

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the February 20, 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, Stephanie Wroblewski and Teirra Fulkerson were also present.

Minutes. Trustee Koetz made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 Board meeting, the January 8, 2024 Water Committee Meeting, the January 25, 2024 Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, the January 29, 2024 Park Committee Meeting and the February 8, 2024 Streets & Alley Committee 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 Rockey. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills. Mayor Hines noted that a payment to Core & Main in the amount of \$7,364 was paid for by the LaSalle County and will be deducted from the monthly bills. Trustee Hinterlong 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 still waiting on a proposal for a Welcome to Grand Ridge Sign from Designs and Signs. He also noted the parking signs for the 400 block of W. Main Street have arrived.
- B. **Ordinance 2024-01 Concerning Amendment of Village Water Rates.** Trustee Stricklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-01 amending the Village's water rates. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

New Business

- A. **Motor Fuel Tax Audit** Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve and place on file the Motor Fuel Tax Audit; second by Trustee Stricklin. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.
- B. **Agreement with Advanced Informational Mapping System for all GIS Services** Attorney Churney reviewed and answered questions regarding the agreement. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve the agreement with Advanced Informational Mapping Systems for all GIS Services as presented; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

- C. **Tag requirements for Cats.** Trustee Stricklin discussed concerns over feral cats in the Village and vaccination requirements for cats. It was the consensus of the Board that no action be taken at this time since it would be very hard to regulate for a small town with very limited resources.
- D. **Participation in Ottawa's 2024 Summer Recreation Program.** Mayor Hines reported David Marvin contacted the Village about Ottawa's summer recreation program. The program offers various activities for kids in Grand Ridge at a cost of \$3,500. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to participate in the 2024 Ottawa Summer Recreation Program at a cost of \$3,500; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried. Trustee Koetz will investigate if other agencies will help to defray the Village's participation costs.
- E. **Contract with Hopkins & Associates for the Village Audit** Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve hiring Hopkins and Associates to complete the Village audit; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- F. **Road Postings for Streets and Alleys.** Trustee Rockey reported that warm temperatures have caused earlier than normal issues with damage in alleyways due to soft ground. Trustee Rockey made a motion to post a ban on garbage trucks in alleyways effective immediately; second by Trustee Olney. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- G. **Publication of Requests for Bids for Mowing and Park Maintenance** Trustee Hinterlong discussed updates to be made to bid forms for mowing and park maintenance. Bids will be accepted from March 1st – March 16th and will be opened at the March board meeting. Trustee Olney made a motion to approve the solicitation of bids for mowing and park maintenance; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- H. **Amendment of Village Code to Prohibit Garbage Collection from Alleys.** Attorney Churney reviewed current regulations pertaining to the placement of residential containers for garbage pick-up. The Village Board directed Ms. Churney to prepare an ordinance amending the code to prohibit collection from alleys for action at the March meeting.
- I. **Single Hauler for Residential Garbage Service** The Village Board discussed the pros and cons of going to a single hauler for residential garbage service. A Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the issue and will report back at the March meeting.

Engineer's Report. None.

Committee Reports.

Finance. As noted, a Finance Committee will be scheduled.

Insurance. None.

Streets and Alleys. Trustee Rockey advised he will be getting cold patch to repair some of the potholes in town. He will also contact D&D Pavement Solutions for a quote to do spray patching and crack sealing on some of the larger areas in the village. A load of rock was delivered to do touch ups in alleyways. Trustee Rockey also reported parking signs for the 400 block of W. Main Street have arrived and will be installed once a JULIE request has been completed. New tires were put on the Village snow plow.

Connexus was contacted about a crushed box in an alleyway and repairs needed to an area on the corner of Railroad Ave. and Main Street near the fire station.

Trustee Hinterlong noted an area of concern at the Village Park on the southwest corner of the shelter building where concrete repair is needed due to some deep cracks and a low-lying area that holds standing water. Trustee Rockey will take a look at the area with Mike Harden to discuss options for repair. It was also noted that property on the corner of Porter Ave. and Penn St. that was recently purchased has an alley that runs through it. It was noted that the Village will not be putting an alley in this location at this time; however, the property owner will be advised of the Village's alley. Mayor Hines reported she was contacted by Buck Hill who has a proposal he would like to discuss with the Board regarding a potential solution to the drainage issue on Clover Court. Mayor Hines and Trustee Rockey will set up an appointment to meet with Mr. Hill to discuss his proposal.

Building Permits. Trustee Hettel reported that he was contacted today regarding the possibility of a new home being built.

Water. Trustee Hettel reported 2 stainless steel heaters, to prevent rust, were ordered for the pump house at a cost of approximately \$10,000.

Police. Chief Jabczynski distributed the monthly police report. He reported that Officer Pagakis is back to regular duty, which will help with police coverage. He also noted he is working with Tim Dudan on a proposal to hard wire the stop sign on the corner of Main Street and Sylvan Ave.

Health and Storm Drains. No report.


Park. Trustee Hinterlong reported the Village will re-apply for the OSLAD Grant. She also discussed ideas for fundraisers and park improvements. There is a "honey-do" list of park projects being worked on. Mayor Hines proposed taking \$25,000 out of Village CD's to designate for park projects.

Attorney's Report. None.

Mayor's Report. Mayor Hines noted she received a thank you letter from NCAT for the Village's donation.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Rockey. Voice Vote: all ayes; no nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

*Approved by the Board of Trustees on
March 19, 2024*


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk