

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the May 16, 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, Cindi Koetz and John Hettel. Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Christy McGuire, Police Chief Josh Jabczynski, Mike Harden, Steven Fulkerson, Teirra Fulkerson, Timothy Koster, Holly Koster and Karen Meagher were also present.

A motion was made by Trustee Koetz to allow Trustee Rockey to attend the meeting remotely; second by Trustee Hettel. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. Trustee Rockey then joined the meeting by telephone conference call.

Minutes. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the April board meeting and the May 4, 2023 Special Meeting as presented; second by Trustee Stricklin. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve minutes of the May 2023 Water Committee Meeting; second by Trustee Olney. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Mayor Hines reported that a Certificate of Deposit currently held with Streator Onized Credit Union will mature on June 1, 2023. It was noted that Grand Ridge National Bank currently offers a higher rate of interest. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to renew CD# 2004 with Grand Ridge National Bank; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

Public Comment. Teirra and Steven Fulkerson addressed the Board regarding a concern over a refund they felt was owed to them on their water bill.

Old Business.

- A. **Intergovernmental agreement concerning speed warning signs.** The village board made a decision to remove the item from the agenda at this time and revisit it in the future as needed.
- B. **Village Clean-up Days.** Mayor Hines Reported that Village Clean-up Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 24th due to the Memorial Day holiday and Republic Services' schedule. Trustee Rockey noted that the time will be 7 a.m. Trustee Rockey will work on coordinating a list of volunteers to help on this day.
- C. **Ordinance concerning Short-term Rentals.** Mayor Hines reported that a past conversation regarding short term rentals has recently been asked to be re-addressed. Attorney Churney the Village Board had previously discussed allowing short term rentals as a special use under the Village's zoning ordinance. The prior draft of the short-term rental ordinance has been provided to the board. Ms. Churney recommended keeping this item on the agenda so that Village Trustees can study it and get back to her with any comments.

D. Refer proposed ordinance amending Village Code Zoning Chapter to permit short term rentals as a special use and to permit the Zoning Board of Appeals to serve as the Villages Planning Commission.

Attorney Churney discussed next steps to refer the zoning text amendment to the Zoning Board of Appeals to hold a public hearing and get public feedback. The Zoning Board would then make a recommendation to the village board for final action. Trustee Hettel made a motion to refer the text amendments to the Zoning Board of Appeals; second by Trustee Koetz. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

New Business.

- A. 2023 Sidewalk Program.** The board discussed areas of concern and sidewalks in need of repair for the 2023 Sidewalk Program. Mayor Hines noted that the job would need to be put out to bid. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve a sidewalk program in the amount of \$35,000; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- B. Removal of container at 190 W. Main St.** Holly Koster advised she has been working on securing a contractor to remove the container at 190 W. Main St. Tim Koster asked why the container needed to be removed. Ms. Churney informed Mr. Koster the container violates Village setback requirements of the Village's zoning regulations which can be found in the Village Code which is now available on the internet. Mayor Hines noted that the Kosters have had a year to move the container. Ms. Churney noted that the Village would commit to withholding any enforcement actions or asserting fines until June 30th.
- C. Koster request to plant 3 pollinator plants in the Village Park.** Tim Koster spoke regarding a request to plant 3 pollinator plants in the Village Park through the American in Bloom "Growing Vibrant Communities" program. Mayor Hines noted the Park Committee already had plans for the Village Park. Mayor Hines asked the Trustees for their thoughts on the matter. No motion made by the board.
- D. Koster request to plant 5 pollinator plants on Village Property.** Tim Koster spoke regarding a request to add 5 pollinator plants to the landscaping at the Village Hall. Mayor Hines reported that the village has a resident who volunteered his time and committed to taking care of the landscaping alongside the building.
- E. Koster request for funds up to \$299 for American in Bloom "Growing Vibrant Communities" program.** Tim Koster made a request for \$299 for the American in Bloom "Growing Vibrant Communities" program which would be donated to the Omnist Sanctuary which is a 501(C)(3) entity. No action was taken by the Village Board to participate in the program.

Engineer's Report. Peter Faletti will be working with Trustee Rockey to compile a list of sidewalks to be repaired or replacement. Ms. Churney noted she has prepared a draft fiber optic installation permit which she sent to Peter Faletti and Trustee Rockey to comment on. Ms. Churney also reported that MediaCom has signed a Fiber Optic Master license agreement with the Village and is anxious to move forward with fiber optic installation.

Committee Reports.

- A. Finance.** Work will begin soon on the Appropriations Ordinance for this fiscal year.
- B. Insurance.** Mayor Hines noted the Village will need to look into updating insurance coverage amounts.
- C. Streets and Alleys.** Trustee Rockey noted he will need to find out if a construction project being done on Porter Ave. has been completed. The property owners were previously notified they would be responsible

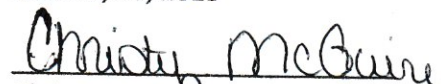
for the cost of repairs for damage to the village sidewalk during their construction. Trustee Rockey would like these repairs to coincide with the work being done as part of the Village's sidewalk project. Mayor Hines reported Grand Rapids Enterprises will repair a large pothole on Parkway Ave. Trustee Rockey will contact Grand Rapids Enterprises to discuss additional areas in need of repair.

- D. **Building Permits.** Trustee Hettel reported permits were issued to a resident on Washington St. for a chain link fence and to a resident on Porter Ave. for a shed. He has also been approached by a resident who would like to put in a dog run. He noted that he would like to work on consistency within the Village regarding the permit process.
- E. **Water.** Trustee Hettel reported during the Water Committee meeting a chain of command was established with a list of names of who will need to be notified in the event of a water main break. He also noted a survey for lead pipes needs to be completed by 2024 and discussed the timeline and costs involved for work needing to be completed for the replacement of lead pipes in 2027. He suggested considering a plan for future water bill increases to alleviate large price increases going forward. He also suggested setting up a Village Facebook page for informational purposes only.
- F. **Police.** Chief Jabczynski reported the Police Department received two new Axon body cameras and is working with Axon to get them set up online. The Department received pre-award notification from ILETSB that the Village will receive grant funding for the cameras. Officer Bima has been granted a leave of absence for the month of May to complete training for his promotion to K-9 Officer with the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office. The Chief reported the department will utilize Court Money for acceptance of ordinance fine payments. The system will allow people to pay fines/fees via credit card without having to make an appointment to come to GRPD and meet with staff in person.
- G. **Health/Storm Drains.** Trustee Olney noted concerns over pot holes in alleys that need to be filled so they do not draw mosquitoes when it rains. Trustee Rockey will coordinate with Nick Hettel to determine what area can be filled with gravel and what areas will require cold patch and the cost involved. Trustee Rockey will also look at an area by the Stihl dealership that may be in need of repair.
- H. **Park.** Trustee Hinterlong reported she will be scheduling a Park Committee Meeting next week. She will coordinate with Peter Faletti to get a map of the park.
- I. **Mayor's Report.** Mayor Hines reported she has appointed Trustees Rockey, Olney, Hinterlong and Hettel to a committee to work on the Main Street Light Project. Mayor Hines has an informational packet for the committee members to look over and will set a date for a committee meeting.
- J. **Adjournment.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Olney. Voice Vote: all ayes; no nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

Approved by the Board of Trustees
on June, 20, 2023


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk