

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the December 19, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Village Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 and John Hettel. Trustee Cindi Koetz was absent. Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Christy McGuire, Stephanie Wroblewski, Mike Harden and Jack Kusek were also present.

Minutes Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023 Board meeting, the December 8, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting and the December 15, 2023 Park Committee Meeting as presented; second by Trustee Olney. 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 Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Mayor noted she was trying to get as many bills as possible covered by the County ARPA grant.

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

Public Comment None.

Old Business

- A. **Purchase of Welcome to Grand Ridge Sign** Trustee Rockey noted he has found limited options for companies that make these types of signs. He will contact Designs and Signs in Ottawa to discuss further options. Jack Kusek will speak with the Village of Mark regarding information on signs they recently purchased. Trustee Rockey also noted he is still waiting on information regarding purchasing parking signs for the 400 block of W. Main Street.
- B. **Employee Compensation** Trustee Hinterlong presented compensation recommendations made by the Finance Committee. Trustee Stricklin made a motion to approve compensation recommendations as presented; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Hettel. Nays: None. Trustee Rockey abstained from the vote. Motion Carried.

New Business

- A. **Swearing in of new police officer** This item was postponed until the January meeting.
- B. **Donation to NCAT** Trustee Olney made a motion to approve a donation to NCAT in the amount of \$500; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- C. **Announce schedule of meetings for 2024** Trustee Olney made a motion to approve to continue to have Village Board meetings on the third Tuesday of each month; second by Trustee Hettel. Motion passed on a voice vote.

D. Donation to Grand Ridge PTO Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve a donation to the Grand Ridge PTO in the amount of \$200; second by Trustee Olney. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Engineer's Report Jack Kusek reported the sidewalk project for 2023 is complete. He noted he was having trouble with the DOT payment form. The contractor bid was for \$20,278 and the amount of payment without looking at the DOT payment form was estimated to be \$19,510. Mr. Kusek also noted IMEG was working on the preliminary report on the sewers. He hopes to have more information to report to the Board at the January meeting. Trustee Rockey noted he would like to look at some areas in need of repair within the Village and consider doing a street project next year. Mayor Hines reported she has a meeting with IDOT on December 28th to discuss setting up an audit for MFT funds. Trustee Hinterlong complimented IMEG for their work during the past year.

Committee Reports

Finance No report.

Insurance No report.

Streets and Alleys Trustee Rockey reported the snow plow was ready to go for the measurable snow we received a few weeks ago. He also discussed the general procedures for plowing. Trustee Rockey reported he would like to schedule a committee meeting for Streets and Alleys in January.

Building Permits Trustee Hettel noted that he received one inquiry about a permit and is waiting on completed paperwork.

Water Trustee Hettel reported 2 hydrants and fittings were ordered and arrived today. Locks were drilled off the water tower. Packing was replaced on the Penn Street Pump Station to prevent leaking. He also noted a Water Committee meeting will be scheduled in January.

Police Trustee Rockey read the Chief's Report which included the following: Officer Berninger has completed his field training and is released to work solo patrol. He will be formally sworn in at the January Board meeting. Officer Pagakis has requested a temporary leave of absence due to his full-time work and family obligations. The Village received a restitution payment from the LaSalle County Clerk in the amount of \$500 from a previous incident where damage was caused to a stop sign and utility pole. It was noted shirts were ordered for the new officer locally through Dottie Groesch.

Health and Storm Drains Trustee Rockey noted a storm drain near F.S. was repaired due to damage caused by trucks running over it.

Park Trustee Hinterlong reported the committee will be meeting in January to discuss plans for fundraising. The bid specifications for lawn mowing and park maintenance will also be reviewed.

Attorney's Report Attorney Churney discussed the Paid Leave for All Workers Act which goes into effect January 1, 2024. Ms. Churney noted the village will be covered by the act. She also noted the Department of Labor has not yet finalized the regulations however, they are supposed to have a sign available to post by all employers by the end of the year.

Mayor's Report Mayor Hines noted she would like to discuss assigning a long range planning committee at the January meeting. She also noted sewer issues that need to be addressed and a future plan for options on where the Village could put a sewer treatment plant. The Village Board also discussed the need to re-evaluate water rates on a yearly basis.

Adjournment Trustee Rockey made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Hinterlong. 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
January 16, 2023*


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk