

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the April 18, 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, Police Chief Josh Jabczynski, Mike Harden, Martha Harden, John Hettel, Nick Hettel, Steven Fulkerson, Teirra Fulkerson, Timothy Koster, Holly Koster, Stephanie Wiertz, Kim Olney, Shasta Hladovcak, and Abbie Freer were also present.

Minutes. Trustee Koetz made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2023 board meeting as presented; second by Trustee Buckley. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Public Comment. Teirra and Steven Fulkerson addressed the Board regarding their water bill and the newly adopted water rates. Mr. Fulkerson shared information from some research he had done. He also commented that he believed there to be an inconsistency on his bill.

Old Business.

- A. **Intergovernmental agreement concerning speed warning signs.** Chief Jabczynski noted a proposal by Grand Ridge Grade School requesting funds from Farm Ridge Township to be used for the cost of a speed warning sign was turned down. Attorney Churney commented that the Village would need to decide what they would like to do in terms of purchasing a sign. Trustee Hinterlong noted there were still questions and concerns to be considered regarding a sign. The item will be placed on the May Meeting Agenda for further discussion.
- B. **Status of fiber optic installation ordinance.** Attorney Churney reported she heard back from the fiber optic company yesterday afternoon. She will need some time to review suggested revisions made to the license agreement proposed by the Village. The item will be put back on the May Agenda at which time Attorney Churney hopes to be able to finalize details.

New Business.

- A. **Village Clean-up Day.** Mayor Hines reported she has been in contact with Republic Services; the first day Republic had available is Saturday, June 24th. She will also contact Waste Management to check on its availability for an earlier date. Trustee Rockey will contact CMJ Tree Service to discuss the possibility of adding a yard waste pick up and the costs involved.
- B. **Easement for alley and street purposes for 160 W. Main Street.** Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve a permanent easement for alley and street purposes at 160 W. Main Street as presented;

second by Trustee Rockey. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: Buckley. Motion carried.

- C. **Holly Koster Community Projects and Request.** Holly Koster made a presentation related to Let Growth Unite Us and gave an update on previous accomplishments and her vision for future projects. She expressed interest in opening a farmers' market in the Village. She mentioned grants for which she is applying. She also discussed future projects she would like to do with the Village through America in Bloom. Attorney Churney suggested it would be helpful if Ms. Koster made a list of specifically what she was requesting from the Village, what she wanted to do, and who the project partners would be. She noted that it would be beneficial to submit this information a few weeks prior to the next board meeting in order for board members to have an opportunity to review the information. Trustees noted some of the projects were private property matters and that the Village had decided not to fund a past request related to America in Bloom. It was also noted that butterfly gardens could be planted on private properties.
- D. **Purchase of mandated officer worn body cameras.** Chief Jabczynski presented a proposal from Axon related to the body camera mandate applicable to all police agencies in the State of Illinois by January 1, 2025. He noted the proposal is being submitted now because the cost is projected to go up by approximately 12% if the Village waits until 2025. The quote presented was a 5-year contract which includes the storage and equipment necessary to successfully abide by the mandate. The Chief has applied for a Tier-1 grant which would cover the cost of two cameras but would not include the costs of additional equipment, storage, and redaction needed. A Tier-2 grant may be offered in the future to cover some of the cost of storage fees and equipment. The contract would need to be renewed in 2027. Trustee Tidaback made a motion to approve the proposal as presented; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey, Koetz and Buckley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- E. **Donation to Community Fest.** Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve a donation to Grand Ridge Community Fest in the amount of \$1,000; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Tidaback, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: Buckley. Motion carried.

Engineer's Report. Peter Faletti will be working with Trustee Rockey to compile a list of sidewalks in need of repair or replacement. The Village will need to determine the amount to be spent so that work can be put out for bids.

Committee Reports.

- A. **Finance.** Mayor Hines noted she would schedule a time to get together with Attorney Churney and the Finance Committee to discuss appropriations for the new fiscal year once new committees have been appointed in May.
- B. **Insurance.** Mayor Hines noted the Village will need to look into updating insurance coverage amounts.
- C. **Streets and Alleys.** Trustee Rockey reported he is waiting to hear back from the county about the repairs on the dip in the road on East Main Street. He also noted he has begun a list of berms needing gravel. Trustee Hinterlong noted concerns over areas on Burlington Avenue where gravel could be placed to lessen the drop-off on the shoulder of the road. Trustee Rockey is currently looking into areas in need of cold patching. Trustee Rockey also reported the new stop sign was up.

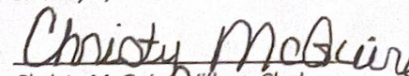
- D. **Building Permits.** Trustee Tidaback reported he issued one fence permit for a residence on Burlington Avenue.
- E. **Water.** Trustee Stricklin reported hydrants are scheduled to be flushed on Wednesday. Remaining snow fence has been taken down. The water department will continue to work on locating water shut-offs for several locations throughout the Village as weather conditions improve. All department equipment is being inventoried.
- F. **Police.** Chief Jabczynski reported Officer Bell was called to assist the Ottawa Police Department last week with the K-9 Unit during a traffic stop on I-80. Gus the K-9 was successful in detecting a significant amount of drugs during the stop leading to several felony counts. The Chief commended Officer Bell for the outstanding job he does training Gus. The board expressed its appreciation for Gus as part of the Police Department and it was noted Gus is always happy when he gets the opportunity to do what he does best. The Chief noted that no taxpayer dollars are spent on Gus.
- G. **Health/Storm Drains.** Trustee Buckley reported Grand Rapids Enterprises came and sucked out the storm drains with no issues. Mike Harden will complete a mosquito abatement training class on Thursday.
- H. **Park.** Trustee Koetz reported that she is waiting to hear back from the Township regarding sharing the expense of the Ottawa Recreation Program at the park. All Type Fence will be out to do repairs on the east side of the chain link fence. She is still waiting to hear from Remington Seeds regarding a donation request for park benches. Nick Hettel is going to dethatch the ball diamond at the park and a new load of diamond dirt will be put down.
- I. **Correspondence.** Mayor Hines reported she received a certified letter from ComEd regarding a request to the Commerce Commission for a 14% increase in its rates with additional increases over the next 3 years. She also noted the Village will receive the certification of the votes from the April 4th Consolidated Election from the County Clerks office by April 25th. The Mayor will schedule a Special Meeting of the board on May 4, 2023 at 7 pm to swear in the new Village officials.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Rockey. Voice Vote: all ayes; no nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

Approved by the Board of Trustees
on May 4, 2023


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk