

REGULAR MEETING

October 24, 2023

The Village of Ashmore Board of Trustees met in regular session on October 24, 2023 at the Ashmore Municipal Office. Proper notice of the meeting was posted. President Kurt Crail called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Freezeland took roll call attendance:

Trustees Present:

- Morgan Biggs
- Bill Edwards
- Terry Price
- Bryan Watson
- Cathy Welborn

Also Present:

- President Kurt Crail
- Clerk Jackie Freezeland
- Treasurer Kathy Childress
- Mitch Hardiek and Adam Kramer of Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC (exited 6:11 p.m.)
- Chief Deputy Tyler Heleine of Coles County Sheriff's Office (exited 6:18 p.m.)
- Caleb Biggs, resident
- Collin Grissom, resident

Trustees Absent:

- Dane Perdieu

Guests

Mitch Hardiek of Milano & Grunloh Engineers provided a handout which included notes about 5 pending grants the Village is currently seeking, and he entertained questions. He and his co-worker exited at 6:011 p.m.

Chief Deputy Tyler Heleine addressed the board about recent policing activity in and near the Village. He reported 77 total incidents in the past 30 days, and explained ongoing efforts to mitigate driving under the influence. He exited at 6:18 p.m.

Reports, Approvals, and Claims

Freezeland gave a brief update about her transition into her current (and former) role as Clerk.

Board Minutes dated September 26, 2023 were approved on a motion by Welborn, seconded by Price. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

The Treasurer's Report for September 30, 2023 was presented and discussed. Edwards motioned to transfer \$15,000 from the General Fund to the Water Fund to help cover large expenses for insurance and accounting. Watson seconded the motion, and all trustees present voted aye in a roll call vote; motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was placed on file with the Clerk on a motion by Biggs, seconded by Welborn. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

Accounts Payable for the period ending September 30, 2023 and Payroll for October 2023 were reviewed and approved by trustee signature.

Superintendent Jake Johnson was not present to offer a Superintendent's Report.

Biggs motioned to approve Water Committee minutes dated October 17, 2023, and Watson seconded the motion. Committee members Biggs, Edwards, and Watson voted in favor; motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance #23-0926 “An Annual Tax Levy Ordinance of the Village of Ashmore, Coles County, Illinois for the Current Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2023 and Ending on April 30, 2024” was passed on a motion by Biggs which was seconded by Edwards. The ordinance was placed on file during the September 26, 2023 Regular Meeting. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

New Business

Freezeland presented the board with the results from the 2022 MFT Compliance Audit. No additional action was required.

Freezeland presented the board with options for replacing the ten Board chairs. Edwards motioned to proceed with the \$2,000 option (plus wheels to be purchased online through Amazon), and Welborn seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried. Freezeland was charged with completing the purchases, and the existing chairs will be moved to the Maintenance Building.

Freezeland presented a new policy regarding “Unclaimed Property” being held by the Village and procedures for how the Village will submit Unclaimed Property to the State Treasurer’s office annually starting immediately. The Water Committee recommended the new policy since it primarily pertains to water service deposits; no second is required. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; policy adopted.

Ordinance #23-1024, “An Ordinance Amending Title 6 “Public Ways and Property,” Chapter 3 “Water Use and Service,” Section 7 “User Rates and Charges” to Increase Water Rates,” was placed on file on a recommendation from the Water Committee; no second is required. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

The Board accepted the resignation of Trustee Morgan Biggs on a motion from Edwards, seconded by Watston. Biggs has moved from Ashmore and is no longer eligible to hold the position. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye, except Biggs who abstained.

The Board accepted Mayor Crail’s appointment of TC Grissom to take Biggs’s seat on the Board of Trustees until the next Trustee election in April 2025. Price motioned in favor of the appointment and Edwards seconded. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye, except Watson who abstained due to his familial relationship to Grissom.

Other New Business

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m. on a motion by Biggs, seconded by Edwards. All trustees present voted in favor. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

Jackie Freezeland
Ashmore Village Clerk