

REGULAR MEETING

December 26, 2023

The Village of Ashmore Board of Trustees met in regular session on December 26, 2023 at the Ashmore Municipal Office. Proper notice of the meeting was posted. President Kurt Crail called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and Clerk Freezeland led the Board in a prayer for guidance and blessing.

Freezeland acknowledged that a quorum was physically present, and that there were no requests for electronic attendance. Freezeland took roll call attendance:

Trustees Present:

- Bill Edwards
- Thomas Grissom
- Dane Perdieu
- Terry Price
- Bryan Watson
- Cathy Welborn

Also Present:

- President Kurt Crail
- Clerk Jackie Freezeland
- Treasurer Kathy Childress
- Deputy Chief Tyler Heleine of Coles County Sheriff's Office (exited 6:28 p.m.)
- Mark Sheldon of Pavlov Media (exited 6:41 p.m.)
- Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC and his wife (exited 6:50 p.m.)

Trustees Absent: None

Guests

Food was present for the annual "Christmas Dinner" meeting, so all present gladly filled their plates with La Luna Mexican cuisine. Crail led the meeting discussion by acknowledging each person individually, complimenting their unique gifts and abilities, and thanking them for their contributions to the Village progress and well-being.

Chief Deputy Tyler Heleine of the Coles County Sheriff's Office advised the Board of an upcoming DUI campaign for local communities as well as an increased presence of the regional Drug Task Force. Upon request, C.D. Heleine agreed to provide a year-end summary of law enforcement calls to Ashmore. C.D. Heleine exited at 6:28 p.m.

Mark Sheldon of Pavlov Media reported ongoing negotiations with the Village regarding an easement for the utility's junction box in exchange for 2 free fiber internet services (intended for the Municipal Office and the Maintenance Building) and 1 discounted service (intended for the Community Center). Sheldon exited at 6:41 p.m.

Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers gave following updates on the five pending grants the Village is currently seeking:

- OSLAD (for park updates) should be announcing a NOFA at any time;
- SRTS (for sidewalks leading to the school) application has been submitted and recipients should be announced next quarter; the grant would fund 100% of the project up to \$250,000;
- EPA Unsewered Communities Grant (for development and installation of a solid waste sewage system) should be announcing a NOFO possibly next quarter; the grant would include 100% grant-funded work up to \$5 million and 30% grant-funded work up to \$4 million;
- DCEO CDBG (for disaster relief funds) application has been submitted and waiting for recipients to be named; and

- ITEP (for sidewalks and streetscaping along Route 16) are expecting funding to be announced and released in 2024.

Beckman entertained questions and then exited at 6:50 p.m. accompanied by his wife.

Reports, Approvals, and Claims

Freezeland gave a brief update about new and ongoing projects in the Municipal Office.

Board Minutes dated November 28, 2023 were approved on a motion by Grissom, seconded by Edwards. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Accounts Payable for the period ending December 26, 2023 and Payroll for December 2023 were passed around, reviewed, and approved by trustee signature.

The Treasurer's Report for November 2023 was placed on file with the Clerk on a motion by Welborn, seconded by Price. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Superintendent Jake Johnson was not present to offer a Superintendent's Report.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Resolution #23-1226, "A Resolution Authorizing the Negotiation and Contracted Agreement with Pavlov Media, Inc on Behalf of the Village of Ashmore, Illinois," was passed on a motion from Edwards, seconded by Price. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Freezeland advised the Board of an opportunity to launch a Village website at a discounted price through Municipal Impact, which is an affiliate of the National Rural Water Association. The startup price of the site is within her authorized spending limit, but Freezeland was seeking Board support and authority to act on behalf of the Village. The one-time startup fee will be \$954 which includes the first year, plus the cost of the domain name, and the residual cost will be \$665 per year thereafter. Welborn motioned to support the new website, seconded by Edwards. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Watson requested a Work Order summary for future meetings, and Freezeland promised to look into it.

Members of the Water Committee requested a meeting to review water policies, including collections, unclaimed property, infrastructure tampering, leak adjustments, etc.

Questions were raised and discussion ensued regarding various nuisance violations around town.

There was no other new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. on a motion by Watson, seconded by Welborn. All trustees voted in favor, except Edwards who voted no. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Jackie Freezeland
Ashmore Village Clerk