

Village of Ashmore

Board of Trustees Meeting September 23, 2025

Call to Order: 6:02 p.m.

Deputy Mayor guest Braylon Fraker led the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call Present: Trustees Bill Edwards, T.C. Grissom, Kyle Sims, Bryan Watson, and Cathy Welborn (remote). Also Present: Mayor Kurt Crail, Clerk Michelle Redd, Treasurer Linda Holloway. Absent: Trustee Terry Price, Superintendent Jake Johnson.

Guests

Lee Beckam – Milano & Grunloh Engineers –

Nick Sibenaller – Gilbert, Metzger & Madigan –

Dane and Teresa Perdue – former board members

Recognition Dane and Teresa Perdieu were honored for Dane's long-term service as a Village Board member and for serving as Grand Marshal of the Ashmore Fall Festival. A plaque and a \$100 gift card were presented. Mr. Perdue expressed his gratitude, stating it was an honor to serve the Village.

Engineer's Report – Milano & Grunloh

IEPA Grant: The planning phase has been completed and approved by the IEPA. The Village's initial \$5 million application for funding was not successful. The NOFO for 2025 has not yet been posted. The Village expects the construction grant NOFO to be released soon.

IEPA Loan: All required loan materials have been submitted. The Village was approved for a \$5,210,229 loan, including \$2,344,603 in principal forgiveness (see attached Intended Use Plan).

ITEP (Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program): IDOT approved the PDR. The Village's application was submitted on September 30. The award announcement indicated the Village was not successful. However, IDOT has an additional \$400 million in available funding. The Village's application remains eligible, and the plan has been submitted for consideration. No announcements have been made yet.

SRTS (Safe Routes to School): The 2025 application period is open and will close October 13, 2025. The Village has applied for \$400,000 under IDOT's additional funding opportunity. No award announcements have been made at this time. The Village is proceeding with the application.

OSLAD (Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development): Following discussion with the Village, it was determined that no OSLAD application will be submitted this year. The Village does not qualify as a disadvantaged community. If an application were to be submitted during this cycle, the grant would require a 50/50 match.

DCEO Public Infrastructure Grant: The Village submitted its application on December 4, 2024. An announcement regarding awards is expected at any time. Note: Lee concluded his presentation and left the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Auditor's Report

Gilbert, Metzger & Madigan at 6:10 p.m., Nick Sibenaller of Gilbert, Metzger & Madigan entered the meeting and addressed the Board regarding the FY 2025 Audit. Mr. Sibenaller stated that, in his opinion, the audit was successful and fairly presented.

Clerk Michelle Redd was directed to sign the finalization of the audit and deliver it to the Coles County Clerk's Office at the Coles County Courthouse.

During discussion, Bryan Watson brought up how we sit with the current water rate. In response, Mr. Sibenaller noted the potential for a future water rate increase. He explained that a study would need to be conducted, and Village engineers could provide input to ensure options for implementing the increase are available.

Nick Sibenaller exited the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Clerk's Report – Michelle Redd

The Ashmore Fall Festival was a great success. - The FY 2025 Audit has been completed. - Aysst Training for water billing is scheduled to begin on September 24, 2025.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes A motion was made to approve the regular meeting minutes dated August 22, 2025, with corrections if necessary.

Motion: T.C. Grissom Second: Bill Edwards Vote: - - Cathy Welborn – aye - Kyle Sims – aye - T.C. Grissom – aye - Bill Edwards – aye - Bryan Watson – aye, Terry Price – absent Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Linda Holloway

Approval of Accounts Payable and Payroll for September 2025 was presented. The signature sheet was circulated for Board approval and signatures.

Transfer of Funds – Park Fund: \$5,000.00 from the General Fund to the Park Fund.

Motion: Cathy Welborn Second: Bryan Watson Vote: - Bill Edwards – aye - T.C. Grissom – aye - Kyle Sims – aye - Bryan Watson – aye - Cathy Welborn – aye - Terry Price – absent Motion carried.

Note: Trustee Sims and Trustee Grissom did ask why the transfer was needed and it was needed to cover harvest festival expenses.

CD Renewal: The Board approved renewing the Certificate of Deposit for 3 months at an interest rate of 3.85%. - Transfer of Funds – Water Fund: previously discussed transfer from General Fund to Water Fund for the water tower has been completed that transfer noted for the water tower was from the ARPA funds.

Motion: Kyle Sims Second: Cathy Welborn Vote: - Bill Edwards – aye - T.C. Grissom – aye - Kyle Sims – aye - Bryan Watson – aye - Cathy Welborn – aye - Terry Price – absent Motion carried. –

Transfer of Funds – Community Center: \$1,000.00 from General Fund to Community Center Fund.

Motion: Bill Edwards Second: Cathy Welborn Vote: - Bill Edwards – aye - T.C. Grissom – aye - Kyle Sims – aye - Bryan Watson – aye - Cathy Welborn – aye - Terry Price – absent Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report on File: August 31, 2025.

Motion: Bryan Watson Second: Cathy Welborn Vote: - Bill Edwards – aye - T.C. Grissom – aye - Kyle Sims – aye - Bryan Watson – aye - Cathy Welborn – aye - Terry Price – absent Motion carried.

Approval of Finance Committee Minutes by Committee: June 23, 2025.

Motion by Bryan Watson, Second, Bill Edwards Vote: - Bill Edwards – aye - T.C. Grissom – aye - Bryan Watson – aye. Kurt Crail- Aye Motion carried. [These are members of the Finance Committee only.]

Superintendent’s Report – Jake Johnson

Note: Superintendent Jake Johnson was absent. Mayor Kurt Crail provided the report on his behalf.

New Employee: Peyton Jenkins welcomed; performance satisfactory. - Remembrance Benches: Installed in honor of Mary Shoot and Dan Stretch; well received. - Park Improvements: Awnings are impressive and appreciated. - Water Tower: Painting and pump to circulate water is scheduled soon.

Old Business

Aggregation Program: Current aggregation rate slightly higher than Ameren; Board to re-evaluate in five months. Surrounding towns expressed concerns.

Solar Energy on Personal Properties: Mixed views discussed by Mayor Crail and Trustee Sims.

Pickleball Court: Discussion continues; item will be on the October agenda. Consideration for funding through Prospect Bank. Alternative funding: gym AC or pavilion improvements, whichever is costlier.

Current Court Cases: Brown property court-ordered cleanup by the Village.

Other Updates: Prayers requested for Terry Price (hospital), Cathy Welborn, and Bryan Watson.

Cathy Welbor asked about the 309 Charleston property; it has been placed with a real estate agency.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Motion: Bill Edwards Second: Bryan Watson Vote: - Bill Edwards – aye - T.C. Grissom – aye - Kyle Sims – aye - Bryan Watson – aye - Cathy Welborn – aye - Terry Price – absent Motion carried.