

## REGULAR MEETING

April 23, 2024

The Village of Ashmore Board of Trustees met in regular session on April 23, 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.

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
- Superintendent Jake Johnson, plus 2 kids (entered 6:19 p.m., exited 6:40 p.m.)
- Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC (exited 6:09 p.m.)

Trustees Absent: None

## Guests

Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers (MGE) gave the following updates on the Village's ongoing grant projects:

- IEPA's Unsewered Communities Grant, a grant for the development and installation of a solid waste sewage system, is awaiting Notice of Funds Opportunity (NOFO). Osage Nation testing has been completed in anticipation.
- IDOT's Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), a grant for sidewalks and streetscaping along Route 16 (no change from last month).
- IDOT's Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS), a grant for sidewalks leading to the school, (no change from last month).
- DCEO's Community Development Block Grant, a grant for storm disaster relief funds, application was submitted and approved; MGE is waiting on a grant agreement to move forward;
- IEPA's Lead Service Line Inventory Grant (LSLI), a grant for taking inventory of the materials in the water line infrastructure, (no change from last month). Ashmore was able to successfully identify all service lines, so if grant is awarded then it will likely be refused.

Beckman answered questions, and then exited at 6:09 p.m.

## Reports, Approvals, and Claims

Freezeland gave an update about new and ongoing projects in the Municipal Office, including:

- She spoke with TGM regarding the resident complaints from the previous Board meeting. However, TGM is not in violation of the nuisance ordinances, so no action will be taken to enforce mitigation.

- A resident has asked Trustee Perdieu if a petition could be passed around to request better Verizon coverage in town. The resident expressed a willingness to collect the signatures if the Village could make contact with the company.
- The new website is still being developed for Ashmore with plans to launch on May 1.
- A reminder that on Saturday, May 18, 7:00-10:00 a.m. across from the Fire Department, a free dumpster will be available to anyone with an Ashmore address.
- Tasty Tuesday's will begin on May 21 and last through August at the Village Park. Freezeland asked if trustees could volunteer to help set up, tear down, and be on call for issues during these events. She will prepare a signup sheet.
- Freezeland helped to clear some of the weeds from the abandoned property formerly owned by Rita Bloxom in hopes to bring the property in compliance with Village code. Completing maintenance also supports the argument that the property has been neglected, and placing a lien for the cost bringing it to compliance serves to reinforce the Village's interest in obtaining the property.

Concern was raised about another property that is being neglected by its out-of-town owners. Freezeland will try to reach out to the owners to discuss.

Board Minutes dated March 26, 2024 were approved on a motion from Price, seconded by Edwards. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Ordinance Committee Minutes dated April 2, 2024 were approved on a motion from Crail, seconded by Grissom. Committee members voted in favor.

Accounts Payable for the period ending April 23, 2024 and Payroll for April 2024 were passed around, reviewed, and approved by trustee signature.

Upon recommendation from Treasurer Childress, Watson motioned to transfer \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Water Fund to cover upcoming expenses. Welborn seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye; motion carried.

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

Superintendent Johnson joined the meeting at 6:19 p.m., and he reported that all water samples are continuing to come back clean. He noted that they have been busy fixing meters and water equipment, clearing brush, moving dirt, and removing dead trees. Johnson complimented the efforts of the EIU student volunteers who came to town on April 13. He noted that they plan to install the new doors at the Community Center soon, and the new fiber internet should be installed before the next meeting. He exited at 6:40 p.m.

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **New Business**

Ordinance #24-0423A, An Appointment Ordinance for the Village of Ashmore, was placed on file on a motion from Edwards, seconded by Perdieu. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Ordinance #24-0423B, An Ordinance Dedicating Land Situated at 2 S Oakland Rd, Ashmore, Illinois as a Public Park, was placed on file on a motion by Price, seconded from Grissom. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Perdieu motioned and Watson seconded a 3% wage increase for Carol Bradford (gym curator and office cleaning) and Jason Walters (weekend water operator). In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye; motion carried.

Edwards motioned to approve all applications and waive all application fees for 50/50 raffles which were submitted by the Ashmore Harvest Festival Committee. Price seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye; motion carried.

There was no other new business.

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, April 30 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m. on a motion by Edwards, seconded by Price. All trustees voted in favor. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

Jackie Freezeland  
Ashmore Village Clerk