

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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