

## **Village of Ashton Board Meeting – September 12, 2022**

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

Present: Tim Henert, Chuck Ellis, Martha Holder, Rhonda Cardot, Village Attorney Russell Crull, Village Clerk Katie Koks, Susan Larson (in at 7:09)

Absent: David Chapman

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

Voice Vote – 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

*Motion to approve financial statement as presented and to pay monthly bills and additional bill* –Holder; Second –Ellis

Voice Vote – 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

### **Citizens to Be Heard**

Ken Clark was not present to comment on Water Rates.

### **New Business**

Steve Garrison opened a discussion about the future of the splash pad. He outlined 3 options: fix it, or replace it entirely, or remove it and turn the area into something else. He thinks it falls into a Parks and Recreation decision and would like that committee to discuss it and get some more community involvement- maybe create a sub-committee to handle the decision making and recommendation to the Village Board. Garrison would like to have the plumbing scoped to see what they are dealing with to get a good idea of what it would take to fix it and diagnose the issue to make an informed decision. Garrison said that the purpose of the committee would be to keep the community in on the decision making. If the discussion starts now, there would be a clearer plan for a decision in the spring. Holder and Garrison will put together the committee. *(Susan Larson arrived at 7:09pm)*

Henert presented Denise Coffman as his choice to fill the Trustee seat vacated by Steve Garrison.

*Motion to approve appointment of Denise Coffman to the Village Board for the remainder of the term.* – Holder; Second - Ellis

Roll Call Vote – Cardot – Aye, Ellis – Aye, Holder – Aye, Larson-Aye. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent-Chapman. Motion passed.

Henert introduced some updates to the Blight Ordinance suggested by the building inspector and based on an ordinance from an example in another community. The changes pertained to noxious odors and to make an adjustment to Nuisance item #2 to include abandoned vehicles or machinery as well as items that would constitute a fire hazard. After some further discussion on what would be considered a violation under the new items, Henert asked for a motion to update the ordinance.

*Motion to accept Updates to Article II- Nuisances as presented* – Larson; Second-Holder

Roll Call Vote – Ellis – Aye, Holder-Aye, Larson-Aye, Coffman-Aye, Cardot-Aye. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent-Chapman.

### **Zoning**

Manheim was not present to give a report. Koks reported that the Zoning Board meeting originally set for September 7<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. She and Manheim had developed an updated Zoning Application. With more interest in this process from the public and in anticipation of future growth, they felt that it was necessary to streamline the paperwork. The application was sent to Crull for review to make sure it is compliant with current zoning code requirements and it will come before the board for approval in October. Koks is also hoping to order a current zoning map from Willett & Hofmann.

Henert also went through the process the Village follows for sending out ordinance violations. The resident is sent a letter outlining the violation and they are given a timeline to call Manheim and discuss the issue or remedy the problem. If that timeline passes with no solution or communication with Manheim, it is then handed to the Police Department (in this case it is the Village Board until a new chief is hired) for an ordinance violation ticket to be written and sent with another deadline for payment of the ticket. If there is still no communication with the resident, the case is given to the attorney.

**Community Economic Development-Nothing to Report**  
**Streets & Alleys**

A copy of the List of Complete, In Progress, and To Do items from Steve Garrison was included in the meeting packet.

**Water & Sewer**

David Chapman was not present, so the discussion about the Chip and Seal and storm drains was tabled to a future meeting. Garrison mentioned that the street sweeper had not been out on the roads (as it was down for maintenance), then he explained how the sweeper worked (pushes the gravel to the center and it goes up a conveyer before going into a hopper).

**Parks**

Fall Fest Update- September 25<sup>th</sup> is still set as the Festival Date. Henert will approve a temporary permit for open cups on the street. She will be doing some decorating on Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Liquor Commissioner- Nothing to report**

**Police Report**

There has not been a lot of movement on the search for a police chief.

*Motion to approve sending tickets and fines for ordinance violations along with any other fines before the next meeting* – Larson; Second – Holder

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

*Motion to send residents that did not pay their ordinance violation fines last month to the Village Attorney and any other persons that miss their ordinance violation fine deadline before the next meeting.* – Ellis; Second - Larson

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

**Clerks Report**

Koks reported that there were about 40 meters that have been installed and at the next meter reading at the end of the month, some meters will be read by radio read and others will still be read traditionally. Koks also announced that the Petition Circulation for the Consolidated Election in April will begin on September 20<sup>th</sup>. There are three 4 Year terms up for election. Koks mentioned that the IML conference begins later this week. She reminded the trustees planning to attend to look at the program ahead of time and to see if there are presentations already online to download if needed. This would be handy if they ran into a conflict with times. Koks reported that the new Village Website had a final preview send and the first round of changes were made. The site should be live by the end of the month.

The title for the Village Truck that was paid off at the beginning of August was sent in, but Koks was not listed on the approved list at the bank to put it in the safety deposit box. Henert asked the board to vote to update the names on the box.

*Motion to change names on safety deposit box at Central Bank – remove Meghan Clark and add Catherine Koks-* Larson; Second- Holder.

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

**Cemetery Board**

Koks reported that several plots have been sold recently. Dena has done a lot of mowing. Garrison has started cleaning up bushes/landscaping surrounding the cemetery.

**Mills & Petrie Board**

Holder reported that the library board is still working on library policies and building policies.

**Village Attorney-** Nothing to report

**Other** – None

This is Monetta Young's last meeting report she has 20 years on the job for the Ashton Gazette. Henert commended her for being a good support system for the community for so many years.

*Motion to adjourn* - Holder; Second – Ellis

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:45p.m.

Submitted by Katie Koks, Village Clerk