

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the July 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, Kim Olney, Dennis Rockey, Cindi Koetz and John Hettel. Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Engineer Peter Faletti, Steven Fulkerson, Nick Hettel, Stephanie Wroblewski, and Josh Jaegle were also present.

Trustee Koetz made a motion to appoint Sheryl Churney Secretary *Pro Tem* due to the absence of the Village Clerk; second by Trustee Hettel. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Minutes. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 Board meeting as presented; second by Trustee Koetz. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. Trustee Stricklin made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2023 Park Committee meeting; second by Trustee Koetz. 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, Koetz, Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried. Mayor Hines noted \$2,000 was transferred into the Water Reserve account.

Payment of Bills. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve payment of the monthly bills as presented; second by Trustee Rockey. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz, Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried. It was noted there was a typographical error on the amount due to Michael's Disposal (\$9 instead of \$90); the check was written in the correct amount of \$90.

Public Comment. Josh Jaegle asked the Board to consider allowing non-residents to be granted non-highway vehicle permits. The board will consult with the Police Chief on the matter.

Old Business.

A. **Appropriation Ordinance.** Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Appropriation Ordinance; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz, Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

New Business.

A. **CMJ Tree Service -- tree removal** The bill was included in the list of bills approved for the month. The bill was \$1,500 less than quoted. Mayor Hines reported the tree was completely rotted.

B. **Special Event Non-Highway Vehicle Registrations for Community Fest.** Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve Special Event Non-Highway Vehicle Registrations for Community Fest for Grand Ridge Fest to be held August 18-20th; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz, Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried. Trustee Rockey remarked he enjoyed seeing the carts being used and appreciated how responsible the operators have been.

C. **Resolution 2023-07-18: A Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of an Executive Session Recording.** Trustee Olney made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-07-18: A Resolution Authorizing the

Destruction of an Executive Session Recording; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz, Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

- D. Main Street Property.** Mayor Hines reported residents have asked her about what would be done concerning the building located at 160 W. Main Street. Over the years, Village officials have talked with the property owner regarding his plans for the building, including selling the property. Trustee Olney mentioned that the building has raccoons that have been on the roof of the property and on neighboring roofs and she shared with the board a picture of the property showing weeds, open areas on the building, areas where animals were entering the building, and garbage and debris in the backyard. The process for directing repair and / or demolition proceedings as permitted by the Illinois Municipal Code and ordinance violation options were reviewed by Ms. Churney. The pros and cons of the various options were discussed. The consensus of the board was to have Ms. Churney send a letter to the property owner directing that action be taken to address the building condition and advising the Village will pursue its available legal options.

Engineer's Report.

- A. 2023 Sidewalk Program.** Peter Faletti made adjustments to his previous estimate and the revised estimated program cost was \$36,270, and \$41,509 with engineering costs. Mr. Faletti recommended using \$36,000 in MFT funds and paying the balance from Village funds. It was noted that concrete contractors are looking for projects and multiple bids have been received on projects this construction season. The board would like to approve bids for the work at the August meeting. Trustee Rockey made a motion to authorize the Village Engineer to submit the sidewalk project for MFT funds and to solicit bids if IDOT approval is received in sufficient time; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz, Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Hines has provided information to NCICG to prepare a grant application for the Safe Sidewalks to Schools program. The Board will continue to look for grants to assist with the cost of sidewalk replacement.

- B. Utility Permit Applications.** Mr. Faletti reported on the status of permit applications received from Metro and Mediacom. Per the request by Mr. Faletti, Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve a separate billing matter for utility permit processing by IMEG on behalf of the Village; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz, Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Committee Reports.

- A. Insurance.** Trustee Hinterlong reported that she reviewed items to be insured with Mayor Hines, Trustee Rockey, Josh Jabczynski, and Mike Harden. The updated information has been sent to the insurance carrier. Mayor Hines reported the Village's insurer is the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association and the Village has \$8 million in coverage. Trustee Hinterlong thanked those who helped update the information.
- B. Streets and Alleys.** Trustee Rockey reported Grand Rapids has completed patching roads. The area on Main Street has been filled and patched and should settle. Mayor Hines will submit the bill for the Main Street work for payment by the County using ARPA grant funds. Trustee Rockey reported Nick Hettel has worked on the Village alleys and noted it would be helpful if the Village had an area for dumping miscellaneous debris. Residents need to be encouraged to clean up their areas.

- C. **Building Permits.** Trustee Hettel issued a fence permit. He received a call about a fence permit; however, due to a boundary dispute between the neighbors, he advised the person that a property survey would be required. He noted the permit forms should be updated.
- D. **Water.** Trustee Hettel reported that a complaint about water odor had been received and samples had been taken and were being reviewed by TEST. TEST will be in contact with the resident. The complaint concerned water from an outdoor faucet. Trustee Hettel also reported that the survey of lead lines needs to be completed by March 2024. Mayor Hines noted the Village has received a grant of \$30,000 for the work. A third party contractor may be brought in to assist with the survey work. Trustee Stricklin suggested that Village representatives should be issued ID badges.

The water issue at the McBride Subdivision was discussed. The source of the water remains unknown. It was noted that the water table in the area is high.

- E. **Police.** Trustee Koetz advised the following information provided by Chief Jabczynski. The Police Department has applied for a phase 2 grant from the ILETSB which covers data storage for the body cameras. A new portable breath tester and evidence safe were purchased with a grant from the LaSalle County States Attorney's Office. Officer Bima resigned from the department on June 30, 2023. Recruitment efforts are underway for a new part-time officer, but to date have been unsuccessful.
- F. **Park.** Trustee Hinterlong reported many good ideas have been received for park improvements such as basketball hoops, pickleball courts, 4 square court, horseshoes, and a splash pad. She discussed the park is the Village's "Third Space" and a goal is to provide something in the park for all age groups. Trustee Hinterlong and Mayor Hines are working with NCICG to submit a grant application for park improvements. Jack Kusek will prepare the required schematic. The grant may be 100% if the Village is considered to be "distressed," or a 50% matching grant. Fundraising activities may be needed if the Village does not receive a 100% grant. A public meeting will be held to solicit more public input. Trustee Hinterlong reported Ottawa Rec hosted a picnic at the park which was attended by more than 200 people. The T-ball award ceremony was held at the park. The park is getting lots of use.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Rockey. Voice Vote: all ayes; no nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheryl Churney, Secretary Pro Tem

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


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk