

**Grand Ridge Village Board**  
**Minutes of the August 15, 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 Clerk Christy McGuire, Village Engineer Peter Faletti, and Stephanie Wroblewski were also present.

**Minutes.** Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 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 August 9, 2023 Park Committee Meeting; second by Trustee Olney. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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

**Payment of Bills.** Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve payment of the monthly bills to include payment to KTJ, Ltd. in the amount of \$1,983.60 from the General Fund; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz, Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

**Old Business.**

- A. **Update on 160 W. Main Street.** A letter was sent to the property owner by Ms. Churney after the July board meeting directing that action be taken to address the building condition and advising the village will pursue available legal options. Ms. Churney noted that the letter did not garner a response. Ms. Churney coordinated with Chief Jabczynski and sent out nuisance abatement notice. The property owner contacted Mayor Hines today to set up a meeting to discuss his plans. The item will be placed on the September meeting agenda for further discussion.
- B. **Bids for 2023 Sidewalk Program.** The Village Engineer reported the sidewalk project is being reviewed by IDOT. Mr. Faletti noted the Village can solicit bids once the project has been approved by IDOT. Mayor Hines recommended calling a special meeting if bids are received in sufficient time before the September board meeting.
- C. **Report on Status of Lead Line Inventory Project.** Trustee Hettel reported Mayor Hines mailed a lead line survey letter to village residence. Mayor Hines contacted Jack Kusek who will coordinate with a contractor to inspect locations of property owners who do not reply to the survey. The Village is required to use an outside contractor to qualify for grant funds. Trustee Hettel noted the deadline to submit the information for the grant is March 2024.
- D. **Drainage issues.** Trustee Koetz reported she spoke with a former trustee who noted that American Water conducted a leak detection test several years ago in the location where drainage issues are occurring in Clover Court. It was noted at that time that no leak was detected. Trustee Rockey advised he inspected the area after a heavy rain and the water was moving, there was not much standing

water. Trustee Rockey also noted the area had been graded in 2016 and suggested a paved ditch as opposed to the current dirt ditch to avoid erosion. Trustee Rockey will coordinate with Trustee Koetz and speak with residents in Clover Court to gather further information to share at a future board meeting.

#### **New Business.**

- A. **Park Committee Report on public meeting and presentation of park options.** Trustee Hinterlong reported on input received by the community at a public meeting on August 1, 2023 where village residents shared their ideas for the Grand Ridge Park. Trustee Olney discussed opportunities for fund raising and noted the Village would be required to match the amount of money contributed by the OSLAD Grant. The grant will not be awarded until 2024. Fundraising ideas were generally discussed. Trustee Hinterlong noted that the Park Committee would have a booth at Community Fest to answer questions and speak with village residents.
- B. **Motion to approve submission of an Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (“OSLAD”) grant application.** Trustee Hettel made a motion to approve submission of an Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (“OSLAD”) grant application; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz, Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- C. **Motion to approve Village commitment to pay 50% of the cost of park improvements if OSLAD grant is awarded to the Village.** Trustee Olney made a motion to approve the Village’s commitment to pay 50% of the cost of park improvements if the OSLAD grant is awarded; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz, Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- D. **Release of Executive Session minutes.** Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve and release the January 17, 2023 Executive Session meeting minutes of the Village Board as presented; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz, Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Engineer’s Report.** Peter Faletti reported he has received a PDF screen shot of a fiber optic Installation plan from Mr. Cable who is the general agent for MediaCom. Mr. Faletti noted that he is waiting to receive AutoCAD files from MediaCom. Mayor Hines reported Conxxus is ready to begin fiber optic installation in the Village and will be present for a photo opportunity with the Mayor on Monday.

#### **Committee Reports.**

**Finance.** No Report.

**Insurance.** No Report.

**Streets and Alleys.** Trustee Rockey reported he would work with Village employees to start the process of cleaning up the alley behind the Village Hall. Trustee Hinterlong noted she has made arrangements to have some of the left over mulch moved to the park to fill in under an area by the swings.

**Building Permits.** No Report

**Water.** Trustee Hettel reported fire hydrants will be flushed next week.

**Police.** Trustee Koetz advised the following information provided by Chief Jabczynski. ILETSB has advised that, due to a glitch in their new grant system, the Village and numerous other agencies received a denial letter for camera grant funds and the Village will need to re-apply. Temporary non-highway vehicle stickers have been ordered for Community Fest. Deputy Chief Bell, K9 Gus and the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit will be hosting a K-9 demonstration at the Village Park for Community Fest. The building at 160 W. Main Street has been inspected and notices have been served on the owner. Recruiting efforts are still underway for a new part-time officer, but to date have been unsuccessful. The department's monthly patrol activity has been publicly posted on the Police Department's Facebook page.

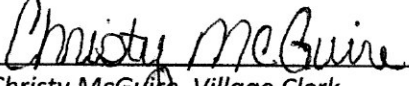
**Health and Storm Drains.** Trustee Koetz noted she will work with Trustee Rockey to further discuss drainage issues in Clover Court.

**Park.** Trustee Hinterlong reported work continues on caulking cracks around the park shelter. Other projects being worked on include the removal of a teeter totter base, as well as some old park benches and bringing in a load of dirt to fill in holes.

**Attorney's Report.** Ms. Churney noted the Illinois Municipal League conference is coming up in September if any village officials would like to attend.

**Adjournment.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Stricklin. Voice Vote: all ayes; no nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

  
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Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

*Approved by the Board of Trustees on Sept. 19, 2023*

  
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Christy McGuire, Village Clerk