

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the November 15, 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, Kelly Harsted, Mike Harden, Nick Hettel, John Hettel, Josh Jaegle, Holly Koster and Tim Koster were also present.

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

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

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

Public Comment. Holly Koster commented that about one year ago a red water shut-off notice was taped to the door at a building owned by the Kosters at 200 Sylvan Avenue for not paying their water bill. Ms. Koster stated that they continued to get bills for this property although no water was used. She commented that she had spoken with Trustee Stricklin to express concerns and ask that the situation be brought to the board but did not see any mention of the issue in the water committee meeting minutes. She noted receiving a response from the village attorney stating that there would be no negotiation on the past due amount. She asked that the board consider looking into this situation. Tim Koster commented that he would be willing to volunteer time to plow snow if the village needs help.

Old Business.

- A. **Report on Code Book.** Attorney Churney reported that she received a new section of the code book to review. She hopes to have something final by December or January.
- B. **Ordinance amending water service rates.** Mayor Hines reported that the village recently received a water rate study from the village engineer. She will call a water committee meeting to review the information and provide an update at the December board meeting.
- C. **Report on acquiring permanent easement for alley and street purposes for parcels located on W. Main Street.** Attorney Churney advised the board that Jeff Koetz came in prior to the meeting and signed the proposed easement. Mr. Koetz mentioned that he has a septic line partially under the easement area. Attorney Churney noted that the draft in the meeting packet included language stating that if Mr. Koetz needs to access the easement area for repair or replacement the village would cooperate with him but he would need to restore the easement area to what it was beforehand. He also noted that he has apple trees within the easement area that he would like to have pulled out before work begins. Mr. Koetz also requested that a street light that was previously in the alley be put back up. The village discussed Mr. Koetz' request for replacing the light and it was the consensus of the board that the light would be put back up. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve the permanent easement with Mr. Koetz in exchange for \$3,100; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz, Hines. Nays: Buckley. Motion carried.

- D. Act on Ordinance #2022-06 authorizing condemnation of portions of certain properties on West Main Street for acquisition of roadway easement.** Attorney Churney reported that the easement was offered to the Kosters in exchange for \$6,500 which was the full amount of the appraised value. The Kosters have made two counter offers which have been rejected because no appraisal was provided by the Kosters. Attorney Churney noted that if an agreement was not reached tonight that she would recommend to the board that they adopt the ordinance to pursue the condemnation action. Attorney Churney explained that her firm would contact the Kosters one more time prior to filing the condemnation action to request that they sign the easement in exchange for \$6,500. No agreement was reached during the village board meeting. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve Ordinance # 2022-06 authorizing the condemnation action; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz, Hines. Nays: Buckley. Motion carried.

New Business.

- A. Refer amendment to zoning title to Zoning Board of Appeals.** Attorney Churney discussed a draft of a potential ordinance amending zoning regulations as set forth in Title 3, Chapter 6 of the Grand Ridge Village Code to permit short-term rentals as a special use. Because it would be an amendment to the zoning ordinance, any text amendment to the zoning ordinance must be referred to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a public hearing. No action was taken on the matter at this time. The matter will be placed on the December meeting agenda for further discussion.
- B. Request for donation to Grand Ridge Volunteer Fire Department.** Trustee Rockey made a motion to make a donation to the Grand Ridge Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$3,000; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: Stricklin. Motion carried.
- C. Request for donation to Grand Ridge Emergency Fund.** Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to make a donation to the Grand Ridge Emergency Fund in the amount of \$1,000; second by Trustee Tidaback. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- D. Announce 2022 Tax Levy.** Attorney Churney reported that the equalized assessed evaluation in the village continues to rise which is good for the village. In 2021 the EAV was \$7,361,417. The EAV for 2022 will be \$7,888,200. The maximum amount we can levy without having a Truth in taxation hearing is \$79,888. Trustee Rockey made a motion to announce the tax levy for 2022 in the amount of \$79,485; second by Trustee Koetz. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Committee Reports.

Insurance. Trustee Rockey reported that the insurance company for the individual who hit the stop sign on the corner of Main Street and Sylvan Avenue will be billed \$1,500 to purchase a new sign. The broken pole was replaced by ComEd. The camera on the pole was not damaged and will be put back up by Durdan Electric. It was noted by Trustee Hinterlong that the police report for the incident showed the individual involved as having expired insurance. The Village will wait for a response from the insurance company to see if any further action will need to be taken.

Streets and Alleys. Trustee Rockey reported that a new solar box was ordered for the stop sign on the corner of Main Street and Burlington Avenue so that it will no longer have a strobe effect. Trustee Rockey also reported the sidewalk at a residence on Porter Avenue was destroyed by property owners doing work on their foundation. The sidewalk has been deemed unsafe and will be dug out and temporarily replaced with gravel until it can be properly repaired in the spring. A letter will be sent to the property owner by the village attorney to notify them that they will be responsible for the cost of repairs to the sidewalk. Trustee Tidaback will speak with the property owners regarding the type of work being done at the residence to ensure permit requirements are met. Trustee Rockey noted concerns with work being done by a company currently putting fiber lines through town. He has been in contact with Connexus regarding issues and noted the importance of holding them accountable for issues as they arise. Trustee Koetz noted water draining from hoses at a home at the corner of Penn Street and Porter Avenue. Trustee Rockey will look into the issue.

Building Permits. Trustee Tidaback noted that a permit for a mud room at a residence on Burlington Ave. was turned in.

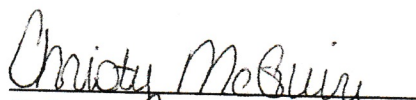
Water. Trustee Stricklin reported that hydrants were flushed this month. Grand Rapids Enterprises has been contacted regarding a hydrant that needs to be replaced across from the school. It was also noted that Illinois Rural Water will be sending a pressure gauge to test water pressure. Mayor Hines reported that Nick Harsted is almost finished with the work he is doing documenting shut off locations, shut off valves and hydrants throughout the Village. A map was presented showing the work that has been completed so far. Information will also be entered into a computer making the location process more efficient and saving a lot of time for the Village.

Police. Trustee Koetz read a monthly report submitted by Chief Jabczynski. The department commended Officer Bell and K9 Gus on investigation efforts that led to the safe apprehension of a person who led officers on a vehicle pursuit and foot chase in October. It was also noted an incident reported in October that subjects were jumped on W. Main Street were proven to be false.

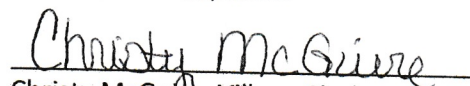
Mayor's Report. Mayor Hines reported that she and Trustee Hinterlong attended a dinner sponsored by NCICG in Ogelsby, IL.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Rockey. Voice Vote: all ayes; no nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

Approved by the Board of Trustees
on December 20, 2022.


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk