

REGULAR MEETING

May 28, 2024

The Village of Ashmore Board of Trustees met in regular session on May 28, 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

Also Present:

- President Kurt Crail
- Clerk Jackie Freezeland
- Treasurer Kathy Childress
- Superintendent Jake Johnson, (exited 6:44 p.m.)
- Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC (exited 6:09 p.m.)
- Residents Jim & Nancy Meese

Trustees Absent:

- Bryan Watson
- Cathy Welborn

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. (No change from last month.)
- 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; a completed grant agreement has been received and funds will can be drawn soon;
- IEPA's Lead Service Line Inventory Grant (LSLI), a grant for taking inventory of the materials in the water line infrastructure. Ashmore was approved for the grant but is unable to use the funds since it successfully identified all service lines. Grant funds were refused.
- ARPA Funds must be obligated before December 31, 2024, so ideas were discussed for painting the water tower and other infrastructure improvements.

Beckman answered questions, and then exited at 6:18 p.m.

Residents Jim & Nancy Meese were present to follow up with concerns that they expressed at the March 26, 2024 meeting of the Board. Clerk Freezeland reported that she had a conversation with the manager of Total Grain Marketing to pass along the concerns. Mrs. Meese asked about the minutes from previous meetings and if the Board had made a decision about remediating the noise caused by the grain bin aeration fans. The Meese's were given copies of the minutes in question and were advised where minutes can be found on the new website. President Crail and Clerk Freezeland explained that the fans were not in violation of Village Ordinances, Village

Zoning, or EPA standards. Additionally, no other complaints have been received by other neighbors, but one neighbor had commented that the white noise from the fans was soothing for sleep. Freezeland also noted that two of TGM's full-time employees lived on the border of the TGM property without complaint. As such, it was determined that taking further action would be inappropriate, beyond the conversation which already took place with management.

The Meese's asked if they could remain present for the remainder of the meeting, and Crail encouraged them to do so if they desired.

Reports, Approvals, and Claims

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

- A free dumpster was offered to Village and Township residents on Saturday, May 18, and it was very well attended. The cost of the event was paid in part by the Coles County Regional Planning & Development Commission, and the remainder was split between the Village and the Township.
- Tasty Tuesday's will began early this year on May 21 and Freezeland is anticipating a successful turnout of vendors, residents and visitors all summer.
- The Village is using a new credit card processing company called PAYSTAR to process card payments for water bills, permits, and fines. The service also comes with a free automated pay-by-phone system and online access where residents can log in to see their water bills and history of card payments.
- The Village mailed 50 abatement notices for nuisance ordinance violations involving 43 properties in town.

Board Minutes dated April 23, 2024 were approved on a motion from Edwards, seconded by Grissom. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

Finance Committee Minutes dated May 7, 2024 were approved on a motion from Grissom, seconded by Perdieu. Committee members voted in favor.

Water Committee Minutes dated May 21, 2024 were approved on a motion from Perdieu, seconded by Edwards. Committee members present voted in favor (Watson absent).

Park Committee Minutes dated May 21, 2024 were approved on a motion from Price, seconded by Grissom. Committee members present voted in favor (Welborn absent).

Claims Committee Minutes dated May 21, 2024 were approved on a motion from Price, seconded by Grissom. Committee members present voted in favor (Welborn absent).

Accounts Payable for the period ending May 28, 2024 and Payroll for May 2024 were passed around, reviewed, and approved by trustee signature.

Upon recommendation from Treasurer Childress, Edwards motioned to transfer \$6,000 from the General Fund to the Water Fund and \$3,000 from the General Fund to the Public Benefit Fund to cover upcoming expenses. Grissom seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried.

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

Superintendent Johnson reported that all water samples are continuing to come back clean and EPA-compliant. His department is planning maintenance in the filter room at the water plant as well as this year's MFT-funded street maintenance projects. He noted that they have been busy

cleaning drainage lines, clearing brush, and removing fallen trees. He answered questions and exited at 6:44 p.m.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance #24-0423A, An Appointment Ordinance for the Village of Ashmore, was placed on file at the April 23 regular meeting. Edwards motioned and Grissom seconded the motion to pass it. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried.

Ordinance #24-0423B, An Ordinance Dedicating Land Situated at 2 S Oakland Rd, Ashmore, Illinois as a Public Park, was placed on file at the April 23 regular meeting. Perdieu motioned and Price seconded the motion to pass it. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried.

There was no other unfinished business.

New Business

Crail asked that Ordinance #24-0528 be tabled until the next meeting due to concerns expressed by Trustee Watson, who was not able to attend the Water Committee meeting or the regular meeting to voice his concerns in person. Since there is no urgency to decide on the ordinance, the Water Committee will reconvene to discuss the matter further.

Resolution #24-0528A, A Resolution Declaring Certain Real Property and Improvements Thereon as Being Dangerous and Unsafe, was passed on a motion from Price, seconded by Grissom. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

Resolution #24-0528B, A Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code (MFT), was passed on a motion from Edwards, seconded by Perdieu. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

Grissom motioned to appoint Gilbert, Metzger, and Madigan, LLP as a qualified agency to conduct the Village's annual audit services. Edwards seconded the motion. In a roll Call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried. Freezeland noted that this appointment will be included in the annual appointment ordinance going forward.

Johnson and Crail suggested improvements to the Maintenance Building property, which include installing landscaping in front of the building and concrete ramps for the bay entrances. Edwards motioned to approve the suggested improvements with a budget limit of \$2,500. Perdieu seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried.

The Park Committee recommended the installation of landscaping border and plants at Serenity Corner with a budget of \$2,000 as well as the installation of landscaping border at the Community Center with a budget of \$1,500. No second is required. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried.

There was no other new business.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. on a motion by Edwards, seconded by Perdieu. All trustees present voted in favor. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

Jackie Freezeland
Ashmore Village Clerk