

Village of Ashton Board Meeting – July 11, 2022

Village Vice President Susan Larson called to order 7:00p.m.

Present: Rhonda Cardot, Susan Larson, Chuck Ellis, David Chapman, Martha Holder, Village Attorney Russell Crull, Village Clerk Katie Koks

Absent: Steven Garrison, Tim Henert

Motion to approve June Meeting minutes as presented – Holder; Second – Cardot

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

Motion to approve financial statement as presented and to pay monthly bills and additional bills – Chapman; Second - Holder

Ellis had a question on what the bill for Buckeye power sales was. Koks answered it was an annual service charge to the Village for notifications for the generator at the Mills & Petrie Building.

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

Citizens to Be Heard

1. Dave Balch: Said it came as quite a surprise to see the speed bumps installed. He mentioned that there had been talk that the neighborhood was going to pay for it, but he was never approached about the placement. He stated that he believes that the village has paid approximately \$40,000 on police salaries in the last year. He wanted to know what the issue is with the police not writing tickets for speeders. He believes that the way to stop the speeders is to get into their pockets. He understands that there are many areas in Ashton that are subject to speeders and that if it's a community or neighborhood issue than the whole neighborhood should be asked about it. He also stated that he saw children playing on the speed bumps with bicycles.
2. Justin Rains: Is supportive of the speed bumps. The bumps were placed in front of his house and he has lived there for 3 years. He said it looked like it was helping.
3. Teresa Slade: Lives on the corner of Cartwright and Rt. 38. She asked what kind of protection would be available for that area for speeders as well. She would like to see something done about speeding vehicles and she also identified the corner of Hicks and 3rd Street as another problem area.
4. Kelly Degand: She and her family are new to the area- moved in about a year ago. They love the neighborhood and the area and her house is down the street from where the bumps were put in. They are supportive of the speed bumps being put in. She has experienced people riding her bumper and passing her on the residential street (Richardson Ave.). She works from home and has heard cars flying down the street. She feels that having a physical barrier on the street is a good thing. She stated that she did not see children playing on the bumps.
5. Gary Evans: Wants to see a more cost-effective way to control the issue. He would like re-evaluate the funds for police and streets and how they are allocated. He asked who holds the police accountable for monitoring speeders in town. He also said it sounds like the speed bumps are doing what they are intended to do.
6. Lyle Sword: Goes walking every morning and noticed that the speed bumps had been installed. He stated that the speed bumps signs were incorrectly placed and were not at an 8ft height (as they needed to be because cars are allowed to be parked there). He was also concerned about the number of gaming establishments in town and felt that the vote to increase the number of establishments should have been put in front of the public. He is disappointed with how the town is being run and the lack of communication to the public. He is also concerned about the sidewalk – or lack of sidewalk– in front of the doctor's office and the accessibility for the older residents who walk to the clinic, and he indicated that the Street and Alley Chairman was lax in his duties.

Attorney Crull asked Mr. Sword to please refrain from accusatory statements to a single member of the board.

7. Julie Callison: Has lived on Richardson Ave. for 3 years and works from home. Her office faces the road and she hears traffic constantly buzz by at speeds that seem to be above the 20mph speed limit. She asked questions to Trustee Ellis about the timeline of the speed bump conversation and mentioned that many people are invested in this issue now, but haven't necessarily taken the time to re-read past minutes. She asked Ashton Gazette reporter Monetta Young if she takes minutes at the meetings. Young said she takes notes, but her reports are not verbatim. Callison said the primary function of the bumps is for child safety and that should be the top priority for all the Village Trustees. She is also concerned about the speed of golf carts and feels that ordinance should also be re-evaluated.
 8. Peyton Lumzy: He is generally supportive of the speed bumps, but is not opposed to another option if they are researched and presented to the community. He is wondering if there are options other than a bump and it would be a good thing by the police taking it up a notch with speeders. He was also not aware that the speed bumps were going in and would have liked to know that they were going in.
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Old Business-None

New Business

Steve Garrison was not present at the meeting, so Larson reported his intent to resign his position on the board as of June 30, 2022.

Motion to accept the resignation of Steve Garrison from the Village Board as of June 30, 2022 – Holder; Second - Ellis

Roll Call Vote: Cardot – Aye, Chapman – Aye, Ellis – Aye, Holder- Aye. 4 Ayes, 0-Nays, 0 Absent Motion passed.

Larson then announced that Steve Garrison was Village President Henert's choice to fill the role of full-time Street & Alley Superintendent for the Village and asked the board to approve hiring him as of July 1, 2022

Motion to hire Steve Garrison as Street & Alley Superintendent as of July 1, 2022- Chapman; Second – Ellis
Roll Call Vote: Chapman-Aye, Ellis – Aye, Holder- Aye, Cardot-Aye. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent. Motion passed.

Chapman stated he believes Garrison is a total asset to the village so far. He is on top of it and is very efficient. He is very good to work with.

Zoning

Manheim was absent from the meeting, so Koks reported a handful of letters and permits for a roof, a fence, and a pool had been distributed in the last month.

Community Economic Development

Koks reported that a new village logo from Stahr Media had been developed. The final design, after several rounds of changes, was included in the trustee's packets. Koks asked if the board would approve the design to be used on the new website and for printed Village materials.

Motion to approve the artwork for the new village logo – Ellis; Second – Cardot

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent – Motion passed.

Streets & Alleys

Ellis announced that there would be a Streets & Alleys committee meeting for further discussion about the speed bumps. He also read a progress report from Steve Garrison including the following items that have been completed, started but not completed, and things yet to do.

Completed projects: Repair of known street potholes (cold patch), repair of alley potholes (gravel), south end of Paddock next to railroad tracks – dug out last 6 feet of silt covering the curb and the storm sewer drains, trimmed trees for clearance over the street, assembled the gas sidewalk edger, cleaned, trimmed, and edged the landscaping on both sides of highway and on Cartwright Ave., cut and removed tall weeds along the railroad tracks under and behind the pines on Schade St., cut out all the stumps between the pine trees and the tracks so the Village can mow in the space instead of using the gas trimmer, trimmed weeded and fertilized rosebushes downtown.

Started projects: Emptying trailer out at the sewer plant by the burn pile, trimming trees and bushes in alleyways and sidewalks for clearance, cutting and clearing of the weeds around the sewer ponds at the sewer plant.

Projects to do: Clean up sewer plant yard of unwanted/dumped items, cut and remove weeds along the fences, power wash and paint both buildings at sewer plant, reset swing pole next to the lower shelter at the park, repair push mower at the street building, painting yellow curbs and fire hydrants.

Water & Sewer

Chapman reported on one developing story. Western Avenue tends to flood due to storm sewer by the railroad. He has a contact from Union Pacific that is coming to assess the work. It took him 3 months to get the contact but the railroad will begin work in that area soon.

Water & Sewer Superintendent Nathan McBride spoke about the issue with hydrant flushing on the north side of Cartwright Ave. He spoke about the need for a second hydrant installed on the far end of the line so it can be flushed properly. Larson asked McBride to get a second bid for installation of another hydrant and to see if we can identify if that's the actual process that needs to be done. Chapman asked where the information came from. McBride said Adam Lanning was confident that is the issue causing the rust colored water when the hydrants are flushed.

Holder reported that the access to the hydrant at the corner of Richardson and Fourth Street also needs to be addressed.

Parks

Holder said the committee will be planning for Fall Fest – last Sunday in September. No meeting date set yet but should be announced soon.

Liquor Commissioner- None

Police Report - None

Clerk's report

Koks reported some minor changes – adjustments to final amounts in Fund 34 (Capital Improvement – Water/Sewer Bond & Interest). The changes changed the final ending number from -\$20,478 to -\$10,266.

Koks asked for the Board's approval of the annual budget as well as the budget and appropriation ordinance.

Motion to approve the Revue and Budgeted Expenditures for Fiscal Year 22-23 - Chapman; Second – Cardot
Roll Call Vote: Ellis – Aye, Holder-Aye, Cardot – Aye, Chapman-Aye. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 22-23 – Ellis; Second- Chapman
Roll Call Vote: Holder-Aye, Cardot-Aye, Chapman-Aye, Ellis-Aye. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent. Motion passed.

Cemetery-Nothing

Mills & Petrie

Holder reported that the Mills & Petrie board has continued work on policies and some building maintenance issues, the summer reading program, and how to increase rentals and cleaned up some landscaping around the building.

Attorney

Crull stated that after the resignation of Steve Garrison – the village will have 60 days to fill the vacated seat on the board. Crull also mentioned that he heard that Lee County is addressing dilapidated buildings – if the village has a list of buildings for them to include, they should send them over after he gets more information about the program. He has heard that work is being done on the properties on Main Street. (804 & 806) which is promising.

Other

Resident P. Lumzy asked for an updated on the Splash Pad. Larson explained that work is ongoing to identify what can be fixed to meet the state's reopening requirements and address the breakages under the concrete. The Village does not have a projected day to reopen.

Motion to adjourn – Ellis; Second- Cardot

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:56p.m.

Submitted by Katie Koks, Village Clerk