



Village President Henert called the meeting to order 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Rhonda Cardot, Denise Coffman, Chuck Ellis, Martha Holder, Susan Larson, Tim Henert, Attorney Russ Crull, Clerk Katie Koks

Absent: David Chapman

Public Comment (5 min per speaker per topic)

Adam Lanning gave a State of the Water & Sewer Presentation. Water Tower Maintenance- suggested looking into a warranty on the paint. The last time it was painted was 2013. Well-House notes included a recommendation to service the pumps in each well, but the overall cosmetic maintenance that was initially suggested was completed by Garrison. He reported that the EPA will require a survey of the material type in every residence in Ashton and he recommended that the Village get a project plan submitted to the EPA now to get the biggest amount of loan forgiveness. He was not concerned with the hype around PFAS in the water in Ashton. On the sewer side, he noted that he had looked at the lift station from Crest Food and it looks good and is well-maintained. He also mentioned that he would like the Village to be proactive instead of reactive and to think about replacing the aerators at the pond to help the dissolved oxygen level. There may be a minimum of four pieces of equipment to replace at a cost of approximately \$10,000 each. The lagoons are due to be dredged and to have an assessment done to determine a timeline.

Approval of the Minutes

- The board reviewed the minutes from the following meetings: February 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2023 Finance Committee Minutes, March 8, 2023 Cemetery Committee Minutes
Motion to approve the above listed minutes-Ellis; Second-Coffman.
Voice Vote to approve: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent. Motion passed.

Approval of the Monthly Bills

- The board reviewed the Treasurer’s report and list of bills payable.
Motion to approve bills payable-draw upon the treasury to pay monthly expenditures in the amount of \$43,413.16 and additional bills- Coffman; Second- Ellis
Brief question from the board on the Braniff Communication bill on the additional bills list. The charge was for maintenance and batteries on the emergency siren and would be shared with the Fire Department (split half and half).
Voice Vote to approve: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- The board reviewed the packet materials presenting different scenarios for water rate increases proposed by the IRWA. There was discussion about the benefits or conflicts that may arise by making a change as well as the appropriate level of increase.
Motion to increase the water rate from \$3.19 per 1,000 gallons after the minimum to \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons after the minimum and to reduce the minimum gallons from 6,000 to 3,000 for water and sewer rates for the billing cycle beginning on April 1, 2023 to be billed on July 1, 2023 – Coffman; Second-Holder

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Cardot, Coffman, Ellis, Holder

Nays: 0

Absent: Chapman

Abstain: Larson

4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Abstain – Motion passed

New Business:

- Henert reported that the Village had received the final quit claim deed for the 40 acres west of town in early march. There will be discussions on annexation and leasing the property for the next year at the April meeting.



Committee & Officer Reports:

Water and Sewer (D. Chapman)

- Garrison discussed the goals and challenges of the meter change out project so far. Overall, he felt that the project was going smoothly.

Streets and Alleys (C. Ellis)

- Garrison reported he was working on compiling a list of projects for street maintenance this summer. He and Ellis agreed to survey the streets and sidewalks soon.
- Henert asked the board to consider increasing the requested annual funds from the Blum Foundation for sidewalk repair due to inflation costs and last year's invoice.

Motion to submit a Blum Grant application in the amount of \$50,000 for annual sidewalk maintenance – Ellis; Second-Larson

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Cardot, Coffman, Ellis, Holder, Larson

Nays: 0

Absent: Chapman

Abstain: 0

5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain – Motion passed

Cemetery (T. Henert)

- Henert reported that the Cemetery had met and discussed a request from Rene Lawson to donate a tree on the south side of the cemetery property. The committee recommended to deny the request based on the location and potential issues with maintenance in the future.

Motion to deny the request for donation of a memorial tree at the Ashton Cemetery-Larson; Second-Coffman.

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent. Motion passed.

Parks & Recreation (M. Holder)

- Holder reported that the committee did not meet as expected in March, but there is a meeting scheduled for April 4th. The committee is working on ideas to assist the Ashton Lions Club with gathering funds to buy Christmas Presents for needy families during the holidays.
- Garrison reported that the mother-child swing was installed this spring at Griffith Park.
- Park Clean-Up is scheduled for April 1st, 2023 –weather dependent.

Liquor Commissioner (T. Henert)

- Henert reported that Liquor License fees and renewal paperwork will be due by April 30th. A packet of information will be distributed to current license holders.
- The board reviewed the video gaming revenue numbers for 2022 and discussed increasing the annual fee per machine. Henert noted that the video gaming companies would reimburse the businesses if the local ordinance was re-written to include a fee to the company as well as the business.

Motion to increase the annual fee per gaming machine from \$25.00 to \$250.00-Ellis; Second-Cardot

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Cardot, Coffman, Ellis, Holder, Larson

Nays: 0

Absent: Chapman

Abstain: 0

5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain – Motion passed

Clerk's Report (K. Koks)

- Koks reminded the board to file their Statement of Economic Interest Statements at the County Courthouse before May 1st.
- Live plants are available for purchase at the Village Office, all supplies was donated and proceeds would be donated to the Ashton Care Pantry.



Village Board Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2023

Ordinance Committee (T. Henert)

- The committee met just previous to the meeting tonight and would be working on getting the current Ordinance Book updated and edited.

Finance Committee (S.Larson)

- The committee will meet on Tuesday March 21, 2023 at 3:15 at the Village Office for continued discussion on priority projects and some long-range planning.

Community Economic Development (R. Cardot) – No Report

Mills and Petrie Board (M. Holder)- No Report

Village Attorney (R. Crull)

- Crull reported he would be working on the annexation of the new village property as well as some adjacent properties and a lease agreement for the coming year for the acreage. He would also be updating ordinances for gaming and water rates for the April meeting.

Other Topics:

- The consolidated election is Tuesday April 4th. Good luck to all the candidates that are in the running.

Motion to return to Adjourn - Larson; Second- Coffman

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent – Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:11p.m.

Submitted by Katie Koks, Village Clerk