

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the August 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, Dennis Rockey, Cindi Koetz and John Hettel. Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Christy McGuire, Police Chief Josh Jabczynski, Kathy Gieger, Tim Gieger, Mike Harden, Martha Harden, Nick Hettel, Josh Jaegle, Buck Hill and Steve Fulkerson were also present.

A motion was made by Trustee Hinterlong to allow Trustee Olney to attend the meeting remotely; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried. Trustee Olney then joined the meeting by phone conference call.

Minutes. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024 Board meeting, the July 10, 2024 Water Committee Meeting, the August 13, 2024 Water Committee Meeting and the August 13, 2024 Finance Committee meeting; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

Public Comment. The Village Clerk noted that Shared Certificate #2006 is due to mature on September 1, 2024 at Streator Onized Credit Union. The Clerk will look into options for who is offering the best interest rate on the date of renewal.

Travel Request(s). None.

Old Business.

- A. **Purchase of Welcome to Grand Ridge Sign.** Trustee Rocky noted he did not have anything new to report. The Village Clerk reported she has been in contact with Midwest Sign Works in Morris, IL and is waiting to hear back for an estimate. Trustee Olney discussed an option to purchase a sign from a hop farm which closed in Ottawa to use to create a welcome sign for the village.
- B. **Drainage in McBride Subdivision.** Trustee Rockey noted he has been in contact with Lemrise Tile Repair and is waiting to see if there are any cost increases that will affect their bid from. Attorney Churney noted she is currently working on a letter agreement with the affected property owners. The Village will put in the line and the property owners will be responsible to pay to get to the line. Trustee Rockey will notify Lemrise Tile repair that the Village is ready to move forward with the project once the harvest has been completed.
- C. **Discussion to amend Village Code to provide for a single garbage hauler.** The Village board discussed the pros and cons of having a single carrier for garbage pickup. A motion was made by Trustee Rockey directing the village attorney to draft an ordinance for a single hauler for garbage only; second by

Trustee Olney. Ayes: Olney, Rockey, and Hettel. Nays: Stricklin, Hinterlong, and Koetz. Mayor Hines voted in favor of a single hauler for garbage only after a tie vote was reached and the motion passed.

New Business.

- A. **Proclamation for the United Way.** The Village Board reviewed a proclamation submitted by the United Way and Mayor Hines issued a Mayoral Proclamation declaring September 1, 2024 as United Way of Eastern LaSalle County Day in the Village of Grand Ridge.
- B. **Funding for Veteran's Memorial Statue.** Trustee Hettel reported the Historical Committee has not yet made a decision on a statue for the proposed Veteran's Memorial. No action was taken and it was decided to put the subject on hold pending discussion at a future board meeting.
- C. **Extension of Water Service along East Main Street.** Trustee Hettel presented a map and discussed options for extending a water line down East Main Street and discussed the costs involved depending on the length of the line. The cost to run a water line to the end of the Village limits was estimated to cost approximately \$30,000 which would be paid for out of the Village Water Fund. Trustee Hettel made a motion to run a 4-inch water line down East Main Street to extend to the end of the Village limits; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- D. **Concerns regarding vacant homes on Poundstone Ave.** Trustee Hettel discussed concerns regarding vacant homes at 305 Poundstone Ave. and 225 Poundstone Ave. It was noted the properties have broken windows and structural issues and are considered to pose a safety risk. Attorney Churney will send letters to the property owners requesting that something be done with the homes.
- E. **Police Department LEADS database program.** Chief Jabczynski presented quotes for a 3-step program to replace the I-WIN system that the State of Illinois recently ended without notice. He noted the start-up cost for Rejis which would be the replacement system for I-WIN would be \$681.50 with a then monthly fee of \$25.20. He also noted the department would need to update its existing equipment in order to run the new system. He provided a quote from Glen Cole from the Ottawa Police Department for one of their used computers for \$850 which includes a docking station. The third quote was provided from SYNDEO for the software and virus protection required to run the new program at a cost of \$199.99 per year. Trustee Koetz made a motion to approve the 3 quotes provided for the new system as well as the cost of necessary equipment and software; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- F. **Compensation of Village Employees.** Trustee Hettel discussed the Finance Committees recommendations for updating the amount of compensation currently received by Village Employees. The Board discussed recommendations and gave direction to the Village Attorney to prepare an ordinance reflecting compensation changes to be voted on at the September meeting.
- G. **Water Rate Increase.** Trustee Hettel reported the Water Committee met and made a recommendation to propose a water rate increase in same amount as last year's increase. It was also recommended to continue the same increase each year for the next 3 consecutive years. Attorney Churney will prepare an ordinance to be voted on at the September meeting.

Engineer's Report: Mayor Hines reported the company that does the plugging for the sewer systems would be here on Saturday. This is part of a testing requirement from the EPA for the sewer system. She noted the Village would receive a check from the Federal government to cover this expense.

Finance. None.

Insurance. None.

Streets and Alleys. Trustee Rockey reported that CMJ Tree Services trimmed trees in the alleys and checked the North and South Streets today. He also noted that the County may possibly be doing additional micro-surfacing in town. The County asked if the Village would like to piggy-back to do the parking berms down the sides. It was Trustee Rockey's recommendation to have this done with the use of MFT Funds. It was also noted that it has not been determined if this would take place this year. Trustee Hettel noted that there were some new pot holes on Sylvan Ave. that he considered to be a safety concerns. He will send the locations to Trustee Rockey to address further.

Building Permits. Trustee Hettel reported a permit was issued to a resident at 435 Sylvan Ave. for a storage shed.

Water. Trustee Hettel reported an air conditioner has been ordered for the main pump house. He also noted that TEST will be ordering an inspection of the aerator and Mike Harden will rent a lift to power-wash the outside of the aerator.

Police. The Village Board reviewed the monthly Police Report submitted by Chief Jabczynski.

Health and Storm. None.

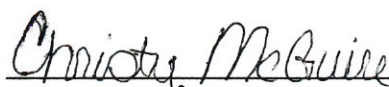
Park. Mayor Hines reported fundraising letters for the park have been sent. Trustee Rockey noted a Park Committee meeting will be held next week. Mayor Hines would like to discuss the Park Grant during the next Committee Meeting. Trustee Rockey acknowledged the Grand Ridge Community Festival Committee for doing a great Job with the events held at the Village Park during Community Fest.

History. Trustee Hettel reported the Historical Committee continues to work on fundraising efforts for a Veteran's Memorial monument. The Committee raised approximately \$750 during Community Fest. The Committee also has plans to hold a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on November 10th and sell tickets for a Christmas House Walk on the evening of December 7th.

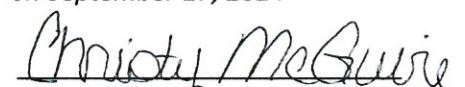
Ad hoc Long-Range Planning. None.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Hettel. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

*Approved by the Board of Trustees
on September 17, 2024*


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk