

REGULAR MEETING

November 26, 2024

The Village of Ashmore Board of Trustees met in regular session on November 26, 2024 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. led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Freezeland acknowledged that a quorum was physically present and that there were no requests for remote 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
- Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC (exited 6:04 p.m.)
- Chief Deputy Tyler Heleine of Coles County Sheriff's Office (entered 6:03 p.m., exited 6:08 p.m.)
- Residents Jim & Nancy Meese (exited 6:18 p.m.)
- Resident Becky Huddleston (exited 6:18 p.m.)
- Nick Sibenaller of Gilbert, Metzger, & Madigan LLP (exited 6:32 p.m.)

Trustees Absent: None

Guests

Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers (MGE) updated the board on the statuses of various grant projects. Beckman's notes are attached as Exhibit A. Beckman entertained questions and then exited at 6:04 p.m.

Chief Deputy Tyler Heleine of the Coles County Sheriff's Office entered at 6:03 p.m. to discuss recent law enforcement in and around the Village. Heleine noted a rise in thefts of side-by-side ATV's, including one in the heart of Ashmore in broad daylight earlier in the day. He answered questions and then exited at 6:08 p.m.

Residents Jim and Nancy Meese and Becky Huddleston spoke about the ongoing disturbance at their homes caused by the noise from the fans on TGM's grain bins. Mrs. Huddleston offered to share videos of the noise from her property. Mrs. Meese advised that she contacted the EPA, but she was told they do not have any regulations for noise pollution. She asked questions about revenues the Village collects from TGM's business and about the application and approval process for building permits. Clerk Freezeland advised the residents that the municipal office has been collecting information pertaining to their concerns, and the situation has been turned over to the Village attorney, awaiting a response. The residents exited at 6:18 p.m.

Nick Sibenaller, CPA, of Gilbert Metzger & Madigan, LLP presented the board with audit findings for fiscal year 2024. He noted that the statements are presented fairly and in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. He noted two deficiencies in internal control, but both are common among municipalities of Ashmore's size and structure. Sibenaller gave an overview of the audit report, answered questions, and then exited at 6:32 p.m.

Reports, Approvals, and Claims

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

Board minutes dated October 22, 2024 were approved on a motion from Price, seconded by Edwards. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye, except Perdieu who abstained.

Public hearing minutes dated October 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. were approved on a motion from Grissom, seconded by Price. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye, except Perdieu and Watson who abstained.

Public hearing minutes dated October 22, 2024 at 5:45 p.m. were approved with amendments on a motion from Grissom, seconded by Watson. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye, except Perdieu who abstained.

The payables and payroll for November were passed around and approved by signature.

Upon recommendation from Treasurer Childress, Grissom motioned to transfer \$1,500 from the General Fund to the Recreation (Park) Fund to cover upcoming expenses. Edwards seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report for October 2024 was placed on file with the Clerk on a motion from Watson, seconded by Grissom. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

Superintendent Jake Johnson left a written report in his absence, which Freezeland read aloud. His report included the following updates on public works projects: water samples came back clean; two water leaks were repaired; the new water tower pumps have been installed; the water tower was overflowed in an effort to prevent discoloration from the changing temperatures; unexpected repairs/maintenance to the backhoe; plows and equipment will be inspected and prepared for winter use; and results came back from an EPA inspection in July.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business on the agenda, but board members asked follow-up questions about matters discussed in previous meetings, including video security cameras at Village Park, a cellular tower inquiry, and the status of ordinance violation enforcement.

New Business

Resolution #24-1126A, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of a Generator, was passed on a motion from Edwards, seconded by Perdieu. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

Resolution #24-1126B, A Resolution to Adjust Wages for Municipal Employees, amended to include a 3% increase for all line items except the Water Operator certification bonus, was passed on a motion from Perdieu, seconded by Price. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

Resolution #24-1126C, A Resolution Establishing a Schedule of Meetings, was passed on a motion from Edwards, seconded by Watson. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

There was no other new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m. on a motion by Edwards, seconded by Price. All trustees present voted in favor. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

Jackie Freezeland
Ashmore Village Clerk

Exhibit A

VILLAGE OF ASHMORE November 26, 2024

Unsewered IEPA Grant

The planning for the unsewered grant has been completed and approved by the IEPA. The first application for \$5 Million through the IEPA unsewered funding was not successful. The NOFO for 2024 has not been posted yet.

IEPA Loan Application

The Village is eligible for 45% Principal Forgiveness. The IEPA responded requesting some additional information before issuing the PEID. We are waiting on their response.

Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)

IDOT has approved the PDR. The application was submitted on September 30th. No word on awards at this time.

Safe Routes to School - SRTS

The 2023 Safe Routes to School application period was August 1, 2023, through October 2, 2023. The application was not funded. If the village would like to reapply, please reach out to M&G.

OSLAD

The application was submitted on September 13th.

Storm Disaster Grant

The close-out information was sent to DCEO.

2025 DCEO Public Infrastructure Grant

The Village is applying for a DCEO CDBG PI Grant for Water Main Replacement. The village is above 51% LMI; therefore, no income surveys are required. Applications are due December 4th, 2024. See attached estimate and project map.