

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the October 17, 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, Dennis Rockey and John Hettel. Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Christy McGuire, Police Chief Josh Jabczynski, Nick Hettel, Stephanie Wroblewski, Connie Soulsby, John Franzen, Connie Franzen, Tim Koster and Holly Koster were also present.

Minutes. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 Board meeting as presented; second by Trustee Hettel. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report. Trustee Hettel 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. A CD is due for renewal on November 1st and will be renewed with Streator Onized Credit Union or the Grand Ridge Bank depending on the best available rate.

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

Public Comment. Holly Koster commented she has received approval from a group of farmers she has been working with near Fairbury who will be supporting her development of a commercial property on W. Main Street. She is working on finalizing a contract for what would be a food cooperative owned by employees. She commented there is currently grant funds available through the state of Illinois to support this type of project which is a local food initiative and she hopes it will be finalized by the end of the year.

Old Business. None.

New Business

- A. **Request for donation to the Grand Ridge Volunteer Fire Department.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to donate \$3,500 to the Grand Ridge Volunteer Fire Department; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- B. **Request for donation to Grand Ridge Emergency Fund.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the Grand Ridge Emergency Fund; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- C. **Purchase of Village of Grand Ridge Sign.** Mayor Hines discussed the deteriorating condition of the welcome to Grand Ridge signs which have been taken down. Trustee Hinterlong noted that NCICG may have grants available for welcome signs for communities. Trustee Rockey will look into the cost of pricing for new signs.
- D. **Announce 2023 Tax Levy.** Attorney Churney reported the equalized assessed evaluation ("EAV") for the village continues to rise which is good for the village. In 2022, the EAV was \$7,823,992. The EAV for 2023 is estimated to be a little over \$9,000,000. The maximum amount we can levy without having a Truth in taxation hearing is \$83,461. Trustee Rockey made a motion to announce the 2023 tax levy

in the amount \$83,460; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

- E. **Ordinance concerning parking by the grade school.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-07, An Ordinance amending section 71.02 (c) of the Grand Ridge Village Code concerning parking restrictions by the Grand Ridge Grade School; second by Trustee Olney. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried. Trustee Rockey will order signs stating parking restrictions to be placed on both the north and south side of Main Street in the block next to the school.

Engineer's Report. Mayor Hines reported that 2 bids were received for the sidewalk project. The 1st bid was from Ruiz Construction for \$20,278. The second bid received was from Universal Asphalt for \$46,800. A motion was made by Trustee Rockey to approve the bid for \$20,278 and to award the contract to Ruiz Construction; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Committee Reports.

Finance. No report.

Insurance. Trustee Hinterlong noted the insurance bill for the amount of \$21,250 was received and submitted for payment.

Streets and Alleys. Trustee Rockey noted he will look into some road repair work to be addressed next year as roads are showing lots of wear. It was noted street repair work is very expensive. The poor condition of the railroad tracks was noted; Ottawa Railnet is responsible for the tracks. Trustee Rockey will cold patch potholes that have developed. There are fiber boxes in the alleys and the locations need to be confirmed.

Building Permits. Trustee Hettel reported he received a building permit from Holly and Tim Koster for a green house on their property at 190 W. Main St. He noted the permit has been declined because the placement of the structure does not comply with the village setback requirements. Attorney Churney the Kosters would need to apply for a variance and provided them with an application to complete and submit.

Water. Trustee Hettel reported that 2 water main breaks occurred in the last month. The first break occurred on Parkway Ave. and was repaired by the village. The second break occurred at the corner of Main St. and Sylvan Ave. and was repaired by Grand Rapids Excavation. MediaCom and Conexxus were each responsible for one of the breaks. The village will submit a bill to each company requesting payment for repairs. Attorney Churney noted the village is holding money in an account from both companies and have an option to draw from those accounts if payment is not received. Trustee Hettel noted he spoke with Sean Maltby who will meet with Mike Harden to go over the process for shutting off and draining the water fountains at the Village Park for the winter. He also noted fire hydrants need to be flushed this fall with the date yet to be determined.

Trustee Hettel reported Advanced Informational Mapping Systems is ready to begin work on the lead line inventory project. AIMS will require one third of the amount agreed upon as a down payment prior to beginning work. It was noted the village has not yet received the grant money for the project. Trustee

Hettel suggested using money from the general fund to pay AIMS if grant funds are not received soon. Mayor Hines will contact Shug Grosenbach to discuss the matter.

Police. Chief Jabczynski thanked Mike Harden for his assistance with renovations to the Police Department office. He also noted that Mr. Harden performed maintenance on the patrol vehicles. Department stats were distributed.

Health and Storm Drains. No report.

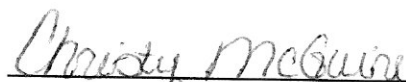
Park. Trustee Hinterlong reported screens have been taken off the window in the park shelter. She will contact Michael Jaegle about completing next steps in the lawn care process for putting down grass seed. She also noted we expect to hear more information about the OSAD grant application in either March or April. A meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss fundraising for the park project.

Attorney's Report. Attorney Churney discussed the Paid Leave for All Workers Act which if passed guarantees all workers in the state of Illinois at least one week of paid time off. She noted while it is uncertain how this would apply to local government bodies; it could be costly for the village and could require an upgrade to employment software. Ms. Churney presented a letter sent to State legislators recommending that units of local government be exempted from the act and noted that schools and park districts are already exempt. She encouraged board members to contact legislators in Springfield to ask them during the veto session to amend this law.

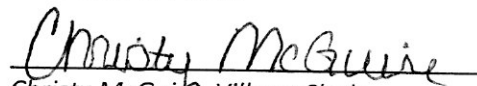
Mayor's Report. No report.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Rockey. Voice Vote: all ayes; no nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

*Approved by the Board of Trustees on
November 21, 2023*


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk