

**Grand Ridge Village Board**  
**Minutes of the October 18, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Village Board**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kay Hines at the Grand Ridge Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance. Trustees present: Jim Stricklin, Anne Hinterlong, Jack Tidaback, Dennis Rockey, Cindi Koetz, and Julene Buckley. Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Christy McGuire, Police Chief Josh Jabczynski, Mike Harden, Nick Hettel, John Hettel, Rick Bacon, Holly Koster and Tim Koster were also present.

**Minutes.** Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2022 board meeting as presented; second by Trustee Tidaback. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report.** Trustee Buckley made a motion to approve the September 2022 Treasurer's Report as presented; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Payment of Bills.** Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve payment of monthly bills; second by Trustee Rockey. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

**Old Business.**

- A. Report on County Grant and Resolution Approving ARPA Subrecipient Agreement between the Village and LaSalle County.** Attorney Churney presented a Resolution to approve the ARPA Subrecipient Agreement with LaSalle County. The key terms of the agreement were reviewed. The grant amount is \$65,000 for valve work and repairing the storm drainage under the county road as discussed at previous board meetings. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adopt the resolution for the ARPA Subrecipient Agreement as presented; second by Trustee Rockey. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- B. Report on Code Book.** Attorney Churney reported the deadline for submitting all proposed changes for the code book has been met. We hope to have an updated draft turned over soon.

**New Business.**

- A. Approve and Place on File 2022 – 2023 Village Audit.** A motion was made by Trustee Koetz to approve and place the 2022-2023 Village Audit on file; second by Trustee Hinterlong. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.
- B. Ordinance to increase water rates.** Mayor Hines reported a Water Committee Meeting will be called once a water study has been submitted by Peter Faletti. Further discussion on an ordinance to increase water rates will be put on the November meeting agenda.
- C. Ordinance to Increase Trustee Compensation.** Mayor Hines reported that October is the final month to make a decision to increase compensation for Village Trustees. It was noted the last increase was in 2011. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-04 increasing compensation for

Trustees to \$2,500 per fiscal year gross; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**D. Ordinance Establishing a Hotel Tax.** Attorney Churney presented an ordinance adopting a hotel tax allowing the Village to impose a 5% tax on rentals or lodging. Ms. Churney noted the village would be required to set up a separate fund with all money from the fund to be used for tourism purposes only. A motion was made by Trustee Hinterlong to approve the Ordinance Establishing a Hotel Tax; second by Trustee Buckley. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**E. Ordinance providing for Acquisition of Real Estate through Eminent Domain.** No action taken.

**Engineer's Report.** Engineer Peter Faletti reported the sidewalk project for this year has been completed and an area of concern on the corner of Sylvan and Liberty Street has been cold patched. The final bill came to \$55,265.25, which was under the \$57,380 allowed for the project.

#### **Committee Reports.**

**Finance.** Attorney Churney noted the tax levy will be announced at the November meeting.

**Insurance.** Trustee Hinterlong reported the insurance bill for all village properties came in and the premium went up a couple of hundred dollars due to additional coverage on some of our poles and buildings.

**Streets and Alleys.** Per Trustee Rockey's request, Nick Hettel who noted 3 problem areas in alleyways previously discussed have been completed. Mike Harden noted the snow plow is back and ready to go and work is being done on the salt spreader. Mayor Hines noted she will contact Chapman's to inspect the furnace. She also reported she has been communicating with Pete Johnson regarding taking down the lights on the north side of Main Street due to an underground electrical issue. Mayor Hines has been in contact with Invenergy and will also speak with ComEd to discuss possibilities for funding of the Main Street lighting project. Trustee Stricklin asked if new lighting for the maintenance building could also be included in the discussion for funding. Trustee Rockey noted now that we have approval for the county grant, he will contact the county as well as Grand Rapids Enterprises to discuss next steps for repairing the area of the storm drain under the county road.

**Building Permits.** Trustee Tidaback reported he has received a permit for a mud room.

**Water.** Trustee Stricklin reported there is a hydrant flush scheduled for this week. Mike Harden is doing some backhoe work with a buffalo box that has been bent. Ceiling has been insulated at the Penn Street Pump Station and pump has been repacked. Mr. Harden has been working with Nick Harsted to locate and document valve shut offs.

**Police.** Chief Jabczynski reported the police department has had a very busy month. A report was not available at the time of the village board meeting due to the arrival and setup of the new police department computer. He noted the reporting system currently being used at a cost of \$250 a year will be discontinued within the next year. The police department will need to look into upgrading to an internet-based cloud reporting system and will update the board once he has more information on the cost.

**Park.** Trustee Koetz reported the bathrooms at the park have been winterized. She has also been discussing options for the serving window at the pavilion with Nick Hettel.

**Mayor's Report.** Mayor Hines noted she has received requests for yearly donations from both the Grand Ridge Fire Department and the Grand Ridge Emergency Fund. She will review amounts donated last year and place items on the November meeting agenda.

**Correspondence.** The Village Clerk announced election packets are available for anyone wishing to run for open positions for public office in the Village of Grand Ridge. The filing period will be from December 12 - December 19<sup>th</sup> ending at 5 p.m. for anyone qualified to run for office.

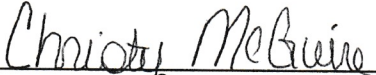
**Executive Session.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. to discuss potential litigation; second by Trustee Buckley. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Trustee Koetz made a motion to conclude the executive session at 8:05 p.m.; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

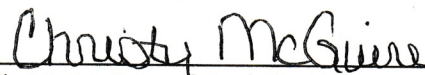
**Adjournment.** The next Mayors' Dinner will be held in Oglesby and Mayor Hines will attend. Trustees should let the Mayor know if they will attend as soon as possible.

Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Buckley. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
on November 15, 2022.

  
Christy McGuire, Village Clerk