VILLAGE OF LADD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 27, 2026 Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Village Hall

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Village President of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ladd called its regular meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Trustees Present: Patrick Flanagan, Dan Nelson, Brad Nicholson, and Molly Thrasher
Trustees Absent: Jan Martin, Bernie Victor
Staff &Officials Present: Village Clerk, Rhonda Bezely, Deputy Clerk, Julie Koch, Village Attorney, Patrick Barry, and Village Engineer, Adam Ossola.

Special Order: The Board extended birthday wishes to Trustee Dan Nelson and Trustee Patrick Flanagan.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2026 regular meeting as presented.
Motion by Trustee Nicholson, Seconded by Trustee Nelson.
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Flanagan |
Nays: None |
Absent: Martin, Victor
Outcome: Motion Carried (4–0)

3. Approval of Bills & Financial Expenditures

Motion to authorize payment of bills in the total amount of $200,196.86.
Motion by Trustee Nelson, Seconded by Trustee Thrasher.
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Flanagan |
Nays: None |
Absent: Martin, Victor
Outcome: Motion Carried (4–0)

4. Treasurer Report

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2026 as presented.
Motion by Trustee Flanagan, Seconded by Trustee Nicholson.
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nicholson, Thrasher, Flanagan, Nelson |
Nays: None |
Absent: Martin, Victor
Outcome: Motion Carried (4–0)

5. Correspondence

• Diane and Bill Chandler: The Board received an email expressing their sincere gratitude for the anniversary card signed and sent by the Village Board.

6. Public Comment

No members of the public were present or signed up to address the Board.

7. Committees

Halloween Parade

Trustee Thrasher expressed her appreciation to all volunteers who assisted with the annual Halloween Parade. She reported that this was the final year for the Hocus Pocus Hags, as several members are retiring. However, a new group is being formed in hopes of continuing this popular tradition. Trustee Thrasher explained that the Hocus Pocus Hags do not accept monetary compensation for their participation, but instead request that funds be donated to a deserving organization of their choice. Trustee Thrasher will notify the Village Clerk of the designated recipient for the $250.00 donation once a decision has been made.

8. Village Engineer Report

• 2025 Safe Routes to School: Engineering plans are fully prepared for formal submission to IDOT for regulatory review.
• Documentation Status for Ditch Cleaning: All required documentation has been secured except one outstanding insurance certificate, which is currently awaiting insurance adjuster processing.

9. Village Attorney

•Atty. Barry make a few small changes to the Ordinance the police requested for grant patrolling. Barry made sure the Ordinance doesn't allow this work to be done at time and a half unless you have funding from an outside source.

• Walsh Property Donation: Land donation conveyance documents have been executed by Jimmy Walsh Jr. The Village Attorney is concluding final closing arrangements. Per agreement, minor costs to transfer this property will be covered by the Village, and recording is slated prior to the next Board meeting.

• Stormwater Drainage Easements (West Side / Adams Creek): The Board reviewed ongoing challenges in securing voluntary drainage easements from six property owners along the western path. The board directed that an informational meeting with affected landowners be scheduled following harvest or after the holiday season (early 2027) to present visual diagrams and project details, choosing to avoid eminent domain proceedings.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

Item A: Ordinance No. 1224 – Police Compensation

Pass an ordinance authorizing compensation for the Chief of Police and part-time police officers for duties outside normal patrol functions and third-party funded details of the Village Municipal in the Village of Ladd, Bureau County, Illinois. The ordinance text was updated to clarify that compensation for extra hours is strictly contingent upon external funding availability and reimbursement from 3rd party sources.
Motion by Trustee Flanagan, Seconded by Trustee Thrasher.
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Flanagan, Nicholson, Thrasher, Cattani|
Nays: Nelson |
Absent: Martin, Victor
Outcome: Motion Carried (4–1)

Item B: Food Truck Request (Get Sauced)

Request from Get Sauced Barbecue food truck to operate on Monday nights in the G&G Poultry parking lot. The Board evaluated prior precedent regarding food truck denials, potential impacts on local brick-and-mortar establishments, and the absence of a dedicated village food truck ordinance framework.
Roll Call Vote: Consensus: Denied by Board Consensus
Outcome: Denied (No Formal Vote Taken)

Item C: Donation Request – Project Success of Eastern Bureau County

Request for a donation to Project Success of Eastern Bureau County / Hall Township Food Pantry to support holiday food baskets for local families. The motion failed to achieve a majority vote (2-1-1). They serve well over 100 Ladd Families.
Motion by Trustee Flanagan, Seconded by Trustee Nicholson, to donate $500.00 for Thanksgiving & Christmas dinners.
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Flanagan, Nicholson |
Nays: Nelson |
Abstain: Thrasher |
Absent: Martin, Victor
Outcome: Motion Failed for Lack of Majority (2–1–1)

Item D: TEST Inc. Water/Wastewater Operator Contracts (2027)

Proposed multi-year operator service agreement for 2027. Trustees raised several questions. Item tabled pending attendance by Public Works Superintendent Doug Englehaupt at the next meeting.
Roll Call Vote: Action: Tabled by Board Consensus
Outcome: Tabled

Item E: Cassell Support Annual Renewal (2027)

Annual renewal contract for Village cloud hosting, IT support, and municipal accounting software in the amount of $8,305.69.
Motion by Trustee Thrasher, Seconded by Trustee Nicholson.
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Flanagan |
Nays: None |
Absent: Martin, Victor
Outcome: Motion Carried (4–0)

12. General Announcements

• Ladd Sports Program: Ladd Sports has opted to remain affiliated with the Village of Ladd. Financial accounting is integrated into the Village clearing account, showing a current balance of approximately $5,600. The Board commended Steve Bosi and team volunteers for extensive park maintenance and tournament management. Trustee Thrasher told Cattani that next year, when the park is being prepared for the season, public works needs to be part of helping get things ready.

• Park Restroom Operations: The Board reaffirmed that park restrooms must remain unlocked and accessible every weekend through November 1 before winterization.

• There is a light outside the concession stand that isn't working. Public works was given a message about this light.

• Safe Routes to School Blueprint: Blueprints currently extend to the west edge of Hollinger's driveway to demonstrate intent for future railroad crossing permits.

• Brandner Land Annexation: Subdivision Proposal: Burr Brandner expressed interest in annexing farmland property east of Ladd Cemetery for a 10-lot subdivision. Research confirmed the property is within the Ladd school district. Next steps require preliminary plats and a pre-annexation agreement. Discussion regarding who will pay for what will then take place.

• Music in the Park: Heidi stepped down as coordinator. The Board agreed to post on Facebook and see if a volunteer comes forward to take over next year.

• Sister Cities Delegation (Fanano, Italy): A delegation of approximately 20 visitors are expected April 14–20, 2027. The Board discussed welcome signage and custom wine labeling. We will discuss again as more information is available and date gets closer.

• Main Avenue Property Enforcement (Former Furniture Store): A stop-work order remains posted due to unpermitted structural modifications (unapproved floor filling, deteriorating roof, unaddressed parapet walls). A realtor inquiry was reported; the Board advised that prospective buyers conduct independent structural engineering inspections.

• Sidewalk Hazard Tree Removal at Rips along with tree roots that are heaving the village sidewalk adjacent to a patio, creating a trip hazard. The Board reached consensus to grind the concrete lip as an immediate temporary fix and schedule tree removal with a tree cutting company who works on live lines, as electric lines run through this tree.

• Unusual Water Consumption Incident (Jack May Property): Billing clerk reported an extreme water meter reading of 60,000 cubic feet (~444,000 gallons) over 30 days at unit #2 of this 4 unit apartment building. Usage stopped after an internal shut-off valve was closed by owner. Public Works will inspect meter mechanics and review city-wide supply and sewage volume data.

13. Executive Session & Action Following Executive Session

Motion to leave regular session and enter Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) and 5ILCS 120/2.03(d) to review closed session minutes, including the semi-annual review pursuant to Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act.
Motion by Trustee Nelson, Seconded by Trustee Flanagan.
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nicholson, Thrasher, Flanagan, Nelson |
Nays: None |
Absent: Martin, Victor
Outcome: Motion Carried (4–0) at 7:53 PM

Reconvene to Regular Session: The Board reconvened into open Regular Session following Executive Session.
Roll call confirmed Trustees Flanagan, Nelson, Nicholson, and Thrasher present (Trustees Martin and Victor absent).

Item F: Approval of Executive Session Minutes as presented & Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

Action 1: Motion to approve the previous two sets of Executive Session meeting minutes.
Motion by Trustee Thrasher, Seconded by Trustee Flanagan
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Flanagan, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher |
Nays: None |

Absent: Martin, Victor
Outcome: Motion Carried (4–0)

Action 2: Motion to hold all Executive Session minutes confidential and withheld from public release at this time pending the next semi-annual review.
Motion by Trustee Nicholson, Seconded by Trustee Flanagan
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher, Flanagan |
Nays: None |
Absent: Martin, Victor
Outcome: Motion Carried (4–0)

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.
Motion by Trustee Flanagan, Seconded by Trustee Nicholson
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Flanagan, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher |
Nays: None |
Absent: Martin, Victor
Outcome: Motion Carried (4–0) — Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda Bezely Ladd Village Clerk