# Village of Ashland

# Meeting Minutes

 02-14-2024

Village President Mau called the meeting to order with roll call at 6:00 pm. All members were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the previous meeting and special board meeting were reviewed. Jacob Gardner made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by Nancy Kyrouac. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Roger Lauder, Cass County ESDA Director. He has been working on a mitigation program for the county. If Ashland is eligible for mitigation then we can appeal to FEMA in case of an emergency to get federal funds. It provides a more permanent fix. There is no cost to the village or the county. He asked the Village to adopt the plan. After discussion Richard Turner made a motion to adopt the All Hazard Mitigation plan for Cass County; seconded by Nancy Kyrouac. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Shane Hall, Ashland Fire Chief, introduced himself along with Cameron Hager, Assistant Fire Chief. Shane has become the new Chief effective January 2024. With this change, he wanted to come and introduce himself to the Village. He mentioned there were grant opportunities coming up that may benefit the Village and Fire District together.

Vanessa Doellman presented the treasurer’s report. One quarter of the fiscal year is left. No changes were needed with all line items in good shape. Annual appropriation meeting will be March 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm. Motion by Nathan Grieme to accept the treasurer’s report. Seconded by Jacob Gardner. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Bills were presented. Motion to approve the bills by Richard Turner, seconded by Nathan Grieme. Motion carried by roll call vote. Also Lift Station expense sheet and ARPA expense sheet were presented to the board. Clerk Gardner and President Mau met with Tracy Tavender from Benton’s and she presented us with the first bill, which we will pay. Once the check clears the bank then we send a copy of the canceled check to Benton’s for reimbursement. The process should take about 7day turn-a-round. The ARPA funds shows we paid SCADaware, which is the computer system for the water tower. This is an approved expense for the ARPA funds.

Public Works report given by Will Harris. Will announced that he passed the Class 4 sewer test. Still has to pass his Class 2 test.

Police report was given by Chief Marty Fanning. Cameras are up and running at both parks. Body cameras will be required first of next year. Body cameras themselves are $849.00 each but with all the software they total out to about $4,000.00 each. Next month he will have body camera prices.

Will Harris received quotes for a locator/mapping program. He looked at Radio Detection mapping system with locator for $8,500.00. 3- year warranty – life time training – subscription for $360.00. His second bid was from Rycon for $9,824.00 with mapping and locator. Motion by David Wilken to purchase mapping a program with locator not to exceed $8,500.00 to be paid for out of ARPA funds, seconded by Richard Turner. Motion carried by roll call vote.

 Also a pump at the sewer plant has gone bad. It will cost $7,247.49 to replace from First Electric. We should receive in 8-10 weeks. After discussion, a motion was made by David Wilken to purchase a new pump, not to exceed $7,400.00 to be paid from sewer equipment, seconded by Nathan Grieme. Motion carried by roll call vote.

President Mau had Tom Veith draft an ordinance for short term rentals commonly call Air B&B and VRBO’s. Short term rentals provide for licenses and safety of neighborhood. This allows short terms rentals to be used as special use in zone R1, R2 and B2. Many questions came up regarding licensing, taxes, zoning. President Mau ask the board members to take the drafted ordinance home to review and discussion would continue next month.

President Mau announced the following dates to remember:

Sexual Harassment training. Go to **ICRMTmemberresources**- click on training and then sexual harassment training. This needs to be completed by everyone as soon as possible.

March 23, 2024 electronic recycling. In rear of the Village Hall building.

Easter Egg Hunt March 30, 2024 at James Park.

April 20, city wide yard sale.

April 27 city wide cleanup (get dumpsters and Jacob trailers).

AC High School seniors would like to clean up at the lake. They will be at our next meeting.

President Mau mentioned the need for a water committee meeting to discuss water adjustment guidance from committee. This meeting was set for March 20, 2024 after appropriation meeting. CRW increased $0.25 effective February 23, 2024. David Wilken suggested a rate study from IRWA.

David Wilken ask for our policy on derelict houses and mentioned a property on Hardin Street, a property on Richard Street (modular with windows broken out) and a property on Honolulu Street (windows are all broken out). Tom Veith mentioned that if they are vacant and open there is an expedited process that can be used. The problem is that usually the homeowners do not have the money to take down the property so if the village goes after it, then the burden falls on the village for the high cost of demolition.

President Mau announced we need to go into Executive session to discuss personnel. Motion by Nancy Kyrouac, seconded by Jacob Gardner to go into executive session.

Motion to come back into regular session by David Wilken, seconded by Jacob Gardner.

Nancy Kyrouac made a motion; based on his exemplary performance and recent certification a $3.00 per hour raise to public works director is recommended, seconded by David Wilken. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Motion to adjourn by Jacob Gardner, seconded by Nathan Grieme. Meeting adjourned by 7:36pm

Respectfully submitted

 Pamela Gardner, Clerk