

REGULAR MEETING

September 26, 2023

The Village of Ashmore Board of Trustees met in regular session on September 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 led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Crail took roll call attendance:

Trustees Present:

- Morgan Biggs
- Bill Edwards
- Dane Perdieu
(arrived 6:12 p.m.)
- Terry Price
- Bryan Watson
- Cathy Welborn

Also Present:

- President Kurt Crail
- Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC (by phone, exited 6:05 p.m.)
- Nick Sibenaller of Gilbert Metzger & Madigan, LLP (exited 6:15 p.m.)

Trustees Absent:

None

Guests

By phone, Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers gave an update on pending grants and entertained questions. He disconnected at 6:05 p.m.

Nick Sibenaller of Gilbert Metzger & Madigan, LLP presented Trustees with the Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Statements and then reviewed his annual audit figures and findings. He exited at 6:15 p.m.

Reports, Approvals, and Claims

The Village is currently without a Clerk, so no Clerk Report was offered.

Board Minutes dated August 22, 2023 were approved on a motion by Watson, seconded by Welborn. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

The Treasurer's Report for August 31, 2023 was presented and discussed. The Treasurer's Report was placed on file with the Clerk on a motion by Edwards, seconded by Perdieu. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Accounts Payable for the period ending August 31, 2023 and Payroll for September 2023 were reviewed and approved by trustee signature.

Superintendent Jake Johnson was not present to offer a Report.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Biggs motioned to set the 2023 Trick-or-Treat hours for Tuesday, October 31 at 5:00-7:00 p.m. Welborn seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

President Crail read a proclamation recognizing September as National Recovery Month. The Village was notified late about this proclamation opportunity, and so Crail noted that in 2024 the proclamation will be made at the August regular meeting.

Ordinance #23-0926 “An Annual Tax Levy Ordinance of the Village of Ashmore, Coles County, Illinois for the Current Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2023 and Ending on April 30, 2024” was placed on file for inspection on a motion by Edwards which was seconded by Price. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

The Personnel Committee motioned to re-hire Jackie Freezeland and appoint her to fill the positions of Municipal Clerk, Water Collector, and FOIA Officer recently vacated by Ms. Kelsey Willison. This appointment carries with it the responsibility of making purchases and having access to all Village bank and credit accounts. No second is required for the Committee motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted an enthusiastic aye. Ms. Freezeland will be sworn in tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m. and will begin her duties immediately following.

The Board discussed employee evaluations for Superintendent Jake Johnson, Assistant Superintendent Tim Coffey, and Treasurer Kathy Childress. The Personnel Committee motioned to approve new Wage Packet Agreements for all three, which included significant pay increases to appropriately reflect the rise in cost-of-living and the Illinois minimum wage. No second is required for the Committee motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted a aye.

Other New Business

Trustees discussed the presence of plaque/algae on the underside of the water tower and the need to plan for it to be repainted.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45p.m. On a motion by Price, seconded by Edwards. All trustees voted in favor. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

Kurt Crail
Ashmore Village President