

REGULAR MEETING

January 28, 2025

The Village of Ashmore Board of Trustees met in regular session on January 28, 2025 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:

- Thomas Grissom
- Dane Perdieu
- Bryan Watson
- Cathy Welborn

Also Present:

- President Kurt Crail
- Clerk Jackie Freezeland
- Treasurer Kathy Childress
- Superintendent Jake Johnson
- Lee Beckman, Milano & Grunloh Engineers
- Kyle Sims, resident and trustee candidate

Trustees Absent:

- Bill Edwards
- Terry Price

Guests

Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers was present to give an update about all ongoing and recent grant project applications. He entertained questions and then exited at 6:11 p.m.

Reports, Approvals, and Claims

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

- recent winter storms and preparations at the emergency shelter,
- updates regarding ongoing interviews for a new part-time Treasurer,
- upcoming changes in the village's aggregation representatives,
- the judicial acquisition of the former Santrock property, located at 211 W Sycamore, and
- an OSHA training session in Effingham attended by Mayor Crail, Clerk Freezeland, Superintendent Johnson, and Asst. Superintendent Tim Coffey.

Board minutes dated December 17, 2024 were approved on a motion from Watson, seconded by Welborn. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye, except for Perdieu who abstained.

Ordinance Committee minutes dated January 15, 2025 were approved on a motion from Grissom, seconded by Crail. In a roll call vote, all committee members present voted aye.

Personnel Committee minutes dated January 27, 2025 were approved on a motion from Grissom, seconded by Watson. In a roll call vote, all committee members present voted aye.

The payables and payroll for January were passed around and approved by signature. The Clerk noted that the payable file is unusually large this month, because the December regular meeting was a week early and because there was an extra Tuesday in December. As such, six weeks have passed since the last meeting, which is rare.

Grissom motioned and Welborn seconded the transfer of \$20,000 from the General Fund (01) to the Water Fund (02) to cover expenses. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried.

Perdieu motioned and Welborn seconded the transfer of \$1,500 from the General Fund (01) to the Public Benefit Fund (05) to cover expenses. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report for January 2025 was placed on file with the Clerk on a motion from Watson, seconded by Perdieu. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

Superintendent Johnson reported on new and ongoing projects around town, including:

- clean water samples,
- winter weather and plowing,
- burning yard waste at the municipal dump site,
- two small service line leaks repaired and assisting Okland and Kansas with leak repairs,
- OSHA and online trainings completed, and
- ordering new hi-visibility workwear for increased job safety.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business on the agenda. However, a question was posed and answered about the pursuit of a cell phone tower in or near Ashmore to improve cell service. Freezeland noted that an inquiry was submitted to Verizon without response, and she intends to submit additional inquiries to explore options.

New Business

Ordinance #25-0128, An Ordinance to Appoint a Treasurer, could not be placed on file yet, because the treasurer candidate had not been successfully reached or recruited. Crail expressed concern on Treasurer Childress's behalf about waiting another month to start training her replacement. Since appointment by ordinance is a relatively new concept for this office, Freezeland will consult with the Village attorney about how to expedite the new hire. In the meantime, Trustees came to agreement about how the Board would prefer to move forward. Perdieu motioned and Watson seconded the following:

- Crail should have authority to negotiate and obligate the terms of hiring with the candidate of his choosing, based on the recommendations of the Personnel Committee;
- If negotiations fail with the first-choice candidate for whatever reason, then the Personnel Committee may interview additional candidates and make a new recommendation;
- Whoever is hired as the new part-time Treasurer may start training and receiving compensation as soon as is practicable based on hiring date and availability;
- The new Treasurer should be granted all access and authority of the current Treasurer, including decision and signer authority on all bank accounts, in order to effectively learn and complete the tasks of Village Treasurer;
- The Board will follow through with the attorney recommended appointment process at the next meeting.

Resolution #25-0128, A Resolution for the Demolition of Dangerous and Unsafe Property, was tabled, because recent information about a possible grant opportunity needs to be explored before an informed decision can be made. There was no other new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m. on a motion by Perdieu, seconded by Welborn. All trustees present voted in favor. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2025.

Jackie Freezeland
Ashmore Village Clerk