

## **Village of Ashton Board Meeting – November 8, 2021**

Village President Tim Henert called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Present Rhonda Cardot, Martha Holder, Susan Larson, David Chapman, Village Clerk Katie Koks;  
Absent, Chuck Ellis, Village Attorney Russ Crull

*Motion to approve September Meeting minutes as presented – Larson; Second – Cardot.*

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent. Motion passed.

*Motion to approve financial statement and to pay monthly bills – Holder; Second – Cardot.*

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent. Motion passed.

### **Old Business:**

Henert asked the board to accept the verbiage in an updated resolution for Garbage Service and Debt Service fees that were approved by the board at the June meeting.

*Motion to approve the resolution for water bill increases – Cardot; Second – Holder.*

*Roll Call Vote – Cardot – Aye, Holder-Aye, Larson-Aye, Chapman-Aye. 0 Nays, 1 Absent. Motion passed.*

Larry Anderson is working to get a quote on asbestos removal for his property on Main Street. He may be asking for financial help once he has more information. This issue will be tabled until a future date.

### **New Business:**

Henert reported that the first round of ARPA funds had been delivered and he and Koks were looking into qualify-able expenses to use the funding. The project they are proposing is replacing all water meters for residents and businesses in the Village limits by the second quarter billing. Two quotes for 450 new meters had been obtained and included in the packets information on the possible purchase of new water meters. The board discussed the current issues with billing, efficiency, and supply issues that lead to the proposal to replace the meters. Illinois Rural Water Association (IRWA) conducted a leak survey today on some hydrants in town, a full set of results was not reported yet.

### **Zoning**

Update on the trucking company at Cartwright (Custom Pak), there was a question if someone was living there based on the water usage. Casper spoke to the person there and it was explained that the usage is attributed to cleaning the building after produce is shipped out. There is no permanent residence at this address.

Also reported that the company on the corner (Custom Underground) is moving supplies, Manheim was able to speak to a worker and a manager of the property. Clean up is ongoing. They will be purchasing another permit. Chapman also clarified if the letter that was sent out included the cleanup of equipment. Manheim stated that the non-operable equipment was removed, and the remaining equipment seems to be moved. The manager implied that what remained was operable.

Manheim explained that the ground-mounted solar units are categorized as accessory structures. Other communities have passed ordinances blocking ground-mounted units (nuisances to neighbors), some exceptions could be made with a special-use permit on a case-by-case basis. He asked that a hold be placed until an ordinance is written and approved by the board.

*Motion to grant a moratorium on ground-mounted solar systems within the village limits until an ordinance addressing guidelines is drafted and approved – Larson; Second – Holder.*

*Roll Call Vote – Cardot – Aye, Holder-Aye, Larson-Aye, Chapman-Aye. 0 Nays, 1 Absent. Motion passed.*

## **Community Economic Development**

Nothing to report

## **Streets & Alleys**

Nathan went out over the weekend and filled potholes. The street sweeper will go out when the majority of the leaves have fallen. Henert said that we will coordinate with Franklin Grove with the use of the leave vacuum and will ask Blair to touch base with Franklin Grove this week. Chapman has had several inquiries from residents about a schedule for when this could happen. He would like to have it posted online or in the electronic sign form before the season changes to head off these questions. Chapman would like to see a schedule or create a schedule with Franklin Grove on the use of the vacuum and sweeper. There was some continued discussion about the pros and cons of trying to create a schedule, given the unpredictable weather and the uncertainty about when the leaves will actually fall.

## **Water & Sewer**

Chapman has been in contact with U of I Environmental Engineering Department. The coordinator is sending the SOPs on the billing for food companies –and how to handle these kinds of industrial companies tying into municipal resources.

Chapman stated that he would like to be involved and informed on all issues related to water and sewer outside daily maintenance. He is concerned the he is not being informed on sewer/water related issues until the last minute and Henert said he will have Blair Crum touch base with Chapman a weekly basis and any time there is discussion on anything outside daily maintenance.

## **Parks**

Holder reported that the committee is planning the Christmas Walk on December 4th. The next meeting is Thursday, November 11 at 7pm at Ralphie & Lulu's. An MC for the event has been booked, Doug Ball, who will be stationed at Ralphie and Lulu's that the evening. Henert asked that Holder get together a schedule for the streets crew for decorating downtown before the weather turns.

## **Liquor Commissioner**

Henert has approved a special permit for the downtown event on December 4<sup>th</sup> for alcohol to be allowed on the street in open plastic cups and cans.

## **Police Report**

Nothing to report

## **Clerk's Report**

Koks presented the 2021-2022 Levy Ordinance and outlined that the figure presented should always increase. The trustees should review and the ordinance will be voted on in December so it can be submitted on time.

Koks asked who on the board would like to continue receiving a hard copy of the IML Magazine subscription. Larson and Henert would like to continue receiving a hard copy and a hard copy will be available in the office. 3 copies will be included in this year's subscription request submitted with the annual membership renewal and dues.

Koks reported that the FY 2020-2021 Audit had started. Newkirk's started November 8<sup>th</sup> and so far, the audit is moving more quickly than last year.

**Cemetery Board**

Koks reported that the committee had met and made update to pricing, effective November 1<sup>st</sup>. A copy of the new pricing and the rules and regulations will be mailed to all local funeral homes. Copies are also available at the Village Office.

**Mills & Petrie Board**

Discussed getting a computer system and applying for a grant assist funding a complete system for archiving information at the history museum. The board had also discussed rekeying the building and developments with the commercial kitchen.

**Village Attorney**

Nothing to report.

**Other**

Chapman brought up speeding vehicles on secondary streets. He received some pushback by the Street Department on getting them installed this fall and also some pushback from the police department about the location. Cardot and Holder mentioned that they remember from a previous meeting when they voted to purchase the bumps that the understanding was that the installation would take place in the spring. Chapman said that was not part of the vote and does not appear in the minutes that way.

Chapman is concerned that the speed limit sign is not effective and would like to see more warnings given by law enforcement to speeders all around town. He would like to see more part-time officers placed on Richardson and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets.

*Motion to adjourn the meeting* – Larson; Second – Holder  
Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:05pm

Submitted by: Katie Koks, Ashton Village Clerk