

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the February 21, 2023, 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, Dennis Rockey, Cindi Koetz. Trustees Jack Tidaback and Julene Buckley were absent. Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Christy McGuire, Police Chief Josh Jabczynski, Mike Harden, Martha Harden, John Hettel, Nick Hettel, Josh Jaegle, Teirra Fulkerson, Ted Sanders, Terry Ahearn, Logan Bima, Mariela Bima and Sophia Bima were also present.

Minutes. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2023 board meeting as presented; second by Trustee Stricklin. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve minutes of the February 2023 Water Committee meeting as presented; second by Trustee Rockey. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve the January 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Rockey, and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

Swearing In of New Officer. Police Chief Jabczynski introduced Officer Logan Bima who was sworn in by the Village Clerk as a new Police Officer for the Village of Grand Ridge.

Public Comment. None.

Old Business.

- A. **Ord. 2023-01 concerning Village water charges (rates, service calls), separate water meter requirement, and access to premises.** The Board reviewed Ord. 2023-01, an ordinance updating the Village's water rate charges, establishing charges for water utility service calls, requiring separate water meters, and addressing access to and obstruction of water meters. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-01 as presented; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Mayor Hines noted that new water rates will go into effect in March and will appear on the April bill.

New Business.

- A. **Presentation on sharing cost and possession of a mobile vehicle speed radar sign with Grand Ridge Grade School.** Grand Ridge Grade School Principal Terry Ahearn and School Superintendent Ted Sanders discussed data collected and concerns over vehicles speeding through school zones, especially on Route 23. Terry Ahearn gave a presentation on mobile radar signs. The school has purchased a sign for the northbound lane. Mr. Ahearn has spoken with Chief Jabczynski and would like to propose options for splitting the cost of the sign with the Village so the Village could use the sign during summer months when school is not in session. The cost of the sign was \$3,718. If the cost was split, the Village would pay \$1,859 including the cost for a mounting bracket. A second option would be for the Village to purchase the second sign, to be shared, for \$3,718. Ms. Churney advised

KTJ would contribute \$200 towards the purchase of the sign. It was suggested that the school district ask the township to donate funds for the signs as the school children are also township residents. An intergovernmental agreement ("IGA") for the donation could be prepared. The board directed Ms. Churney to draft an IGA agreement with an option of a 2 party (Village-District) or 3 party (Village-District-Township) agreement. The school district representatives will contact the Township to discuss sharing the costs.

- B. **Solicitation of bids for mowing of Village properties and the Village park.** Proposed solicitations for proposals for mowing of Village properties and the Village park were reviewed. Requests for bids will be posted on March 1st and bids will be opened at the March 21, 2023 meeting.
- C. **Solicitation of bids for park maintenance.** A proposed solicitation for proposals for park maintenance for was reviewed. Requests for bids will be posted on March 1st and bids will be opened at the March 21, 2023 meeting.
- D. **Participation in Ottawa's 2023 summer recreation program.** Mayor Hines reported David Marvin contacted the Village about Ottawa's summer recreation program. The program offers various activities for kids in Grand Ridge at an approximate cost of \$3,000.00. Trustee Koetz made a motion to participate in the 2023 Ottawa Summer Recreation Program at a cost of \$3000; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- E. **Contract with Hopkins & Associates for Village audit.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to approve hiring Hopkins and Associates to complete the Village audit; second by Trustee Rockey. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Rockey, Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- F. **Request from MCC Network Services, LLC d/b/a Conxxus Fiber-Build.** The board discussed an ordinance to amend section 152.012 of the Village Code to establish a master license agreement for underground fiber optic installations in the Village. It was decided to postpone action at this time to give the Village Engineer and Conxxus time to review the draft ordinance. It was noted there may be a joint meeting with Streator officials and township highway commissioners to manage the proposed installation in a way that makes sense for the whole community and can be effectively managed and inspected.
- G. **Demolition Procedures.** The board reviewed a draft ordinance regulating demolition work and a draft permit form which would include the regulations from the ordinance on the back. Board members were requested to contact Ms. Churney with questions or suggestions before the next meeting. The item will be brought back before the board in March.

Engineer's Report. None.

Committee Reports.

- A. **Streets and Alleys.** Trustee Rockey reported he left a message with Grand Rapids Enterprises about moving forward with repairs on a dip in the road due to issue with the storm drain on Main Street. An update will be provided after Trustee Rockey speaks with Mr. Rowe about a tentative plan and costs. The Village received a grant of ARPA funds from LaSalle County to help pay to repair of the road.

Trustee Rockey will contact CMJ Tree Service for a quote for trimming loose branches hanging from a tree on Burlington Avenue near the bank and trimming up branches on north /south roads and Village alley ways.

Trustee Rockey suggested looking into going to a single garbage carrier in the Village due to the wear and tear on the roads and alleyways.

- B. **Building Permit.** Mayor Hines reported she sent a letter to a property owner on Porter Avenue who is in violation of a Village ordinance for failing to get the correct permit for the work being done at the residence. The letter also notified the property owner of damages to the Village sidewalk caused by construction work at the residence. The property owner has been asked to contact Mayor Hines.
- C. **Water.** Trustee Stricklin noted Mike Harden has been busy filling in pot holes. He also noted an issue with standing water and mud where a new hydrant was put in by the school. Mayor Hines noted this issue is properly addressed by the Streets and Alleys Committee.
- D. **Police.** Chief Jabczynski reported Troy Technologies adjusted the camera at Main and Sylvan Streets free of charge after it was re-installed by Durdan Electric due to an accident that occurred in November. All invoices for repairs from the accident have been submitted to the LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office for reimbursement. He noted the Village will need to submit all invoices to the insurance company and proof of payment of the deductible must be submitted to the State's Attorney's Office before the court date on March 16, 2023, so the State's Attorney can seek restitution on behalf of the Village.

Chief Jabczynski noted that Mike Harden performed service on the K-9 unit and has placed it out of service due to needing new tires.


- E. **Park.** Trustee Koetz reported she has not yet received an update from ComEd regarding a street light request for an area near the end of East Liberty Street. She also discussed a request from the Community Fest to have park restrooms opened on April 1st for an Easter Egg Hunt. It was decided the bathrooms would be opened for the event weather permitting. Mike Harden will take over the responsibility of opening the park restrooms at the beginning of the season and closing down and winterizing the restrooms at the end of the season. Benches will be ordered for the park; someone must be present for the benches to be delivered.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Stricklin. Voice Vote: all ayes; no nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

*Approved by the Board of Trustees
on March 21, 2023*


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk