**Regular Meeting**

March 11, 2013

The Village of Ashton Board of Trustees met at 7:30 P.M. on March 11, 2013 in the Village Hall with President Martinez presiding. Trustees in attendance were David Balch, Tom Balch, Andrew Kida, Mike Emmons, and Richard Russell. Motion was made by Kida, seconded by Emmons to approve the February minutes. Voice votes, 5 ayes – D Balch, T Balch, Emmons, Kida, and Russell, 0 nays, 1 absent Meurer, motion carried.

Motion was made by Kida, seconded by Emmons to draw upon the treasury to pay the monthly bills and payroll in the amount of $40,991.62. Voice votes, 5 ayes – D Balch, T Balch, Emmons, Kida, and Russell, 0 nays, 1 absent Meurer, motion carried.

Monetta Young said she had approached the board a couple months ago about the sidewalk stencils to prohibit bikes and skateboards on the sidewalks downtown and to consider enforcing a penalty for those who don’t get a permit for the all town garage sales and would like for them to take some actions.

Rick Kennay asked the board for permission to have a fund raiser beer tent for the Summer Celebration. Martinez said it was not on the agenda so no action could be taken.

Ashley Hoehev from the First National Bank spoke to the board about investments of the cemetery money and presented the board with a suggested conservative portfolio and that it would not be FDIC insured. Kida talked about the budget and referred to the worksheet he had put together to show the need to invest to get a better return on the money. Kida said the money proposed for investment would come from cemetery CD’s and Eckhoff gift monies. Tess told the board they needed to create an investment policy. Martinez tabled to the April meeting to give Tess some time to get the wording together.

Lee Kelley from Merendino Cemetery Care told the board that it had been an honor for them to take care of the Ashton Cemetery and that there would be no increase in the rate and would keep everything the same for this season. Kida made a motion, second by Tom Balch to have Merendino care for the cemetery this season. Roll call votes, 5 ayes – D Balch, T Balch, Emmons, Kida, and Russell, 0 nays, 1 absent - Meurer, motion carried.

Tom Balch talked to the board about requesting grant money from the Blum Foundation for 3 fire hydrants and the installation in the amount of $16,480. Schmitt Plumbing has quoted $7,580 to do the replacement of the two hydrants on the highway. These two hydrants have tree and shut off issues. Kida made a motion, seconded by Tom Balch to apply for the Blum Grant for the three hydrants and installation. Voice votes, 5 ayes – D Balch, T Balch, Emmons, Kida, and Russell, 0 nays, 1 absent Meurer, motion carried.

Tom Balch asked the board for a consensus if they wanted to do the Phase II Sewer Project when school is out and pay crop damage or wait until the crops are out. The board consensus was to wait until the crops are out.

Chief Farringer’s monthly police report listed 192 hours worked, 53 gallons fuel, 954 miles, 0-adult arrests, 0-juvenile detained, 0-criminal offense reports, 9-public services, 7-traffic enforcements. and no fines were not listed on the report. Farringer reported that he had attended the mock emergency response meeting with Lee and Ogle County and that the next meeting will be held May 8th.

Kida announced that the cemetery cleanup day would be April 2nd.

Manheim told the board that the Planning and Zoning board had approved a rezoning request for 609 Richardson Avenue to go from an R-1 to R-2 multi-family. Ample parking will be provided. Kida made a motion, seconded by Emmons to accept the findings and recommendation of the planning commission. Roll call votes, 5 ayes – D Balch, T Balch, Emmons, Kida, and Russell, 0 nays, 1 absent Meurer, motion carried.

Tom Balch made a motion, seconded by Emmons to approve the request to rezone 609 Richardson Avenue from R-1 to R-2. Roll call votes, 5 ayes – D Balch, T Balch, Emmons, Kida, and Russell, 0 nays, 1 absent Meurer, motion carried.

Manheim told the board that the Planning and Zoning board had approved a special use request to install a four foot fence in the front yard at 1011 Cartwright Avenue. Kida made a motion, seconded by T Balch to accept the findings and recommendation of the planning commission. Roll call votes, 5 ayes – D Balch, T Balch, Emmons, Kida, and Russell, 0 nays, 1 absent Meurer, motion carried.

Kida made a motion, seconded by Russell to approve a special use request to install a four foot fence in the front yard at 1011 Cartwright Avenue. Roll call votes, 5 ayes – D Balch, T Balch, Emmons, Kida, and Russell, 0 nays, 1 absent Meurer, motion carried.

Kida made a motion, seconded by Emmons to adjourn. Voice votes, 5 ayes – D Balch, T Balch, Emmons, Kida, and Russell, 0 nays, 1 absent Meurer, motion carried. 9:00 P.M.

Dorthy S. Van Dam, Village Clerk