

Village of Ashton Board Meeting – May 9th, 2022

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

Present: Rhonda Cardot, Susan Larson, Chuck Ellis, Steve Garrison, David Chapman, President Tim Henert, Village Clerk Katie Koks, Village Attorney Russ Crull; Absent: Martha Holder

Motion to approve April Meeting minutes as presented – Larson; Second – Cardot

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

Motion to accept financial statement as presented and to pay monthly bills and additional bills list – Garrison; Second - Larson.

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

Public Comment - None

Old Business - None

New Business

Henert addressed the temporary loan to water sewer bond and interest- this is a yearly housekeeping issue to wrap up financials for the auditor. The fund to be adjusted is the Debt Service/Capital Improvement fund. The fund is healthier this year than it was last year, but still needs to be zeroed out before the audit.

Motion to approve a temporary loan to the Water/Sewer Bond & Interest in the amount of \$11, 546.23 – Garrison; Second– Cardot

Roll Call Vote: Cardot – Aye, Chapman-Aye, Ellis – Aye, Larson –Aye, Garrison – Aye. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent – Holder. Motion passed.

Henert next asked for the board to approve a reimbursement to the general fund from garbage fund for lawn waste pickup. This reimbursement pays for fuel and payroll for street crew picking up lawn waste weekly and this fund is finally healthy enough to do this again per Village Treasurer Dorothy S. Van Dam. Several years ago, this was a standard transaction by the board.

Motion to reimburse the General Fund \$10,000 from the Garbage Fund for lawn waste pickup expenses– Larson, Second – Garrison

Roll Call Vote: Chapman-Aye, Ellis-Aye, Larson-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Cardot-Aye. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent-Holder. Motion passed.

Henert presented an updated quote from O'Brien Civil Works and asked the board to increase the Blum Foundation request for sidewalks to \$42,065. Due to inflation, the cost for the project has increased, and Henert was able to negotiate a slightly lower rate per foot of work if the Village would add more areas to this year's project. As a result, more sidewalks were able to be fixed. Henert felt that the Blum Foundation may consider granting the increase and he would like to re-do the application and submit.

Motion to increase the funding request from the Blum Foundation for sidewalk repair and replacement to \$42,065 – Larson,

Second – Ellis

Roll Call Vote: Ellis-Aye, Larson-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Cardot-Aye, Chapman-Aye. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent-Holder. Motion passed.

Zoning

Manheim reported that a few permit application for roofs and fencing have started to show up. He said now that the weather is warming he will start paying more attention to long grass and weeds and will be sending out letters. He will work with the police department on ordinance violations.

Community/Economic Development

Garrison reported that we've been invoiced by Stahr Media, and in the next couple of weeks we will do more data collection to begin giving them information. There was some brief discussion about having a possible photo contest for the front banner photo for the new website. More information to come and more details about how the committee will want to promote the village.

Streets & Alleys

Ellis is talking with Nate McBride about possibly renting a blade to scrape alleys – McBride rental is the best way to go. The hole at the alley at Killian Ave. was pretty bad and the alleys would benefit from some maintenance.

Water & Sewer

Chapman reported that there was nothing big to update up. He is looking for more information on the health of the sewer ponds and had tried to contact Adam Lanning and Nate McBride. Henert said they are having a discussion about the smell wafting into the village from the ponds. Lanning told them that it really depends on the wind direction, which unfortunately has not been favorable. McBride is checking in on pricing on chemicals. Henert said he remembered Denny used to have a fix for that issue, but he didn't know exactly what it was. McBride has also ordered replacement pumps for the water tower.

Parks

As Holder was absent, Koks gave a brief report on items she had requested on the agenda for the meeting. The Parks committee met April 26th and determined that the lower park shelter at Griffith Park needed some extra maintenance (power wash, determine if there needed to be any structural fixes, and repaint or re-stain). They are also forming a sub-committee to do more research and development on the prospect of Skate Park in Ashton after the Village acquires the whole 40 acres from the Blum Foundation. Sterling Cone, who spoke at a previous board meeting is interested in being part of the committee and they would do work on finding grant funding. The committee would like to incorporate a street dance into the Fall Festival in September—originally they thought about doing a separate event, but the summer schedule has filled quickly and they ultimately didn't want to create a conflict with an event in another town. Holder is also interested in utilizing some of the Charter Beautification Funds to hire a landscaper to re-do areas of Griffith Park that need to be overhauled. The committee will work to get some ideas for pricing on this project from local vendors.

Henert said that he had noticed broken chains on the equipment. Every spring this has to be addressed and it may just take a heavier weight chain to fix the issue for a longer period of time. Garrison is more than willing to help with some of the work in cleaning up the shelter areas. Larson asked if the committee would be willing to come up with a volunteer schedule for some of the areas in question.

Liquor Commissioner

All new liquor licenses have been delivered. All current license are in good standing.

Police

As Chief Morgan was absent, Koks gave a brief report. The department had given a warning out and had one warrant arrest in town last month. Henert reported the Morgan approached him to have fifteen keys made for the Lee County deputies- so they can use the Ashton office as a satellite facility. The officers need somewhere to fill out reports while they are on shift and the Ashton office is a nice stop for them on the northcentral portion of the county. The Village would benefit by this from having additional coverage and a more consistent police presence in the immediate area. Henert did give his approval and the new arrangement will start soon.

Clerk's Report

Koks mentioned that fifty three Red Letters were sent out and the final shut-off day was announced as May 19th.

Cemetery

Henert reported that Larson and McBride had backfilled dirt and sodded all settled graves. There has also been cleanup of old decorations and overall the cemetery is looking really good. Dena has already mowed once. Henert will also look into having some more tree work completed.

Mills & Petrie

The board is working on continuing creation of a Policy Handbook, they have been reviewing around three sections at a time and they also updated their portion of the budget for this fiscal year.

Attorney – None

Other - None

Motion to Adjourn- Ellis; Second-Larson

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:19pm

Submitted by Katie Koks, Ashton Village Clerk