

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the June 20, 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, Kim Olney, Dennis Rockey and Cindi Koetz. Trustee John Hettel was absent. Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Christy McGuire, Mike Harden, Steven Fulkerson, Tim McGuire, Buck Hill, Jack Tidaback, Nick Hettel, Stephanie Wiertz, James Friske and Ryan Cunningham were also present.

Minutes. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2023 Board meeting as presented; second by Trustee Koetz. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2023 Main Street Light Committee meeting; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Mayor Hines noted Shared Certificate 2004 was renewed at Streator Onized Credit Union due to a higher interest rate.

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

Public Comment. Buck Hill spoke regarding concerns over abnormal amounts of water in his basement at 9 Clover Court which is currently being pumped into his front ditch causing standing water in the front yard. He noted the issue has continued even during the long period without rain and other Clover Court subdivision residents also have experienced water issues. Mr. Hill has spoken to representatives from the village regarding the issue. Prior actions to address the water issue were discussed. He asked the Board to investigate and act to solve the issue. Possible causes of the problem (such as an underground spring) and ideas to address the issue (such a French drain or new catch basins) were discussed. Ms. Churney asked Mr. Hill if he could provide reports from the water experts he had look into the issue. Peter Faletti will check to see if the county may have a map of locations of wells.

New Business.

- A. **Mediacom discussion on Fiber Service to Grand Ridge.** James Friske, the regional marketing director, and other Mediacom representatives discussed plans and procedures for installing fiber service to Grand Ridge and answered questions.
- B. **Review of Tentative Appropriation Ordinance.** The Trustees reviewed the tentative 2023-2024 appropriation ordinance. Final action on the ordinance will be taken at the July board meeting.
- C. **Zoning Board of Appeals Recommendation 2023-06-13.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to accept and place on file ZBA Recommendation 2023-06-13 concerning proposed amendments to Section 155.021 of the Village Zoning Regulations to Permit the ZBA to Serve as the Planning Commission and Section 155.197 to Permit Short-Term Rentals as a Special Use; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

- D. **Ordinance Amending Zoning Regulations.** Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-04 amending zoning regulations as set forth in the Grand Ridge Village Code in Section 155.021 to permit the Board of Appeals to serve as the planning commission and Section 155.197 to Permit Short-Term Rentals as a Special Use; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- E. **Ordinance Regulating Short Term Rental Units.** Trustee Olney made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-05 adding Chapter 117 to the Village Code to establish regulations for Short-Term Rental Units within the Village; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- F. **Tree Removal Request (Liberty Street).** Mayor Hines reported she was approached by Nick Hettel regarding the deteriorating condition of a large tree on Liberty Street which is on Village property. Mr. Hettel noted the tree is hollow and poses a safety concern. Mayor Hines will contact CMJ Tree Service for an estimate for tree removal.
- G. **Fuel Allowance for Village Employee.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to approve a gas card in the amount of \$25 per quarter to Mike Harden for travel expenses incurred while using his personal vehicle when conducting work for the Village; second by Trustee Rockey. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Engineer's Report. Peter Faletti estimated the cost of repairs for locations currently being considered for the 2023 sidewalk program to be \$45,150. Mr. Faletti noted this amount is \$10,000 over the amount discussed at the May board meeting. Trustee Rockey will coordinate with Mr. Faletti to re-evaluate the list so it can be published and the Board can vote on it next month.

Committee Reports.

- A. **Finance.** No report.
- B. **Insurance.** Trustee Hinterlong reported that she and Mayor Hines will be going over figures to submit to the insurance company in order to increase coverage amounts.
- C. **Streets and Alleys.** Trustee Rockey noted that he will coordinate with Nick Hettel to discuss alley work to be done, including clean up and maintenance of the alley behind the Village Hall. A property owner expressed concerns to Trustee Rockey over damage caused to his building by delivery drivers in the alley. Mike Harden will look at installing a light in this location. Volunteers are needed for clean-up day on June 24th and volunteers will be treated to breakfast at Chipper's afterwards. Grand Rapids Enterprises notified Trustee Rockey it hopes to begin asphalt patching next week.
- D. **Building Permits.** Mayor Hines noted Trustee Hettel issued a fence permit to a resident on Washington Street.
- E. **Water.** Mayor Hines noted a meter was placed on the hydrant at Helena Chemical.
- F. **Police.** Trustee Koetz read a monthly police report submitted by Chief Jabczynski. The Axon body cameras have been set up and are currently in a test run status. The Police Department is currently

working on phase 2 of the ILETSB camera grant. The grant covers data storage for the body cameras. The LaSalle County States Attorney's Office awarded the Police Department an equipment reimbursement grant. All equipment must initially be purchased by the Village and receipts submitted to the State's Attorney for full reimbursement. Officer Bima has given notice he will be resigning from the department on June 30, 2023. Recruitment efforts are underway for a new part-time officer. Fines can now be paid online.

G. Park. Trustee Hinterlong reported lots of work is being done to clean up the park. Mike Harden has been power washing the shelter and is now working on repairs to the cement blocks. Playground equipment will also be power washed and mold protection added to it. CMJ Tree Service trimmed trees in the park. Trustee Stricklin has donated childproof electrical parts. A load of dirt will be brought in to fill holes and a load of diamond dirt was brought in to add to the ball diamond. Trustee Hinterlong noted that Ottawa Recreation will be hosting a Picnic in the Park on July 5th.

Mayor's Report. Mayor Hines briefly discussed the Historical Committee which was formed years ago; committee members include residents who are connected to the history of Grand Ridge by relatives who were born in Grand Ridge. The possibility of establishing a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity will be considered.

Correspondence. A thank you note from the Community Fest was received.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Olney. 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 June, 20, 2023


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk