

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the January 16, 2024, 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 and Jon Berninger were also present.

Minutes. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 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.

Payment of Bills. Mayor Hines noted that a payment to NCAT in the amount of \$500 will need to be added to the bill list. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve payment of the monthly bills; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Public Comment. None.

Old Business.

A. Purchase of Welcome to Grand Ridge Sign. Trustee Rockey reported he is waiting on a proposal from Designs and Signs. He also stated he will be working with a different company to purchase parking signs for the 400 block of W. Main Street.

New Business

A. Swearing in of New Officer. Police Chief Jabczynski introduced Officer Jon Berninger who was sworn in by the Village Clerk as a new Village Police Officer.

B. Gift Cards for Bob and Greg Durdan. Mayor Hines made a recommendation to give gift cards to Bob and Greg Durdan to thank them for assisting the village with putting up Christmas Decorations. Trustee Hettel made a motion to approve the purchase of two \$50.00 Visa gift cards; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Trustees discussed the need for new or repaired decorations.

C. Advisory Long Range Development Committee Members. Mayor Hines made a recommendation to appoint Rick Bacon, Jim Harsted, Nick Hettel, Jared Simons, John Hettel and Anne Hinterlong as members of the Advisory Long Range Development Committee. Trustee Koetz made a motion to approve the appointments of the committee members as presented; second by Trustee Olney. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

D. Water Rates. Trustee Hettel reported a Water Committee Meeting was held on January 8th. He reported a water meter was damaged at the gas station and had to be replaced. He also discussed looking for someone to make repairs to water meters. The board discussed raising water rates

annually by 3% to alleviate larger increases in the future. A vote regarding water rates will be taken at the February Village Board Meeting.

Engineer's Report. None.

Committee Reports.

A. **Finance.** None.

B. **Insurance.** None.

C. **Streets and Alleys.** Trustee Rockey noted concerns over the weight of garbage trucks driving through alleys as the ground softens during the winter thaw. He hopes to schedule a Streets and Alley Committee Meeting before the February board meeting. Village residents were acknowledged for their efforts in assisting neighbors within the village with snow removal on sidewalks. Trustee Rockey also discussed issues with stop signs with flashing lights on Main Street which run on solar power. He noted that numerous days without sun causes the flashing lights not to work. Chief Jabczynski will contact Durdan Electric for a quote on having the lights hard wired.

D. **Building Permits.** None.

E. **Water.** None.

F. **Police.** Chief Jabczynski distributed the monthly police report to the Trustees for their review. He noted the parking ordinance concerning the 400 block of Main Street will not go into effect until signs have arrived and are in place.

G. **Health and Storm Drains.** None.

H. **Park.** Trustee Hinterlong noted the Park Committee Meeting that was scheduled had to be postponed to a later date.

Attorney's Report. None.

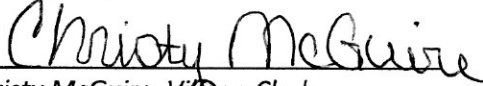
Mayor's Report. Mayor Hines and Trustee Hettel discussed the Historical Society and potential ideas for a Veteran's Memorial. Mayor Hines noted she was contacted by a staff member from Congressman Darin LaHood's office who would like to set up a time and space to meet with constituents to hear their concerns and address any casework questions they may have. She also discussed an email received from Illinois State Representative Tom Bennett regarding Grants available through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to include a Public Infrastructure Grant which aims to help finance water, sanitary systems, and storm sewer construction projects and a Housing Rehabilitation Grant which aim is to provide units of local government funds to help address housing needs and targets projects that preserve single family owner occupied housing in need of rehabilitation and encouraging neighborhood revitalization. Mayor Hines will contact NCICG to discuss further information on the grants being offered.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Rockey. Voice Vote: all ayes; no nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

*Approved by the Board of Trustees on
February 20, 2023*


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk