

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the November 21, 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, Stephanie Wroblewski and Steve Fulkerson were also present.

Minutes. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023 Board meeting as presented; second by Trustee Hettel. 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 Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried. It was noted that a CD was moved to the Grand Ridge Bank to obtain a better interest rate.

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

Public Comment. None.

Old Business

- A. **2023 Tax Levy Ordinance.** Trustee Hettel made a motion to approve the 2023 Tax Levy Ordinance (Ord. No. 2023-08) as presented; second by Trustee Olney. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- B. **Resolution to enter into an Agreement for Application Service for OSLAD Grant.** No action was required on this matter.

New Business.

Before the discussion of the following items, Trustee Olney left the meeting room and was absent from the meeting.

- A. **Zoning Board of Appeals Recommendation 2023-10-24.** Trustee Rockey made a motion to accept and place on file ZBA Recommendation 2023-10-24 Concerning a Petition submitted by Jeffrey Koetz and Kim Olney for a variance to permit a residential use on the first floor in a commercial district; second by Trustee Hettel. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.
- B. **Ordinance Granting Petition for Variance.** A motion was made by Trustee Hettel to approve an ordinance granting a petition for a variance to permit a residential use on the first floor in a commercial district at 170 W. Main Street, Grand Ridge, IL submitted by Jeffrey Koetz and Kim Olney; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Absent: Olney. Motion carried.

Trustee Olney returned to the meeting room following the vote on item B.

C. **Increase of Compensation.** It was decided that the finance committee will meet to discuss and review the compensation of Village employees and make a recommendation at the December Board Meeting.

D. **Grand Ridge Welcome Sign.** Trustee Rockey will reach out to other communities to get a better idea of what they have done for signs in the past as well as the cost involved. Mayor Hines will contact NCICG to ask about grants available for signs.

Engineer's Report. Mayor Hines reported the work was done, including some additional work that was added due to the lower than expected bid. She noted a large sinkhole was found when repairs were being made to a sidewalk on Main Street near the school which required extra expense. Mayor Hines will submit the bill to the county to request reimbursement.

Committee Reports.

Finance. The Finance Committee will meet to discuss compensation for Village employees.

Insurance. No report.

Streets and Alleys. Trustee Rockey reported Grand Rapids patched a dip in the road on Sylvan Avenue near the funeral home. He also noted that he will contact Connexus regarding further repair needed to a high traffic area near the Fire Station on the corner Burlington Avenue and Main Street. He noted a concern with drainage near the funeral home. No more street work can be completed this year as the asphalt plants are shutting down. Residents were reminded not to burn on the public streets.

Building Permits. No report.

Water. Trustee Hettel noted work continues on the lead line inventory survey. He also reported a new hydrant was installed at the corner of Burlington Ave. and Liberty Street. Fire hydrants are scheduled to be flushed on November 22nd. New hydrants need to be ordered.

Police. Trustee Koetz read the Chief's Report which included the following: Johnathan Berninger has been hired to fill an officer vacancy and he will be sworn in at the December Board meeting. The Police Department has implemented a free online crash reporting program for officers to utilize. Parking signs still need to be installed in the 400 block of W. Main Street in accordance with the new parking ordinance that was passed at the October Board meeting. It was also noted the department received an appreciation email from the prosecutor's office in Johnson County, Iowa for the department's assistance in pursuing and apprehending a suspect who was spotted driving a stolen vehicle and wanted for several offenses in Iowa City, IA.

Health and Storm Drains. Mayor Hines discussed relocating a storm drain catch basin off of a private residence in Clover Court owned by Jack Tidaback. Mr. Tidaback thinks there is an underground spring. The village will review options and cost for relocation and discuss the matter further in the spring.

Park. Trustee Hinterlong reported the park has been winterized for the year. Jaegle Lawn Service completed a step 4 lawn treatment at the park and will put down weed killer in the spring. Screens need to be repaired.

Attorney's Report. Attorney Churney discussed the Paid Leave for All Workers Act which will apply to all units of local government. She noted the Department of Labor issued proposed regulations on November 3rd and will continue to do online seminars. The Illinois Municipal League has prepared draft materials. Ms. Churney will provide an update at the December Board meeting.

Mayor's Report. Mayor Hines noted she would like all Committees to meet to discuss plans for next year and consider compiling a 3-year and 5-year plans for the village. It was also noted the Village received a Thank You card from the family of Shirley Gielow for a funeral plant sent in her honor. Mayor Hines also discussed a request received from NCAT asking for a donation. The Treasurer will look up previous donations made to NCAT so the board can take action at the December Board meeting. Mayor Hines noted there is interest in wind and solar farms in areas surrounding the Village.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Olney. Voice Vote: all ayes; no nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

*Approved by the Board of Trustees on
December 19, 2023*


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk