ladd was called to order by Village President Frank Cattani at Ladd Village Hall. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: The Village Clerk called the roll. Present were Trustees Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, and Victor. All six (6) Trustees were present, constituting a quorum.

Officials Present: Village President Frank Cattani, Village Attorney Patrick Barry, Village Clerk Rhonda Bezely, Village Engineer Adam Ossola, Police Chief Jacob Frund, Police Officer Samantha Sarosinski, and Village Treasurer Julie Koch.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

Action: Moved by Trustee Thrasher, seconded by Trustee Nicholson

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Trustees Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion: A motion was made to authorize the payment of village bills totaling $102,623.88.

Action: Moved by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Martin.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Trustees Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Halloween Events:** The Halloween Parade will take place on Sunday, October 25, 2026, starting at 1:00 PM. Preceding the parade, a business scavenger hunt will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- **Trees & Property Discussion:** The Board mentioned ongoing tree removal activity behind the village offices on LaSalle Avenue. A discussion was held regarding the 'Trees Forever' grant program. Trustees Victor and Nelson stated that qualifying for the grant requires completing a comprehensive inventory of trees within the village. Surrounding municipalities (Spring Valley, La Salle) are pursuing similar tree inventory initiatives. Staff sent an inquiry to Ms. Cowan for additional program details.

VII. VILLAGE ENGINEER'S REPORT

A. Cleveland Street Project (STU/SDU Funds)

- **Project Completion & Pavement Inspection:** Village Engineer Adam Ossola reported that the Cleveland Street project funded through STU funds is complete. The Board discussed pavement markings, noting that a stop bar stripe prior to the crosswalk near Vaini's was omitted during repainting. Engineer Ossola will investigate.
- **Surface Condition & Notice:** The Board reviewed four surface gouge marks resulting from distributor truck spray nozzles or sweeper brushes. It was noted that chips were applied heavily to prevent asphalt bleeding. The Board noted that winter snow plowing and vehicle traffic will level the steel slag surface. The Board agreed to improve advance resident notifications and construction signage for future tar-and-chip or steel slag resurfacing projects.

B. Cleveland Street Railroad Ditch Cleaning

- **Insurance & Contractor Adjustment:** Contractor Starline Construction was previously selected for ditch cleaning along the railroad tracks on Cleveland Street. However, the railroad imposed revised insurance requirements ($4,000,000 umbrella liability policy and $1,000,000 Workers' Compensation coverage), which would cost Starline an additional $9,000. Due to Starline carrying $500,000 in Workers' Comp, the Board discussed transitioning the work to Universal Contracting, which holds higher insurance limits, or having Universal subcontract the work to Starline.
- **Railroad Coordination & Drainage:** The Board highlighted the poor drainage condition of the railroad's ditch along East Cleveland Street and feels this is the railroads issue. There was discussion on telling the railroad to clean the ditch out. President Cattani stated the railroad did not complete the job on Central Avenue and the Cleveland Street project would likely go the same. Once compliant insurance certificates are submitted for Cleveland Street, railroad permit turnaround is expected within 21 days, placing projected project commencement around mid-November 2026. A lowered manhole near Hollinger’s was also reviewed.

VIII. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Third-Party Officer Hiring & Traffic STEP Grant Ordinance

- **Ordinance Overview:** Police Chief Frund presented a draft ordinance governing third-party officer hiring and traffic enforcement details under the state STEP grant. The grant provides 100% reimbursement for officer compensation (including salaried personnel at time-and-a-half rates), while the Village retains revenue from traffic citations.
- **Legal Review & Revisions:** Village Attorney Barry recommended refining Sections 1 and 3 of the draft ordinance to ensure work authorization is strictly contingent upon 100% external source reimbursement. Attorney Patrick will edit the document for formal Board consideration at the next meeting.

B. New Police Vehicle & Department Updates

- **Vehicle Acquisition & Specifications:** The new police squad vehicle has arrived and was delivered on budget. The Board concurred with Chief Frund’s recommendation to leave the vehicle unmarked to support other police detail.
- **Vehicle Maintenance & Surplus Disposition:** Andy Gaylord will provide ceramic coating for the new squad car. The disposition of the retired squad car is under review, with inquiries being made to K-9 unit programs or dealer trade-in/salvage ($5,000 estimate). Hope, the therapy K-9 will be housed in the new squad vehicle.

IX. VILLAGE ATTORNEY'S REPORT

- **Former Dump Property Acquisition:** Village Attorney Barry contacted the Walsh family attorney regarding the acquisition of the former Dump property. Jim Walsh Jr. is finalizing review of the corporate resolution from Ladd Construction authorizing the gift. Final execution is anticipated prior to the next board meeting.
- **Ditch Material Placement:** The Board discussed utilizing excavated topsoil/black dirt from the upcoming railroad ditch cleaning project on East Cleveland Street to fill ravines and level ground at the former Dump property once ownership is transferred or formal permission is granted.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Resolution for IDOT Route 89 Closure (Christmas Walk)

Discussion: Consideration of a resolution requesting IDOT authorization to close Illinois Route 89 on Saturday, December 12, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 6:30 PM for the annual Ladd Christmas Walk.

Action: Motion made to approve the resolution as presented. Moved by Trustee Thrasher, seconded by Trustee Nicholson.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Trustees Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Item B: Discussion on Tort Fund Balance and Future Tax Levies

Discussion: Trustee Victor requested discussion on the Tort Fund balance, currently standing at approximately $575,000. Annual fund expenditures average $67,000 to $70,000. The Board reviewed financial guidelines suggesting reserves of two to three times annual expenditures ($140,000 to $210,000). To draw down the surplus balance and provide property tax relief, the Board concurred with waiving or reducing the Tort levy during the upcoming December tax levy cycle.

Item C: IMRMA 2027 Liability Insurance Coverage Payment Option

Discussion: The Board reviewed payment options for the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMRMA) 2027 liability coverage.

Action: Motion made to select Option 1 (full lump-sum payment providing a 1% early payment discount) in the total amount of $65,787.01 (comprising $65,537.01 in liability insurance and $250.00 in Illinois Municipal League dues), payable from the Tort Fund. Moved by Trustee Victor, seconded by Trustee Flanagan.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Trustees Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Item D: Donation Request for 2026 Ladd Christmas Walk

Discussion: Consideration of a village contribution to support the 2026 Ladd Christmas Walk event.

Action: Motion made to approve a $1,000.00 donation to the 2026 Christmas Walk committee. Moved by Trustee Thrasher, seconded by Trustee Victor.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Trustees Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Item E: STEP Grant Third-Party Ordinance

Action: Deferred pending finalized legal text from Village Attorney Barry.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: A motion was made to enter Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

Action: Moved by Trustee Nicholson, seconded by Trustee Victor.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Trustees Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Outcome: The Board adjourned the Regular Session and entered Executive Session at 7:13 pm.

XIII. ROLL CALL RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION @ 7:30 PM

Roll Call: The Village Clerk called the roll. Present were Trustees Nicholson, Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, and Nelson. All six (6) Trustees were present.

Officials Present: Village President Frank Cattani, Village Attorney Patrick Barry, Village Clerk Rhonda Bezely.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Action: Being no further business a motion was made to Adjourn the meeting. A motion by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Nicholson

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Trustees Thrasher, Victor, Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, and Nicholson. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Outcome: The board meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda J. Bezely
Ladd Village Clerk