

**Regular Meeting**  
November 9, 2020

The Village of Ashton Board of Trustees met at 7:00 P.M. November 9, 2020 in a zoom meeting with President Henert presiding. Trustees in attendance were Jeff Clark, Chuck Ellis, Martha Holder, Susan Larson, Ryan Pettenger and Ermir Ramadani.

Motion was made by Pettenger, seconded by Larson to approve the October minutes. Voice votes, 6 ayes – Clark, Ellis, Holder, Larson, Pettenger, and Ramadani. 0 nays. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Pettenger, seconded by Holder to draw upon the treasury to pay the monthly bills, payroll, additional bills in the amount of \$48,160.91. Voice votes, 6 ayes – Clark, Ellis, Holder, Larson, Pettenger, and Ramadani. 0 nays. Motion carried.

Henert introduced Brock from Casey's General Store, they are looking to upgrade their liquor license to include the sale of hard liquor. Holder made a motion to discuss the change in the liquor license seconded by Ramadani. Brock explained the addition would add 4 cabinets to the left side of the front door to carry the product. This would keep it in view of the cashiers for safety purposes. The employees are already trained to sell product of this nature so the changes would be minimal. He would plan to sell between \$3,000 and \$5,000 in product a month. He is also in talks with corporate of putting in a new store in Ashton. They have looked at locations and different options of what Casey's could offer. Henert and Crest Foods have also sent letters to help show the industry that Ashton has to offer putting in a new facility.

Old Business- Yater and Crull are working on the golf cart ordinance and we will table this to next month.

New Business-Henert presented the gas bids from Rock River Energy. Their recommendation is to go with a 33 month contract with Santanna for .32 cents a therm as it is the best deal at this time. A motion was made by Laron to accept the bid from Santanna for .32 cents a therm for 33 months seconded by Ellis. Roll Call Vote- Clark-aye, Ellis-aye, Larson-aye, Holder-aye, Pettenger-aye, and Ramadani-aye. 6-ayes. 0-nays. Motion Carried.

Henert proposed a resolution to send to IDOT to reimburse the village for the street repairs this summer and for buying salt for the winter using MFT funds. A motion was made by Pettenger to submit the resolution to IDOT for reimbursement to the village using MFT funds, seconded by Clark. Roll Call Vote- Clark-aye, Ellis-aye, Larson-aye, Holder-aye, Pettenger-aye, and Ramadani-aye. 6-ayes. 0-nays. Motion Carried.

Henert updated the board on the land bought by the Blum Foundation. The village received \$2,111.31 from the crop this year as we own 53.15% of the land. We will receive another portion as of the first of the year and it will be fully owned by the village as of 2023. Thank you to the Gonnerman and Harris families for putting in and taking out the crop this year.

Schawn Schmitz has purchased Jerry Williams building at 702 Hicks Ave and is moving his entire operation to Ashton. He sells motocross equipment and does about \$8 million a year in sales. There is a special use permit that stated only the owner could live in the building and there will be a zoning board meeting to change the use of the building before next month's meeting.

Larson stated she had met with Andersons on the damage being done to their building, and she knows Crull and Tess are working on a solution. The laundry mat is open and they are looking to decorate downtown for the winter season.

Clark stated that the leaf vacuum was broken but hopefully it will be fixed soon and we can still use it to pick up the leaves. He is also going to ask Blair about the sweeper if we get some rain to run it down the streets.

Pettenger talked about a water survey that IRWA had done for the village for water and sewer rates. The study shows we are losing money on the water side but we are doing fine on the sewer side. We knew we needed to raise rates and had started towards that with the last rate change in 2018 with a 10% increase on both sides which was around a \$4 a quarter raise. This time we are looking at an \$8.00 raise to the base rate per quarter. The board will look at the information and then vote at the December meeting on the increase of the bills. The IRWA is also doing a leak detection in the village tomorrow to help with unaccounted water loss.

The Mills & Petrie boiler is fixed, Linda is working on some improvements around the library. The hours maybe be changed due to Covid. Stauffer is working on the history center and received a grant from the Blum Foundation for storage materials. Rentals are down as we have been put under mitigations of no gatherings more than 10 people.

Henert asked what the board would like to do with Casey's request for the liquor license. Pettenger made a motion to table the issue until next month seconded by Holder. Voice votes, 6 ayes – Clark, Ellis, Holder, Larson, Pettenger, and Ramadani. 0 nays. Motion carried.

Clark introduced the Annual Levy Ordinance for 20-21 which will be voted on at next month's meeting.

Crull is working on 804 and 806 Main St and working with Jared on the golf cart ordinance.

Holder made a motion to adjourn seconded by Larson. Voice votes, 6 ayes – Clark, Ellis, Holder, Larson, Pettenger, and Ramadani. 0 nays. Motion carried.

7:58 PM

Meghan Clark, Village Clerk