

REGULAR MEETING

March 26, 2024

The Village of Ashmore Board of Trustees met in regular session on March 26, 2024 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. led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Freezeland acknowledged that a quorum was physically present, and that there were no requests for electronic attendance. Freezeland took roll call attendance:

Trustees Present:

- Bill Edwards
- Thomas Grissom
- Dane Perdieu
- Terry Price
- Bryan Watson
- Cathy Welborn

Also Present:

- President Kurt Crail
- Clerk Jackie Freezeland
- Treasurer Kathy Childress
- Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC (exited 6:14 p.m.)
- Chief Deputy Tyler Heleine of Coles County Sheriff's Office (exited 6:23 p.m.)
- Residents Jim & Nancy Meese

Trustees Absent: None

Guests

Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers (MGE) gave the following updates on the Village's ongoing grant projects:

- IEPA's Unsewered Communities Grant, a grant for the development and installation of a solid waste sewage system, is awaiting the results of testing which was required by and has been submitted to the Osage Nation. Once the report has been received, the application will be ready to submit;
- IDOT's Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), a grant for sidewalks and streetscaping along Route 16, is awaiting Notice of Funds Opportunity so that an application can be submitted, which is expected in the fall (no change from last month);
- IDOT's Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS), a grant for sidewalks leading to the school, application has been submitted, and we are now awaiting award announcements (no change from last month);
- IDNR's Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD), a grant for park development, application has been submitted and was rejected; MGE has reached out to IDNR for more details to explain the denial and the Board is waiting to hear back (no change from last month);
- DCEO's Community Development Block Grant, a grant for storm disaster relief funds, application has been submitted and unofficially approved; MGE is waiting on a grant agreement to move forward;
- IEPA's Lead Service Line Inventory Grant (LSLI), a grant for taking inventory of the materials in the water line infrastructure, application was submitted and is awaiting award announcements; the inventory must be turned in to the IEPA by April 15, and this grant is intended to cover the costs of completing the inventory; it is unsure how quickly funds will be released or how effective this grant will actually be; and

Beckman answered questions, and then exited at 6:08 p.m.

Residents Jim & Nancy Meese asked the Board about noise ordinances in town, and expressed their dismay at the noise level coming from TGM grain elevators' fans. The Meese's also expressed concern for the construction of another large elevator and the additional noise it will likely cause. Ms. Meese explained that issues began in 2021, and she has discussed it with other neighbors who also have frustrations. She has contacted the company multiple times and has compared noise levels at comparable businesses. The couple earnestly asked if anything could be done to alleviate the noise, specifically at night. Board members expressed sympathy and agreed to explore options for civil mitigation between TGM and its neighbors. The Meese's exited at 6:18 p.m.

Chief Deputy Tyler Heleine of the Coles County Sheriff's Office advised the Board of police presence and enforcement in and around the Village, including an upcoming county-wide campaign to address distracted driving. Heleine spoke about speed enforcement and motorists ignoring stop signs. He noted that the Flock license plate recognition cameras throughout the county – including the recently installed camera in Ashmore – have been tremendously helpful to law enforcement in tracking down criminals. Heleine answered other questions before exiting at 6:29 p.m.

Reports, Approvals, and Claims

Freezeland gave an update about new and ongoing projects in the Municipal Office, including:

- On Saturday morning, April 13, several student volunteers from EIU will be visiting Ashmore to help clean up the town for Spring; volunteers are welcome;
- On Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Carol Bradford is organizing a craft and vendor market at the Community Center with proceeds to benefit the Harvest Festival;
- On Saturday, May 18, 7:00-10:00 a.m. across from the Fire Department, a free dumpster will be available to anyone with an Ashmore address
- Tasty Tuesday's will begin on May 21 and last through August at the Village Park;
- On May 21, during the first Tasty Tuesday at the park, a fundraiser will be held for the Harvest Festival;
- On Saturday, September 21, 7:00–10:00 a.m., the annual Recycling Event will be held at the Village Park;
- An Ashmore Harvest Festival is being planning for October 11-13; the next planning meeting is tomorrow for anyone interested in helping;
- On Thursday, April 18, Superintendent Jake Johnson will be recognized by ClassE and Elevate as one of their "20 Under 40" recipients; a breakfast will be held in Mattoon and Trustees are encouraged to attend to show their support; and
- The new website is still being developed for Ashmore with hopes to launch in April; the website will feature a new processing company where residents can log in to pay their water bills; the website will also mark a change in email addresses for Village staff.

Board Minutes dated February 27, 2024 were approved on a motion by Welborn, seconded by Price. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Accounts Payable for the period ending March 26, 2024 and Payroll for March 2024 were passed around, reviewed, and approved by trustee signature.

Upon recommendation from Treasurer Childress, Edwards motioned to transfer \$10,000 from the Water Deposit Savings and the Water Deposit Fund to a CD to earn higher interest. Welborn seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye; motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report for February 2024 was placed on file with the Clerk on a motion by Price, seconded by Welborn. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Superintendent Johnson was not present to offer a Report, but he submitted notes to Clerk Freezeland to read in his absence. Johnson reported that water and backwash samples continue to pass without concerns, and there have been no recent water infrastructure failures. Johnson noted that they have been busy preparing equipment for the impending warm season. He also noted that they were able to assist the Bowdrie Township with some jetting work, which earned revenue for the Village to help offset costs of the upgrade.

There were no Committee reports.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Resolution #24-0326A, An Appointment Resolution for the Village of Ashmore, Coles County, Illinois, was passed on a motion by Grissom, seconded by Perdieu. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Resolution #24-0326B, A Resolution Authorizing a Police Services Contract Agreement Between Coles County Board and the Village of Ashmore, Illinois, was passed on a motion by Perdieu, seconded by Grissom. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye.

Welborn motioned to approve two aerial treatments of larvicide this summer to minimize mosquito presence in town, and the motion was seconded by Edwards. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye; motion carried.

At the recommendation of Crail, Watson motioned to approve the replacement of the exterior doors at the Community Center, eliminating the panic bars to help prevent the public doors from jamming. His motion was seconded by Edwards. In a roll call vote, all trustees voted aye; motion carried.

There was no other new business.

Crail scheduled an Ordinance Committee meeting for Tuesday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m. and a Finance Committee meeting for Tuesday, April 30 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. on a motion by Edwards, seconded by Price. All trustees voted in favor. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

Jackie Freezeland
Ashmore Village Clerk