

Village of Ashton Board Meeting - October 11, 2021

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

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

Absent David Chapman, Ermir Ramadani,

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

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

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

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

Old Business

Tim Henert reminded the board about Lois Erickson's dedication to the Village and her role as the first female trustee on the Ashton Village board. In 2012, October 11th was dedicated in her honor. She continued to attend meetings after she retired from the board before her health declined. A plaque of Mrs. Erickson will be hung in the boardroom.

Henert brought up the Charter Beautification Fund, in the amount of \$26,000 to the board. The fund is not growing and the consensus was that it could be transferred to the general fund and allocated for park beautification projects as intended.

Motion to transfer \$26,000 from the Charter Beautification Fund to the General Fund to be used for park beautification projects – Holder; Second – Larson. Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

Crull updated the current ordinance that outlines penalties for delinquent water bills. Changes included increasing the penalty percentage from 10% to 15%, the addition of two \$10 processing fees when additional letters and materials are sent for delinquent bills, and the increase in the shut off/turn on fees from \$75 each to \$100 each.

Motion to approve updated penalties and fees for delinquent utility bills – Larson; Second – Holder. Roll Call Vote: Cardot-Aye, Ellis-Aye, Holder-Aye, Larson – Aye. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

Zoning

Manheim asked the board to consider better options for enforcing ordinance violations for people who can't afford to fix up or come into compliance. He suggested possibly forming a committee to help people who need the help to keep their property up. Crull also mentioned that the time could be counted for community service. Yater talked about the benefits seen in Steward with a similar program.

New Business

Henert introduced Bill Newkirk from Newkirk & Associates. He discussed the process that his firm goes through when they compile the information. In favor of going over the dollar and cents report, since the information is so outdated, Newkirk talked more about the Village's past issues with compliance and recommendations for the future. He highlighted the Village's need to eschew outstanding checks, and keep relevant paperwork like check stubs, statements, invoices to produce easily when asked. Newkirk is aiming to have the next fiscal year audit completed and submitted by the end of the year.

Henert spoke on behalf of Ermir Ramadani who has recently taken on more responsibility in his career. Ramadani has submitted his resignation from the board effective October 11th, 2021.

Economic Development

Nothing to report

Streets & Alleys

Nothing to report

Water & Sewer

Nothing to report

Parks

Holder reported that the Ashton Fall Fest was a success. The Parks Committee will be meeting soon to discuss a Christmas walk on December 4th. Details are forthcoming.

Liquor Commissioner

A special permit was issued for alcohol to be allowed on the street in open plastic cups and cans. Barricades will begin to go up from Evans Ave. to the east side of the fire station around 2:30 p.m. The group discussed logistics for where vendors will be located to best accommodate people working downtown.

Police Report

Yater reported on ordinance violations, handled a social media incident at the school, some minor incidents including a theft, keys locked in car, and assisting the county with a collision.

Clerk's Report

Koks reported water bills were issued on October first. Payments were slowly coming in. The Mills & Petrie board approved the final reimbursement check to the Village for library & gym salaries and other miscellaneous payments. The check had been issued and deposited to the General Fund at the time of the meeting. The Village also received its first ARPA fund payment (approximately \$60,000) on September 22nd. The second payment will be made in September 2022. Koks is aiming to have a decision for an eligible project to use the funds on in the near future.

Cemetery Board

Nothing to report

Mills & Petrie Board

The Mills & Petrie board has decided to market the kitchen at the building as a commercial kitchen, they worked with the county health department to come into compliance and they already have an interested party to rent the space for commercial use. They also had an incident of some vandalism at the building, the Ashton Police helped clean up the graffiti and the board is considering re-keying the building. The librarians also participated in the Ashton Fall Fest in September.

Village Attorney

Crull is working on a resolution for an ordinance about water fees. He also met with the Anderson's attorney to get a game plan on getting a resolution for the issues with 804 & 806 Main St.

Other Topics

Nothing to Report

Motion to Adjourn the meeting – Ellis, Second – Larson.

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent – Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned 7:38p.m.

Submitted by Katie Koks, Ashton Village Clerk