

Grand Ridge Village Board  
**Minutes of the March 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, Jack Tidaback, Dennis Rockey, Cindi Koetz and Julene Buckley. Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Christy McGuire, Mike Harden, John Hettel, Michael Jaegle, Teirra Fulkerson, Timothy Koster and Holly Koster were also present.

**Minutes.** Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2023 board meeting as presented; second by Trustee Tidaback. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report.** Trustee Buckley made a motion to approve the February 2023 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 Hinterlong made a motion to approve payment of the monthly bills; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Public Comment.** Tim Koster commented that Ohms Sanctuary was a finalist chosen by Down at the Farms along with Valley Fresh Harvest online farmers market to facilitate access to locally produced foods across the Illinois Valley. Mr. Koster provided information about the program and efforts to distribute fresh food boxes at a significantly reduced or no cost to 650+ households in north central Illinois beginning in October. Mr. Koster passed out a survey to fill out and a letter to village board members.

Holly Koster commented on volunteer projects currently being worked on in the community through Let Growth Unite Us. She also advised she would be interviewing candidates via the web for a question and answer session with the public for anyone on the ballot who would be interested in participating.

Tierra Fulkerson had questions regarding burn barrels and stationery firepits. Attorney Churney noted that she would need to review the Village's open burning ordinance. Ms. Fulkerson asked about a well located on her property and if it could be used. It was noted the water was not usable. The property owner could fill-in the well if they wished to do so, however it as the owner's expense. Ms. Fulkerson asked about putting up a fence. She will follow-up with Trustee Tidaback for further information.

**Old Business.**

- A. **Intergovernmental agreement concerning speed warning signs.** Mayor Hines reported that she has received information about a grant through North Central Illinois Council of Governments that the village could apply for which includes speed warning signs. Attorney Churney noted that she has not heard back from Grand Ridge Grade School regarding its inquiry to the Township board about potentially sharing costs of a speed warning sign with the village. Mayor Hines will forward information received from the School at the March board meeting pertaining to a sign to NCICG. The village will wait to hear back on a decision from the Township before discussing further.
- B. **Ordinance to adopt demolition regulation.** Attorney Churney presented Ordinance 2023-02, an ordinance amending Title XV (Land Use), Chapter 150 (Buildings and Structures; Construction) of the Village Code to adopt demolition regulations; amending Section 150.99 (b) (Penalties) of the Village Code; Section 33.32 (Fee Schedule) of the Village Code and repealing Section 150.01 (n) of the Village Code. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve Ordinance number 2023-02 as presented; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

- C. **Demolition permit application form.** Trustee Tidaback made a motion to approve a demolition permit application form as presented; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- D. **Ordinance concerning a master license agreement for underground fiber optic installation.** Attorney Churney reported that ongoing discussions with a fiber optic installation company regarding a draft agreement have been very productive. She hopes to be able to act and approve this matter at the April board meeting.

### **New Business**

- A. **Open bids for mowing bid #1 (Village Park).** One bid for Village Park mowing was received. Trustee Koetz made a motion to award the bid to Jaegle Lawn Service for \$100 per date of service; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- B. **Open bids for mowing bid #2 (Village Properties).** One bid for mowing of village property was received. Trustee Koetz made a motion to award the bid to Jaegle Lawn Service for \$150 per service and an additional \$75.00 an hour per man for the mowing of a nuisance property; second by Trustee Buckley. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- C. **Open bids for Park Maintenance.** One bid for park maintenance was received. Trustee Koetz made a motion to award the bid to Steven Fulkerson for \$100 per week; second by Trustee Buckley. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- D. **Body Cameras mandated by the state for the Police Department.** Mayor Hines reported that a state law in Illinois will require all police officers in the state to wear body cameras. She noted that the cost of the cameras would be approximately \$5,000. There is currently a grant available the village could apply for which could cover approximately one fifth of the cost. The Police Chief will look further into a second grant that will be offered to see if it could be a better option and cover more of the cost.
- E. **Contract with Northern Illinois University for Broadband Services.** Attorney Churney reviewed the agreement with the Board and noted the contracts for NIU Net and iFIBER which allows the Village to terminate the contract for convenience at any time with 30 days notification and any early termination fee may not be more than one month of service fees. The cost of NIU Net is \$50 per month. The cost of iFIBER is \$100 per month. Trustee Buckley made a motion to approve the contract with NIU Net in the amount of \$50 per month; second by Trustee Rockey. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- F. **Contract with Illinois Fiber Resources Group (iFIBER) for data transport and related services.** Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve a contract with Illinois Fiber Resources Group in the amount of \$100 per month for data transport and related services; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- G. **Resolution authorizing the Illinois Municipal League to Collect the 2% Foreign Fire Insurance License Fee.** Attorney Churney reviewed the Foreign Fire Insurance License Fee with the Board. The Illinois Municipal League collects the foreign fire insurance fee on behalf of fire districts and municipalities throughout Illinois. The fee is paid to the Village who then pays it to the Grand Ridge Fire Department. The fee used to be referred to as a tax. Trustee Stricklin made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the Illinois Municipal League to Collect the 2% Foreign Fire Insurance License fee; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Engineer's Report.** The board discussed MFT projects for this year. Trustee Rockey advised there would be some additional sidewalk work to be done. No large road projects are expected, some patching may need to be done on the roads. Trustee Hinterlong noted concerns over cars parking on sidewalks blocking pedestrian use. Mayor Hines asked that this concern be discussed with the Police Department.

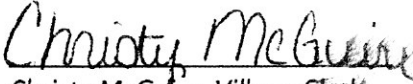
**Committee Reports.**

- A. **Insurance.** Trustee Hinterlong reported the village received an insurance reimbursement check from Illinois Municipal League in the amount of \$2,358 to cover the cost of repairs from an accident that occurred in November at the corner of Main and Sylvan Streets. Mayor Hines noted that the State's Attorney will seek restitution on behalf of the village for the amount of the insurance deductible. Mayor Hines also noted the Village may need to update its insurance coverage amounts.
- B. **Streets and Alleys.** Trustee Rockey reported Grand Rapids Enterprises looked at the dip in the road on East Main Street again. Pictures show the storm drain has dipped a little, however, it has not broken the seal. He has discussed the issue with the county. The county will review the information and let the Village know what it would like done. Trustee Stricklin noted the area of the school crosswalk on Main Street needs repair. Trustee Rockey reported as warmer weather is approaching, he will order gravel to begin fulfilling requests he has received. Mayor Hines reported information has been received from Halm Electric and Ficek Electric for replacing 12 street lights on Main Street, as well as the wiring on the north side of Main Street due to a damaged underground wire. The plow and salt spreader have been serviced and will be ready for next winter.
- C. **Building Permits.** Trustee Tidaback reported he is in the process of updating a fence permit for a resident who received one last year but it expired before completion of the work. He was also contacted by another resident requesting information on a fence permit. Mayor Hines advised a property owner on Porter Avenue that was previously in violation of a village ordinance for failing to get the correct permit for work being done at his residence has now met all permit requirements.
- D. **Water.** Trustee Stricklin noted the Water Department has been working on routine maintenance items. The GIS mapping is moving forward.
- E. **Police.** Trustee Koetz reported Gus the Police K-9 Dog has been re-certified. The K-9 squad has new tires, the non-vehicle registration stickers are in and people who have previously registered will be getting notices that their registrations will expire. Grand Ridge Grade School has installed a new speed reader sign on Bloomington Road facing south bound. All department speed readers have passed annual re-certification.
- F. **Health/Storm Drains.** Trustee Rockey noted he cleaned off several storm drains that were holding water during the last few rains due to leaves and other debris. Trustee Buckley will contact Grand Rapids Enterprises to schedule them to suck out the storm drains.
- G. **Park.** Trustee Koetz reported she sent a letter to the Township to request sharing the cost of the Ottawa Recreation Summer Program. All Type Fence has been contacted to fix the fence. She would like to purchase new volleyball nets and two new benches for the park. She would also like to add tetherball and a four-square game. Mayor Hines asked Trustee Koetz prepare a diagram to note placement of these items. Trustee Koetz also noted she would like to get a load of diamond dirt for the ball diamond.

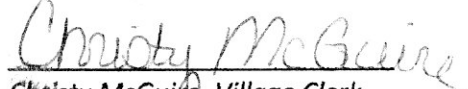
**Correspondence.** Mayor Hines noted the village received a thank you card from Grand Ridge Grade School for the contribution to the Trivia Night. The village also received a thank you card from the Emergency Fund Group for the Village's contribution.

**Adjournment.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Buckley. Voice Vote: all ayes; no nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
on April 18, 2023

  
Christy McGuire, Village Clerk